



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED:
ALL WARDS**

CABINET

25 APRIL 2005

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2005/2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of works recommended to be funded from the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives budget for 2005/2006, including the Access to Work portion of the budget and to seek approvals to enable the programme to proceed.

2. Summary

A sum of £400,000 has been approved for the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives budget 2005/2006.

Proposals for spending the budget are attached at Appendix 1.

There is a need for a response mechanism to allow for works to be undertaken during the year should a complaint be received and a sum of £17,750 has been reserved for this purpose at Appendix 1. It will be a requirement of the fund that if works have not been committed by 31 December 2005, then the fund remaining will be allocated to other works that can be completed by 31 March 2006.

Also shown at Appendix 1 is the sum of £20,000 which is allocated from this Budget each year for Access to Work.

The report proposes continuing improvements to prioritisation and consultation arrangements.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1 Approve the works in Appendix 1 including the allocation of £20,000 to Access to Work and a sum of £17,750 in the event that urgent works are required in the light of complaints received.
- 3.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to order the works.

- 3.3 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to seek all necessary consents.
- 3.4 Authorise the Service Director of Legal Services to sign any contracts (if necessary) to allow the work to proceed.
- 3.5 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to approve further works during the year as necessary or reassess or amend the programme, in consultation with the Lead Member for Property and Regeneration.

4. Financial and Legal Implications

The sum of £400,000 (including fees) is included in the 2005/2006 Capital Programme for this project.

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the report and considers there to be no specific legal implications other than to ensure that the consultation complies with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

5. Officer to contact:

Patrick Midson
 Disability Discrimination Act Officer
 Property Review Team
 Resources Access & Diversity
 Ext: 5083

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2005/2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1 The Disability Discrimination Act Officer (DDA Officer) in the Property Review team of Resources, Access and Diversity has produced at Appendix 1 a proposed list of work, which is recommended should be undertaken to priority buildings using this year's allocated budget. Of the 8 buildings on the list, 7 will increase the number of buildings compliant with Best Value Performance Indicator 156 'the number of City Council's buildings open to the public and accessible and usable by disabled people'.
- 1.2 The DDA Officer has applied the "List of priorities for improving City Council buildings for Disabled Persons" to the survey of properties previously undertaken over the years by applying "Paving the Way" criteria to the survey information and taking into account the results of previous public consultation exercises (previously reported to FREOPS on 19 September 2002). Further consultation is planned during 2005-2006 to assist prioritisation of future needs. The priority list is being constantly reviewed to ensure that any buildings that are or may be surplus to use are not being included when works are to be carried out.
- 1.3 The proposed list is made up of works to buildings and fees together with a sum of £17,750 for urgent works identified during the year and £20,000 for Access to Work.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the works to buildings should be approved for commencement as soon as possible.
- 1.5 It is recommended that the sum of £20,000 is allocated for Access to Work grants, this element being controlled by the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity's Human Resources Unit. The Access to Work element is to fund the cost of equipment and accessories necessary to assist disabled members of staff in their work and is largely grant-aided by the Department of Employment on a sliding scale of up to 100 per cent of the cost.

- 1.6 In previous years there has been a need to address urgent works at buildings as result of complaints received. In order to allow such works to be undertaken as quickly as possible, a sum of £17,750 has been allocated.
- 1.7 Prioritisation of the recommended works has relied upon direct consultation with user groups undertaken in 2002, together with more recent work with departments and service managers via the Heads of Property group. It allows the Council in the current programme of works to complete the only outstanding priority 1 requirement, and to deal with the most urgent of the priority 2 caseload.
- 1.8 A reassessment is under way of the prioritisation methodology, which will involve more transparent consultation with service users and providers. This is intended to make necessary improvements to the system and thereby develop a longer term programme of works to produce greater benefits. The methodology and action plan will be produced to inform next years programme and will be reported to Cabinet for approval later this year.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approve the work in Appendix 1 including the allocation of £20,000 to Access to Work and a sum of £17,750 for urgent work requests in the light of complaints received.
- Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to order the works.
- Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to seek all necessary consents.
- Authorise the Service Director of Legal Services to sign any contracts (if necessary) to allow the work to proceed.
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity to approve further works during the year as necessary or reassess or amend the programme, in consultation with the Lead Member for Property and Regeneration.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1. Financial Implications (Nicola Harlow)

A sum of £400,000 (including fees) is included in the 2005/2006 Capital Programme for this project.

2. Legal Implications (Peter Nicholls)

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the report and considers there to be no specific legal implications other than to ensure that the consultation complies with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

3. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Throughout the report
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Throughout the report

4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Capital Programme budget book 2005/2006.

5. Consultations

The Disabled Persons Access Officer in the Regeneration and Culture Department has undertaken an access audit of all premises and in doing so has consulted managers of those premises and taken on board requirements of customers in arriving at the proposed programme of works for 2005/2006 (Appendix 1).

Consultation has been undertaken with various voluntary bodies through Voluntary Action Leicester, results of which were reported to FREOPs on 19th September 2002 and to Cabinet on 23 September 2002. Further consultation is planned during 2005-2006 to assist prioritisation of future needs.

The Heads of Property Group approved these works as appropriate in the light of the suitability and sufficiency surveys undertaken as part of the asset management planning process, following consultation with service managers by departmental Heads of Property representatives.

The report refers to proposals for improvements to the process.

6. Officer to contact:

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Disability Discrimination Act Officer
Property Review Team
Resources Access & Diversity
Ext: 5083

Tom Stephenson
Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity

APPENDIX 1

SUGGESTED PRIORITY	UPRN	BUILDING NAME	WORKS OUTSTANDING	ESTIMATED COST
1	4111	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	Provision of a new lift. *	£150,000
2	0535	Fosse Neighbourhood Centre	Replace entrance doors and lobby with automatic opening, replace handrails and colour contrast to nosings of steps and stairs, resite help alarm pull cord both accessible toilets, increase door opening to meeting room 1st floor, change double doors in music studio to asymmetric and provide wheelchair accessible toilet	£35,000
2	4140	Childcare Information Service, 12 Bishop St.	Refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet, ramp rear fire exit, provide additional handrail to stairs, install across counter induction loop to reception desk. *	£6,000
2	2341	Southfields Library	Automatic main entrance doors, alterations to internal doors, alterations to ramps, refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet, colour contrast to steps, replace handrail to external steps.	£38,000
2	2168	Highfields Library	Relay ramp to entrance with level platform at door, install across counter induction loop, provide ramps to fire exits and guard windows that open onto side path, change colour contrast to stair nosings and fit second handrail *	£18,000
2	2348	St. Barnabas Library	Automate double doors to entrance. Adjust slope to entrance to provide a level platform at the top clear of the swing of the door. Adjust internal door widths to allow a wheelchair through. Provide a wheelchair accessible toilet. Provide 2 across counter induction loops. Provide additional handrail to stairs to basement and colour contrast to nosings. *	£25,000
2	2122	Evington Library	Automate the inner lobby doors to the entrance. Refurbish the wheelchair accessible toilet. Provide 2 across counter induction loops required. *	£25,000
2	2426	Social Services Office, Beaumont Way	Refurbish all wheelchair accessible toilets to current standards, Change the 2 toilets on ground floor 1 to give left hand transfer and the other right hand, upgrade lift controls and landing call buttons, provide across counter induction loop to reception counter, provide flush dropped kerb in staff car park. *	£18,000
			Access to Work Programme	£20,000
			Urgent contingency works	£17,750
			Estimated total	£352,750
No fees chargeable to the Access to Work Programme or Urgent Contingency works			Fees @ 15%	£47,250
			Total	£400,000
	*Guestimate works still to be costed by Projects			