



EQUALITIES PANEL - 5th APRIL 2004

Disability Discrimination Act: Implementation Progress Report

1. Background

1.1 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) says that it is unlawful for a service provider to discriminate against a disabled person by:

“• failing to comply with a duty to make reasonable adjustments if that failure has the effect of making it impossible or unreasonably difficult for the disabled person to make use of any such service.”

DDA 1995 Section 19 (1) (b)

1.2 The duty to make ‘reasonable adjustments’ comprises a series of duties which fall into three main areas:

- changing practices, policies and procedures
- providing auxiliary aids and services
- overcoming a physical feature by
 - ◆ removing the feature ;or
 - ◆ altering it; or
 - ◆ avoiding it; or
 - ◆ providing services by alternative methods.

This paper focuses on work the council has been undertaking to meet the requirement to address the third of these main areas, that is, to overcome physical features which prevent access to services.

1.3 From **October 1999**, a service provider had to take reasonable steps to:

- ◆ provide a reasonable alternative method of making its services available to disabled people where a **physical feature** makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to make use of the services.

1.4 From **October 2004**, where a **physical feature** makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to make use of services, a service provider will have to take reasonable steps to:

- ◆ remove the feature; or
- ◆ alter it so that it no longer has that effect; or
- ◆ provide a reasonable means of avoiding it; or
- ◆ provide a reasonable alternative method of making the service available.

1.5 A DDA Access Project Officer Group was set up in August 2000 to address the requirement to overcome physical features which prevent accessibility, and to:

- Identify which of the council's properties fall within the scope of the Act.
- Undertake 'access audits' to identify what work is required to be undertaken
- Determine the cost to the council of achieving compliance
- Agree a programme of work
- Agree a process for undertaking the work.

1.6 An external consultant from an architectural practice was commissioned to undertake an access audit of all of the council's buildings that would fall within the scope of the act. The Project Group assigned priority levels of between one and three to all of the work required, one being the highest priority level. Priority 1 works were primarily those required to the Council's main administrative buildings.

1.7 In 2002/03 there was a capital programme of £78,000 to meet the work required to Priority 1 buildings. Work on Priority 1 buildings was completed during 2003/04. For the financial years 2003/04 and 2004/05 a further £100,000 per year was allocated for Priority 2 and 3 works. The majority of these works are in Community Services and cover community centres and parks and playgrounds. The remainder are in car parks. This report updates the Equalities Panel on progress to date on Priority 2 and 3 works and identifies where work is unlikely to be completed by October 2004 and the reasons for this.

1.6 Tables indicating progress on the three main areas of work: community centres, playgrounds and parks, and car parks are attached as Appendices A, B and C.

2. Conclusion

2.1 The City Council is making good progress with the implementation of its programme of works to meet the physical access requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Funding is in place for Priority 2 and 3 works and plans for implementation have been drawn up although some works will not be completed by October 2004 as they are being undertaken as part of wider on-going programmes of refurbishment e.g some play area and car park refurbishment. The Council continues to take into account issues of physical access as changes are made to our buildings, facilities and services. There will continue to be improvements to physical access both designed in to new facilities or incorporated within on-going repairs and renewal programmes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - PARKS AND PLAY AREAS – Priority 2 and 3 works

Appendix A

Works Programmed	Status	Completion date	Comments
1. Install portable ramps at all seven bowling greens.	Completed		
2. Install ramp at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground Pavilion	Completed		
3. Signage for all pavilions	Completed		
4. Rebuild Trumpington play area and provide access	Completed		
5. Install ramp and adapt doors at Ross Street Community Centre	Completed		
6. Install car parking spaces, signage and lighting in toilets at Buchan Street Centre	Completed		
7. Install vision panel in doors at Nuns Way Pavilion	Completed		
8. Install dropped kerb at Abbey Pool	Completed		
9. Install lift at Abbey Pool	Currently on order	April 2004	
10. Install arms on eight seats on Parker's Piece, Jesus Green (three), Christ's Pieces (three), cherry Hinton Hall (three)	Work underway	Before October 2004	
11. Install ramp at Barnwell Bowling Green	Work underway	Before October 2004	
12. Construct disabled persons' toilet at Lammas land, Coleridge Recreation Ground, Chesterton Recreation Ground	Work underway	Before October 2004	Architects currently preparing designs
13. Install hand rails to existing ramp and provide new ramp to rear terrace at Cherry Hinton Village Centre	Work underway	Before October 2004	
14. Improve accessibility to the following play areas: Stourbridge Common; Christ's Pieces; Church End, Cherry Hinton; Ramsden Square; Ditton Fields; Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground; Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground; Coleridge Recreation Ground; Histon Road Recreation Ground	Funding in place	Will not be completed by October 2004.	Work to be undertaken as part of on-going refurbishment programme.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – COMMUNITY FACILITIES – Priority 2 and 3 works

Appendix B

Summary of Works Programmed	Status	Completion date	Comments
<p>Abbey Meadows – Install loop system Redecoration to improve colour contrast Improve signage (including of car park transfer space) Cut back planting Adaptations to accessible toilet</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	<p>Works recommended but not being progressed</p> <p>Lowering the height of the kitchen counter is not feasible due to the incorporation of the sink and bar area within the counter.</p>
<p>Akeman Street – Adaptations to accessible toilet Renew handles on entrance door Replace taps in kitchen Works to stairs Handrail to ramp from garden Ease doors Redecoration to improve colour contrast</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	<p>Works recommended but not being progressed</p> <p>Unable to extend handrail down side of building due to need for vehicle access. Unable to reposition letterbox for fire safety reasons.</p>
<p>Buchan Street – Improve signage and markings in car park Reduce hazards to approach by foot Improvements to entrance doors and entrance screen Reduce height of kitchen hatch Provide payphone with larger numerals Modify doors to Hall and meeting room Improve lighting, decoration and fittings of toilets</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	<p>Works recommended but not being progressed</p> <p>Unable to increase height of WC and re-site basin as also used by children. Higher seating with armrests is already provided in the foyer area – no need for additional provision.</p>
<p>Summary of Works Programmed</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>Completion date</p>	<p>Comments</p>

<p>Cherry Hinton – Improvements to approach on foot Extend car park opening time Improve entrance doors and doors to community office, bar area and play area Adaptations to accessible toilet</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	<p>Works recommended but not being progressed</p> <p>Improvements to changing facilities - the changing facilities are for the use of the school and are not part of the council's community facility.</p>
<p>Lawrence Way – Disabled parking bays and dropped kerb in Campkin Road Improvements to entrance Minor improvements to accessible toilet</p>	<p>Action still to be taken</p>	<p>Not known</p>	
<p>Meadows Community Centre – Improvements to parking Improvements to entrance doors, hall and meeting room, showers and accessible toilet Youth Wing - adaptations to accessible toilet Children and Family Wing – modifications to approach and entrance doors, adaptations to toilets and internal doors</p>	<p>Work substantially completed</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	
<p>Ross Street – Improve signage to parking space and access to Patacake Nursery entrance Improvements to side and main entrance Patacake nursery – improvements to exterior and interior doors, adaptations to accessible toilet, improve signage, replacement of gas hob to make wheelchair accessible.</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By June 2004</p>	<p>Works recommended but not being progressed</p> <p>Change type of gate latch and lower – not appropriate as gate accessible by small children</p>
<p>St Philips – Adaptations to accessible toilet Provide dropped kerb from play area and induction loop in large meeting room Install vision panel in lounge door Review signage</p>	<p>Work completed or underway</p>	<p>By May 2004</p>	

Summary of Works Programmed	Status	Completion date	Comments
St Andrews – Install loop system in activity room Redecorate to provide colour contrast for rails, toilets etc. Improvements to internal and external doors Adaptations to accessible toilet Improve signage	Work underway	By May 2004	Works recommended but not being progressed Provide designated parking space – no on-site parking available
St Luke's Barn – Improvements to toilets Install signing to indicate routes, facilities and induction loop Improve colour contrast of nosings on stairs Lower enquiry hatch	Work underway	By June 2004	Works recommended but not being progressed Adaptations to general use toilets – some not considered appropriate as facilities are used by small children.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING – CAR PARKS – Priority 2 and 3 Works

APPENDIX C

Summary of Works Programmed	Status	Completion date	Comments
<p>1. Lion Yard - Extension to disabled parking on Level 3 including signage and bay marking 14 new disabled bays in extension to compensate for loss of parking whilst work on the Grand Arcade scheme takes place, access ramps to be installed</p>	<p>Completed Awaiting a start date</p>		
<p>2. Queen Anne – New bays and signage to be installed as part of current refurbishment Ramped or flat access to payment machines</p>	<p>Work underway Completed</p>	<p>October 2004</p>	<p>Assuming no slippage in refurbishment timetable</p>
<p>3. Grafton East – Increase number of disabled parking bays Improvements to signage and bay markings</p>	<p>Completed Work underway</p>	<p>April 2004</p>	
<p>4. Grafton West – Improvements to ramp access</p>	<p>Work underway</p>	<p>Not known</p>	
<p>5. Park Street – Increase number of disabled parking bays Accommodate movement of Shopmobility from Lion Yard whilst work on the Grand Arcade scheme takes place</p>		<p>October 2004</p>	<p>Still awaiting confirmation that Shopmobility will move to Park Street</p>
<p>6. Adam and Eve – New floor markings and signage</p>	<p>Work about to start</p>	<p>April 2004</p>	
<p>7. Gwydir Street – New floor markings and signage</p>	<p>Completed</p>		
<p>8. Other – All other car parks, except those with shingle flooring, now have one disabled parking bay marked out. Improve signage</p>	<p>Completed Work underway</p>	<p>Not known</p>	