

**REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
29 SEPTEMBER 2003**

REPORT ON: MOBILITY AND ACCESS WITHIN DUNDEE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 515-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report gives a brief outline of a proposed methodology to assist in Dundee becoming a barrier free city.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

The Director of Planning & Transportation, in conjunction with the Communities Department and other relevant Departments, brings forward a report which identifies suitable parties to make up a Dundee Accessibility Group whose role will be to prepare an action plan to make Dundee a barrier free city.

- 2.2 The Director of Planning & Transportation examines current and future expenditure on transport for people with disabilities and consults with this group on the outcome of this examination.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A barrier free city will ensure opportunities for culture, leisure, employment and recreation are readily available to all.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Notwithstanding our statutory obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act we have a higher moral obligation to ensure that physical barriers are removed where possible to ensure that all members of our community can contribute to and enjoy the facilities operating within the city.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Local Transport Strategy is currently being monitored and reviewed with the requirement to draft a revised edition within the next year to 18 months. As part of this process it is vital that we have input from the voluntary sector and tap into the skills, expertise and experience of people with a mobility problem and those groups acting as advocates on their behalf.

- 6.2 Most of our town and city centres were established many years before detailed consideration was given to the need for social inclusion. Whilst Dundee has and is trying to ensure full accessibility by all sections of the community, it is vital we are able to prioritise remedial work as well as influence new design.

- 6.3 Local Access Panels can be particularly useful in this respect in terms of auditing existing provision (or lack of it) advising on priorities for action and accessing subsequent user satisfaction. It is therefore proposed initially that contact is made with the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland, the Dundee Voluntary Action Group, the Dundee Society for Visually Impaired People, The Tayside & Western Isles Association for the Deaf, Age Concern, Barnardos Family Support Team, Dundee Access Group, Dundee Accessible Transport Action Group, Dundee Shopmobility and the Princes Royal Trust.
- 6.4 It is hoped that following a series of initial meetings, a "User Group" of representatives can then assist in drawing up action plans and a priority list for inclusion in revenue and capital schemes across the Council.
- 6.5 The Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland, are currently consulting on their priorities for 2004. (MACS was set up in 2002 as the Scottish Executive's Statutory Advisor on disability issues in relation to transport). Their vision "is of a Scotland where anyone with a mobility problem, due to physical, mental or sensory impairment can go when and where everyone else can and have the information and opportunities to do so." This vision is one which this Council through consultation with the voluntary sector should consider adopting and developing as part of the agenda for a 'Barrier Free City'.
- 6.6 These measures will move forward parallel to and in addition to our obligations under Section 91 of the Roads Scotland Act 1984 and Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 with regard to planning, roads and transportation issues.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and Head of Communities have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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IFS/EES

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