

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –  
3 DECEMBER 2001**

**REPORT ON: DROPPED KERBS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 650-2001**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To establish a revised procedure and a financial allocation to enable adequate dropped kerbs to be provided to improve opportunities toward increased mobility.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is asked:

- 2.1 to approve the introduction of a priority procedure in conjunction with Social Work and housing for the justification of dropped kerbs; and
- 2.2 to allocate £20,000 per annum from the existing Planning and Transportation revenue budget toward installing networks of dropped kerbs.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 This amount will be contained within existing budgeting provision.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This programme of works will encourage walking, clearly reducing car dependence and improving the air quality.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 These works will improve accessibility for those with mobility impairments thereby reducing social exclusion.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 There are many ad hoc requests received for dropped kerbs at specific locations, and are predominantly to assist disabled persons. The request is normally to suit the needs of an individual.
- 6.2 Dropped kerbs have been financed from the revenue allocation for Minor Traffic Works and accounted for approximately 25% of this expenditure last financial year. Footpath maintenance projects include for the provision of dropped kerbs as a standard detail.
- 6.3 The majority of requests are for a two dropped kerbs opposite each other to facilitate crossing a road at a particular locus. In these circumstances it is nearly always possible to locate these on a general pedestrian desire line therefore the dropped

kerbs will be for the benefit of all pedestrians. In some cases, however, the request may be for a single dropped kerb for example to access a vehicle at the front gate, often within a disabled parking box.

- 6.4 The opportunities for increased mobility arising from innovations such as electric wheelchairs and scooters are such that requests for dropped kerbs extends to cover routes to public areas such as local shopping centres. Dropped kerbs are essential for the smooth passage of these vehicles.
- 6.5 The Minor Traffic Works allocation is already fully committed for this year with requests for works, some with road safety implications delayed until next year. The inability to provide such low cost minimal works which contribute significantly to quality of life is unsatisfactory, and is not received well in the community.
- 6.6 There are several ways in which individuals can acquire an aid toward improved mobility. This is determined from criteria associated with individuals mobility through Clinical Assessment, a charity organisation, or purchased by the individual.
- 6.7 For each of these possibilities, alterations to the home and or the garden path may also be required. Social Work and Housing authorise works of this nature when associated with the circumstances of acquisition of the mobility unit through Clinical Assessment. Such works are not carried out by Dundee City Council when the mobility unit has been acquired by other means.
- 6.8 In some cases, dropped kerbs which have been installed for driveways can assist these units and an increased journey to find them is minimal. These facilities, however, are installed at the frontagers expense for their use and bad neighbour problems can arise when these facilities are used by others.
- 6.9 It is appropriate that Planning and Transportation work to complementary criteria to those used by Social Work and Housing when introducing facilities for people who have the opportunity of increased mobility, through clinical assessment and a system has been established for liaison between the relevant officers.
- 6.10 Priority will be given to these clients who have undergone this process with any other requests being considered on a first come first served basis on a residual list produced on an annual basis.
- 6.11 Mobility Scooters offer increased mobility within and to the wider community. New developments both residential and business should not only cater for internal access to the mobility impaired access to the premises from the immediate area should also be provided. To this end the Director is investigating how new developments could be encouraged to look at the wider community needs outside the "planning consent" area.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning and Director of Social Work have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

**8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

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