

**DISABILITY ACCESS STUDY  
(Report by the Head of Administration)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on a range of matters that have arisen in the course of the study, which might be pursued further.

**2. DIRECTIONS PLUS**

- 2.1 Gerri Bird, Forum Manager for Disability Cambridgeshire (Directions Plus), has been invited to the meeting to discuss the study. Disability Cambridgeshire is mainly funded to provide information and advice to disabled people and / or older people and carers in Cambridgeshire. It also offers short courses in disability awareness in accessible locations around Cambridgeshire. Staff from Disability Cambridgeshire provide representation / liaison to a number of committees and working groups from very local to Regional Assembly levels. Finally, it is funded to undertake developmental work with voluntary and community organisations in Cambridgeshire and across the Eastern Region.

**3. CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 3.1 Progress on compiling a list of organisations and individuals representing those with learning, physical and sensory impairments who might be involved in all Council consultations on policies was reported at the last meeting. The Panel also asked that the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations be consulted on potential bodies to include on the list. At the same time Members asked that Sally Tubberdy of the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations be invited to a future meeting to discuss the study. Unfortunately, Mrs Tubberdy left the Forum at the end of March and a replacement has not yet been appointed. These points will be pursued at the appropriate time.

**4. BLUE ROUTES**

- 4.1 At the last meeting it was suggested that there might be benefit in introducing Blue Routes, which would assist those with disabilities in navigating their way round the District's towns, and that the Papworth Trust might assist with the identification of potential routes. It also was suggested that the Trust might contribute to the list of consultees referred to in the previous paragraph. These actions are being pursued.

**5. ADVOCACY SERVICES**

- 5.1 The Panel has discussed the provision of advocacy services around the District. It was decided that such services might also help address demand for information and for details of available funding

