

**DISABILITY ACCESS STUDY – FOLLOW UP
(Report by the Head of Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an outline of the follow-up work that has been identified on the study into disability access.

2. DISABILITY ACCESS STUDY

- 2.1 At the last meeting, the Panel gave further consideration to the findings of the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) following completion of the study on disability access and the decisions subsequently taken by the Cabinet on the recommendations that had been made. The study template is attached for information. Having reviewed these outcomes the Panel discussed a number of areas where either progress checking or further work ought to be undertaken. The result was that the actions below were identified. For each of the actions a comment has been provided.

	OUTCOME	ACTION
A	Make representations to Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure that enforcement of blue badge parking is recognised in any new arrangements for decriminalised parking.	Letter sent to the Director of Highways and Access.
B	Initiates discussions on the potential for comprehensive joint advocacy / advice services and the other opportunities for joint working between organisations supporting people with disabilities.	A joint commissioning agreement covering general advice and benefits eligibility has been agreed by HDC and Cambs. County Council with Disability Information Services Huntingdonshire (DISH). The service includes home-visits where required. The service specifically targets residents with disabilities whether those disabilities are physical, sensory or learning. Joint targets have been agreed with all partners and the first 6-month monitoring report will be available for the Scrutiny Panel in November 2009.
C	Consult the Papworth Trust on whether the high dependency toilets at the Saxongate Centre, Huntingdon might be made available for public use.	Letter sent to the Chief Executive of the Papworth Trust seeking a response to the previous letter.

D	Action has been taken to address defective or absent kerbs and unhelpful parking identified by Town and Parish Councils.	<p>Letter sent to the Director of Highways and Access requesting information on the installation and maintenance of dropped kerbs.</p> <p>Letter sent to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Traffic Management Officer requesting an update on enforcement of parking.</p>
E	The Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership has been asked to consider the needs of those with disabilities in the design of the local hardscape.	<p>The Thematic Group's Action Plan contains the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved public transport – Implement Accessibility Action Plan for 4 priority wards. • Improve access experience to bus services for people with disabilities as a pilot project • Enhanced physical integration of bus / train / taxi / cycle / pedestrian services (including provision for people with mobility issues) <p>Update also requested from the Thematic Group.</p>
F	Verify that all buses will be low level by 2010.	Programme of replacement proceeding as planned.
G	Investigate whether the Council can provide information on local taxi services that cater for those with disabilities.	Licensing Officer consulted.
H	Consult Carers UK on its campaign for carers to be provided with free bus travel.	Information requested from Carers UK.
J	The Growth and Infrastructure and the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Groups of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership have been asked to promote the needs of those with disabilities in the District.	<p>See E above.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group's Action Plan contains the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible opportunities – things to do, particularly...those with disabilities. • School holiday programme tailored for disabled participants; disability multi-sport festivals.

		Update also requested from the Thematic Groups.
K	The Scrutiny Panel's intention to inform Town and Parish Councils of the outcome of the study.	To be undertaken following receipt of answers from the County Council and the Police in A and D above.

3. CONCLUSION

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

to note the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report and Minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) held on 6th January and 7th July 2009 and of the Cabinet held on 29th January 2009.

Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) held on 7th July 2009.

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