

**TO: ACCESS ADVISORY PANEL
20 JUNE 2018**

**ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT
Director of Resources**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has a continuing commitment to fund access improvements to its' publicly accessible buildings through the capital programme. Schools and other educational buildings are not included in this programme.
- 1.2 The Councils' performance is measured on the percentage of authority buildings open to the public where all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people. Performance against this indicator is reported in the Resources Quarterly Service Report. This report is intended to inform Members of the panel of our progress in this regard.
- 1.3 In addition to the buildings included in 1.2 above, the programme includes buildings associated with adult social care services and non-school buildings associated with childrens' services and operational buildings. These buildings whilst not open to the public, are accessed by the public. Access audit information was gathered for these properties and necessary works were implemented where appropriate.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Publically Accessible Buildings List

- 2.1 The list of buildings that were deemed publically accessible was originally created to enable reporting to central government. This formal reporting requirement is no longer required, but the list has been maintained to measure our own progress.
- 2.2 Changes in the Councils' property portfolio prompted a review of the list of buildings considered as publically accessible. This has seen some properties removed and others added. These changes to the list mean that our outturn as a percentage is 94.7%, which represents 36 of the 38 buildings on the list. A copy of the current list of publically accessible buildings is appended to this report.

2015-2016 Programme

- 2.3 During 2015-16 programme works were carried out to our publically accessible buildings, this saw a range of improvement works at Ascot Heath Library.

2016-2017 Programme

- 2.4 Works were undertaken to the operational properties. This included minor improvements to the family centre at Wick Hill Cottage, the Oaks Childrens Centre and the Age Concern building at Forest Park.

Unrestricted

2017-2018 Programme

- 2.5 The two remaining publicly accessible buildings is the car park at Braccan Walk and High Street Car Park. Both these buildings were accessed to identify any improvements that may be required. There is minor works that need to be carried out but this was delayed due to the ongoing town centre improvement works. These works will be undertaken during 2018-19.

2018-19 Programme

- 2.6 The two remaining publically accessible buildings listed in 2.5, minor works will be carried out during 2018-19.
- 2.7 The works required are similar at both car parks and include directional and informational signage, automation of doors and installation of handrails.
- 2.8 When the above works are completed later this year, it will draw to a close the Councils' formal Access Improvement Programme.

Future Actions

- 2.9 To complete review of adult social care operational buildings and non-school buildings associated with childrens' services and implement a programme of improvement works
- 2.10 As part of the annual programme of stock condition surveys it is proposed to include access audits of the remaining operational buildings to obtain details of what access improvements are required and include them in a programme as appropriate.
- 2.11 To include in our planned maintenance programme, improvement works identified, where due to the nature of the improvement works, they can only be undertaken as part of more significant refurbishment project.

Borough Solicitor's Comment

- 3.0 The access improvement programme reflects the Council's commitment to discharge its statutory responsibilities under the Equality Act 2006.

Borough Treasurer's Comment

- 4.0 There are no funding implications implementing the 2018-19 programme. The Council has an identified capital budget for access improvement works. The budget for 2018-19 is £48,300 (YM002).

Background Papers

Publically Accessible Buildings List – September 2016
Access Audit Buildings List – May 2018

Contact for further information

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