

Department has a strong network of liaison links with others engaged in the field. Inclusion is a key strand of the Education Department vision.

Given the wealth of aspects of Education Department work that relate to Disability and Inclusion, we would welcome the opportunity, should we be invited, to make a presentation in person to the DISSG.

The Department provides technical support to the Disability and Inclusion Steering Group. This demonstrates its contribution to a multi-agency approach to implementing the Strategy and to help implement the actions laid out in the timetable.

The Education Department also takes the mental health of its staff seriously and has trialled mindfulness training for staff across the service and also worked collaboratively with Guernsey Mind.

With respect to capital works, we have taken the Strategy into account in particular in instances such as the completion of the Les Beaucamps High School rebuild, works at St. Anne's and Vale Primary and, of course, in the planned development of the La Mare de Carteret Schools.

I trust that this information is helpful and assists with the preparation of the States Report.

Deputy R W Sillars, Minister

Environment Department

In response to your letter of 9th June 2015 I am pleased to advise you of the work that the Environment Department has undertaken in relation to the Disability and Inclusion Strategy since November 2013, the details of which are set out below:

PLANNING DIVISION:

Development Control Section:

Planning applications are determined in accordance with the planning policies set out in the Urban Area Plan and Rural Area Plan which include policies for safe and convenient access for people with mobility problems, as approved by the States.

Examples of applications which have been approved having particular regard to these policy issues are:

St Peter Port

- Quay/Church Square ramped access
 - Market Square ramp (Old but example of major change without harm)
 - Old States Offices/Tourist Information Centre – current application following pre-application advice
 - Barclay's private bank- application refused but alternative suggested
 - Constables' Office- major changes accommodated by design.
- Forest and St Saviours – ramped accesses approved to Parish buildings.

Houses – there are examples throughout the Island of ramps/graded accesses having been approved.

Planning Fees – there is an exemption from planning fees where development is to provide a means of access or other facilities designed to secure the greater safety, health or comfort of a disabled person - this has been used for e.g. ground floor extension to create new bedroom/wet room; potentially replacement windows where planning permission is required; create parking space/vehicular access; widening pedestrian gate for wheelchair access where application supported by Or/Occupational Health/other medical specialist.

The Development Control section expect new developments *to* demonstrate reasonable access – e.g. flats should have lifts; Vista's at Vazon incorporates access at ground floor and deck levels.

Forward Planning Section:

In preparing and publishing the draft Island Development Plan the Department has engaged with and responded to the Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Disability Inclusion Strategy and the Island Development Plan - The Environment Department has liaised with the Disability Inclusion Strategy steering group and officers as part of the consultation process which informed the policies of the Plan. This helped to form the policies in the Plan.

Following Publication of the draft Island Development Plan a meeting was held with the Guernsey Disability Alliance, including the legislative representative, and also representatives of the Disability Inclusion Strategy Steering Group (Jane Stephens and Arrun Wilkie) when the draft policies of the Plan were discussed. With the agreement of the Group, the Department agreed to add a paragraph to the high level Objectives of the Plan to emphasise the importance of the Strategy (wording below).

"Through the control of development, the Plan has a significant part to play in removing the barriers that prevent some islanders being fully included in island life. In recent years, the States of Guernsey have developed a much greater understanding of the likely impact of an ageing demographic and has passed a

Disability and Inclusion Strategy (November 2013). The Island Development Plan has responded positively to this by seeking to enable a balance to be achieved between conservation and the needs of disabled people, as is demonstrated across the Plan but specifically in paragraph 19.6.3 (Protected Buildings)."

During submission of initial representations to the Planning Inquiry the Guernsey Disability Alliance has been generally supportive of the approach the Plan has taken.

Provisions of the draft IDP

High level support

This is through the Principal Aim of the Plan and Plan Objective 4 which both seek to maintain and support social inclusivity.

Centres policies

General support subject to criteria for new, and extension, alteration and redevelopment of social and community facilities in centres.

General Policies

GP1 – Supports development that takes advantage of opportunities to improve physical access to open and undeveloped land.

GP5 – Protected Buildings - introduces a balance between the economic and social benefits of development with the special interest of a protected building.

GP8 – Design – requires proposals to demonstrate accessibility to and within a building for people of all ages and abilities and with regard to residential development requires development to offer flexible and adaptable accommodation that is able to respond to people's needs over time (lifetime homes). Also annex 1.

GP14- Allows for home-based employment.

GP18 – Public realm and public art – says that development within areas of public realm will be expected to enhance character and functionality of a locality for the public benefit including through improved accessibility for people of all ages and abilities. The GDA has suggested a slight amendment to the wording of the policy to encompass a wider range of disabilities which Environment has agreed to.

GP19 – Community Plans – will allow the possibility of a community plan for an area for improving disabled access or potentially a wider plan by the disabled community.

IP7 – requires appropriate provision of private and communal parking in accordance with the relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Supplementary Planning Guidance requires appropriate levels of disabled parking throughout the Island.

IP9- Highway Safety, Accessibility and capacity

Requires that proposals take into account the access requirements of people of all levels of mobility and health.

Monitoring and Review

Includes monitoring how the Policies and the IDP is performing in relation to States agreed strategies – including the Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Delivery Mechanisms

Development Frameworks and Local Planning Briefs will consider access issues at the beginning of the design and development process-also Annex III.

Building Control Section:

Building Control applications are determined in accordance with the Building Regulations and in particular the approved guidance contained within the Guernsey Technical Standards. Part M of the suite of documents concerns matters in relation to the 'Access and use of buildings' and contains details of all the design features that must be incorporated for a buildings access and use for people with mobility problems, including people with sensory impairment.

Along with all of the Guernsey Technical Standards Part M is kept up to date and in-line with the latest guidance in the UK. A revised Part M (2015) has just been received from our UK suppliers and we are in the process of reviewing the changes with a view to advising the Board ahead of making changes locally and releasing a 2015 edition of the relevant Guernsey Technical Standard later this year.

Guidance note - A Building Control guidance note has been produced 'Vertical Circulation in Non-Domestic Buildings'. Based on a UK document, this has been adapted for local use and is currently being used in house to determine local applications and is primarily aimed at ensuring a consistent view across the section. This document has not at this point been published on the Department's website.

Part P – The Department has recently published extensive guidance on the design and construction of 'Roads' (not maintained at the public's expense). Some guidance in relation to the construction of footpaths, particularly at crossing points, has been included in this document.

Building Control Fees – there is an exemption from building control fees where building work is to provide a means of access or other facilities designed to secure the greater safety, health or comfort of a disabled person - this has been used for e.g. ground floor extension to create new bedroom/wet room; potentially replacement windows where a building control licence is required; access; widening door openings for wheelchair access, the provision of a level threshold and for a ramp.

The Building Control section expect new developments to meet the requirements of the Regulations in terms of access into and around buildings. Where facilities are

provided within a building it is generally expected that those facilities should be accessible to all building users including employees.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UNIT:

Within the Environmental Services Unit, the development of the new playground at Saumarez Park took account of the requirement to provide, as far as reasonably practical, an all-inclusive play area.

At Candie Gardens, disabled parking is allowed by arrangement and operated through Museum staff on-site.

Easy access has been provided at some viewpoints, e.g. Jerbourg and Pleinmont.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SERVICES UNIT:

The Traffic and Transport Services Unit has undertaken specific workstreams incorporated within the 2014 States approved Integrated Transport Strategy, with regard to disabled access as set out below:

- The Department's Active Travel Unit has a database of disabled group members and individuals which it uses for consultations and engagement;
- Printed materials are available on www.gov.gg;
- The Department's Active Travel unit uses social media for communicating positive messages and inviting feedback from the disabled community;
- The Department regularly issues media updates in relation to matters of special interest groups;
- The Department has approved four Accessible Taxi plates in a new category that are tied to the use of an accessible vehicle. A further four plates may be issued if demand suggests there is a need;
- The new Bus Contract was tendered on the basis of methodology statements. One of the statements required for tenderers concerned the methods that would be adopted to meet the needs of disabled people. The tendered method statement is now being implemented;
- The Department has introduced a policy that whenever possible dropped kerbs and blister paving are installed at unofficial crossing points and as part of remedial or new works;
- The Department has developed a new training programme of disability equality training for accessible taxi drivers;
- A programme of improvements at signalised and zebra crossings to ensure that the height of the kerbs adjacent to the crossings have been dropped to make it easier for wheelchair users to use the crossing;
- Blister paving is also installed on approach to either side of zebra crossings to assist anyone with visual Impairment as part of remedial or new works;
- Added additional disabled bays installed where there is a demand;
- A safety review of unofficial crossing points such as at the Town Quay;

- Worked with property developers to install new pedestrian facilities as part of new development projects,
- The Department's Active Travel unit consult and liaise with a Rights and Access Consultant in relation to access matters;
- The Department's Active Travel unit engage regularly with the Guernsey Disability Alliance and the States Disability Officer in relation to positive media opportunities and consultations;
- Using social media for communicating positive messages and inviting feedback from the disabled community.

I trust that this information meets with your requirements.

Deputy Y Burford, Minister

Health and Social Services Department

I write further to your letter of 9th June requesting details of how the Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) has implemented the Disability and Inclusion Strategy and apologise for the delay in response.

I cannot hope to capture all of the work that is being undertaken that may relate to delivery of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy, but I have set out progress on some key work streams that are highlighted as priorities in the Strategy.

Autism Framework

The Department has been working in partnership with Autism Guernsey and the National Autistic Society to develop a Framework for implementation of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy in relation to people with Autism.

The Department has recently agreed a Service Level Agreement with an Autism Specialist for 18 months consultancy to assist us to develop the Framework and has developed the terms of reference for a project lead. By the end of September 2015 we will have a clear timeframe and project plan for implementation, which will cover the development of a life-long care pathway for children and adults.

The Department's intention has been to focus on the Autism framework first and then to use that as a template for initiating frameworks for learning disability and communication difficulties. Work is ongoing to identify a project lead for the learning disability framework and the communication difficulties framework. This work will conclude at the end of September and leads will be appointed.

At the same time initiatives are being implemented to improve support and services with immediate effect rather than wait for the Framework. Some of this work is detailed below.