

# **Leicester City Council's Inclusive Design Action Programme – an Introduction**

## **Background**

In 2010 Leicester City Council Cabinet approved the Council's first Inclusive Design Action Programme. This maps out the actions needed to ensure:

- a clear understanding of and commitment to Inclusive Design;
- it is firmly embedded in the Council's own projects and programmes, as well those it influences through its statutory powers.

## **What is Inclusive Design?**

Inclusive Design:

- is a process of designing, constructing, and managing buildings, streets, spaces, transport systems, and products (including information), which everyone can use;
- encompasses where people live or work; the buildings, streets, spaces and products they use, as well as their means of getting around;
- addresses the rights and needs of people with ill health, injury or disability (including mobility, dexterity, sensory, learning, communication, continence and mental health impairments), ensuring they are supported by thoughtfully crafted and managed environments;
- recognises and accommodates differences in the way people use and respond to their environment;
- provides solutions that enable all of us to participate in mainstream activities equally, with choice and with dignity, and as independently as possible.

## Strategic Inclusive Design Aims

The following aims which projects/ programmes were adopted to help take the Action Programme forward.

### Leicester City Council's Strategic Inclusive Design Aims

- **To make places (and specify products) that everyone can use safely, easily and with dignity**
- **To remove (and not create) barriers that cause undue effort or separation**
- **To enable everyone to participate equally, confidently and independently in everyday activities**
- **To achieve these aims through a clear commitment to achieving best practice, rather than minimum standards.**

**The Inclusive Design Action Plan** focuses on five key priorities / areas of work.

### Inclusive Design Action Plan: key priorities

#### **To establish:**

- **Clear commitment** to Inclusive Design, supported by strong leadership.
- **Sound understanding** of Inclusive Design issues and solutions by those delivering relevant projects and services.
- **Effective involvement** of disabled people and access advisors in schemes and services.
- **Robust systems and procedures** to help achieve our aims and deliver inclusive outcomes.
- **Good progress** towards achieving our aims.

Actions in the Programme will help to:

- develop a clear framework for decision making, which will have Inclusive Design as a key consideration from the earliest stages of projects;
- ensure that potential conflicts with other priorities (whether at a strategic or more detailed / operational level) are fully considered and resolved early in the planning & design process;
- provide clear and simple planning and design guidance which wherever possible will be 'mainstreamed' in relevant supplementary planning documents and advice notes (rather than create a new policy framework);
- communicate the Council's commitment to inclusive design, with an emphasis on supporting those who are developing new policies , projects and programmes, as well as those implementing existing policies;
- provide links to more detailed information to support the Inclusive Design process;
- ensure that development projects meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion, as well as contributing positively to an area's character and appearance; the Council's view is that good designers should be able to achieve both (as required by draft LDF Core Strategy policy CS 3).