



Formal Consultation of Terms of Reference for Havant Disability Access Group (item 5) and Meeting Notes of a Meeting held on 22nd Nov 2007

If you require this in large print or alternative format please contact Caren Ransom on **023 9244 6007** or caren.ransom@havant.gov.uk

1. Present/Apologies

Apologies:

Lynne Rigby	Portsmouth Disability Forum
Dave Rossiter	Stagecoach
Marc Le May	Access Group
Andy Buckland	Access Group
Danielle Brown	Access Group

Present:

Councillor Terry Hart	HBC
Caren Ransom	Equalities and Access Officer HBC
Gwyneth Fyfield	HBC Access Group
Val Stanley	Havant Access Group
Maisie Tucker	Havant Access Group
Lynne Murdoch-Smith	The Pension Service
Faith Ponsonby	HBC
Christine Pylee	HBC Access Group
Tracey Ford	HBC
Stuart Pinkney	HBC
Marian Le May	HBC Access Group
Tony Le May	HBC Access Group

Emma Kenning	Hampshire County Council
Richard Sturgess	Fareham & Gosport Building Control Partnership
Martin Affleck	Access Consultant
Judith Glenister	HBC Access Group
Val Hartridge	HBC Access Group
Paula Eastwood	Havant Job Centre Plus
Colin Brown	HBC Access Group
Maggie Macbeth	Adult Services

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

TF was asked why no action had been taken on item 4 (access pathways to the countryside), she is trying to put together a date where a variety of venues can be visited on the same day, to be more cost effective.

TF also said she was still waiting for Bath travel to get back to her regarding National Express Tickets.

CP informed the group that Asda Waterlooville does not facilitate recycling of shredded paper (item 5) FP commented that Tesco recycling will take all types of plastics . Also bus route 37 was still “hit and miss” and if it comes early it doesn’t wait. TF responded that the Portfolio Holder had met with Stage Coach recently, stage coach admitted there were problems due to road work delays and traffic congestion. Stage coach said that the route had stopped running commercially due to concessionary fares and has requested an extra £400,000 for the year 07/07 and a further £400,000 for the year 07/08.

FP explained that HBC has changed its policy regarding concessionary passes, they cannot be used before 0930 (commuter times) and carers can no longer claim under the new scheme as this should be provided through other benefit measures

3. Matters Arising

Health & Safety: SP explained that he will be undertaking a risk assessment for the Access Group (fire evacuation) and asked for members to come forward and explain what the issues could potentially be evacuating from the Civic Offices. CP volunteered to help SP and TF write the assessment.

CR spoke about the new planning application (that the Access Group have been fully consulted on over the past few months) to reduce Civic Offices disabled parking spaces. RS recommended that the Chair (TH) recommends to the Planners a traffic regulation on the car park as part of the planning application to enforce waiting restrictions.

CR informed the group the Disability Rights Commission has now disbanded and reformed a new commission that also incorporates the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality. The new Commission is called “the Equality and Human Rights Commission”.

4. Disability Equality Scheme – Annual Review

4.1 Overview

Disability Discrimination Act 2005 has built on Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and now places a Disability Equality Duty on all public authorities (came into effect late 2006)

The Duty reflects the social model of disability (ie society that disables a person) and applies it to all functions of public authorities – it does this by recognising the negative impact on disabled people of a society designed for non disabled people.

The General Duty requires us to adopt a proactive approach, mainstreaming disability equality into all decisions and activities and we must basically have due regard to the need to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA
- Eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disability
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons
- Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life; and
- Take steps to meet disabled persons needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment

4.2 What has HBC done?

We have 3 schemes now in place with an overarching Equality Policy (Race Equality Scheme, Disability Equality Scheme, Gender Equality Scheme)

There is a large action plan that reflects all 6 equality strands (age, disability, gender, Race, religion/belief and sexual orientation) with targets that cross all of our services.

This year we have also carried out 24 equality impact assessments (**EIA's**) that will feed into next year's corporate action plan – again this has looked at all 6 equality strands

We have included alternative format information in “Serving You” our community magazine

Draft Hate Crime Policy

Updating the name and terms of reference for the Access Group

Engaged with the Access Group regarding disabled parking at the Civic

Empowered Access Group members to organise events for the group, involving other community groups and social physical activities

Access Group member writing an article for the next community magazine about using a mobility scooter – raising the profile

4.3 EIA's have identified across service areas that adaptations have been made to assist disabled residents, such as:

4.3.1 Waste Services: Clinical waste, bulky waste, missed bins and assisted collections,

4.3.2 Customer services: alternative formats, Hearing Loops in public rooms, accessible reception, assistance with form filling, interview rooms for those with sensitive needs, 24-hour access to emergency contacts and a voicemail service for non-emergency out of hours calls

4.3.3 A 24 hour website providing information, links to various services and enabling customers to report problems on-line.

4.3.4 Articles in the Council's quarterly magazine, 'Serving You', on how to contact the Council

4.3.5 Advice provided to customers with disabilities, such as how to apply for assisted refuse collections

4.3.6 Enhancement to the Concessionary Travel service for the registered blind to allow them to travel on local buses at any time

4.3.7 Call and Go bus service for disabled customers who have difficulties using the normal bus service

4.3.8 Training session on managing enquiries from customers with learning difficulties delivered to all staff within the Customer Service Centre

4.3.9 Regular meetings with all the services that the Council provide a front-line service for to identify improvements to the delivery of these services

4.3.10 Annual customer exit survey undertaken in Quarter 3 each year

4.3.11 Parking Service:

Survey of Users said 35% of blue badge holders thought that provisions were better in council operated car parks and 17% thought they were better in private car parks

4.4 Future Actions:

Review 2 ticks scheme (positive about disabled employees)

Hate Crime/Harassment reporting to be approved

Review Access Group Web pages on HBC website

Explore initiating a disabled staff forum/ involvement with the Access Group

Wider participation within the access group and linking up to other initiatives such as the newly formed Havant Diversity Initiative

Customer services:

4.4.1 To assess and meet changing customer demand for information and services to be available outside the Civic Offices such as having service points within libraries in the borough and at Beachlands.
Target date – 31/3/08

4.4.2 To provide equalities training to all members of staff and this to be included as part of the induction programme for new starters. Target date – 31/03/08

4.4.3 To review the customer satisfaction surveys to gain a better understanding of whether or not the Council is meeting customer needs in being able to access Council

4.4.4 Parking Service:

Need to assess location of disabled bays in car parks

5. Havant Borough Council Disability Access Group Terms of reference

5.1. Purpose

5.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out the terms of reference for the Group and to agree the partnership arrangement between Havant Borough Council and the Access Group for the future sustainability of the partnership.

Objectives

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons within the Borough
- Assist with eliminating discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA
- Assist with eliminating harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disability
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons
- Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life

5.3. Terms of Reference for Partnership of Havant Borough Council Disability Access Group

- 5.3.1 Current membership of the group will remain – whilst welcoming any newcomers with an interest in disabilities and access. More service areas and a greater range of council officers will be encouraged to become involved with the Group.
- 5.3.2 Access Group Members will assist Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council, local shops and businesses (this list is not exhaustive) with practical advice concerning disabled access where possible. Any income generated by the Group will be spent in agreement of the majority of its members
- 5.3.3 A fortnightly drop in will continue to be held at Havant Civic Offices, facilitated by the Equalities and Access Officer (HBC), a Transport Engineer (HBC) as well as Highways Engineers (HCC) and other Officers as appropriate to engage with issues surrounding new planning applications, physical access and access to services
- 5.3.4 A structured quarterly meeting will continue to take place - a public meeting chaired by a Councillor and supported by Council Officers, to discuss local access and disabled issues, where guest speakers can engage with members of our community. Services across Havant Borough Council can also use this opportunity to engage with disabled residents and their families regarding new policies as part of the consultation process
- 5.3.5 Group members will be empowered to organise outside activities including well being activities for the group and assistance will be provided where necessary by Cultural Services (HBC).
- 5.3.6 The group will participate with the Havant Borough Council's Disability Equality Scheme reviews and be involved with new priority setting within the Action Plan.

5.4. Recommendation

5.4.1 That the draft Terms of Reference be consulted on by all stakeholders, amended and agreed by Havant Disability Access Group and Havant Borough Council AT THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING (see item 7), Councillor Terry Hart will then sign off the approved terms.

Stakeholders:

HBC Members

HBC Managers and Officers

Access Group Members

HCC Officers

Havant Community Boards

Havant Community Services

6. Any other business

Future speech suggestions: PCSO's and Parking Attendants to discuss enforcement statistics regarding misuse of disabled bays.

Other Council services

7. Date of Next Meeting: 27th March 2pm