

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 28th June 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Alan Sinclair, Director Adults and Communities
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875752

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

SLOUGH - A DISABILITY FRIENDLY TOWN?

1. **Purpose of Report**

To discuss the current position of policies and strategies that support the full inclusion of people with a disability in Slough and request the Health Scrutiny Panel commission a Task & Finish Group on the matter.

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to commission a Task & Finish Group to develop and implement a programme of work which aims to help Slough be a disability friendly town.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Work to improve provision for disabled people supports the following priorities of the strategy:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report considers disability which impacts on the following Five Year Plan outcomes:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- Our residents will live in good quality homes (this will depend on whether we include council housing in the Group's remit)

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

The commissioning of the Task & Finish Group will have no immediate financial impact. The potential financial implications of any recommendations made will be clarified as they become apparent.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Task & Finish group to be commissioned, aiming to help Slough be disability friendly town	The Task & Finish Group is too broad in its remit and thus struggles to have a meaningful impact in any key areas.	Terms of Reference will be drafted which give a clear, specific and focused remit.
	The Task & Finish Group conduct too narrow a review, not incorporating wide range of stakeholder views.	Group's programme of work be designed to ensure that a variety of information sources are involved as appropriate

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The rights of disabled residents are subject to a series of legislation (e.g. The Equality Act 2010). SBC is already complying with these statutes, and they will be considered fully throughout the Task & Finish Group's work.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for any impacts on existing policies and strategies once the Task & Finish Group has formed its recommendations, for approval by the relevant parties (e.g. Cabinet).

5. Supporting Information

Initial Discussion Regarding a Possible Task & Finish Group

5.1 At its meeting on 26th March 2018, the Health Scrutiny Panel (HSP) took an item on the reconfiguration of services for people with learning disabilities. Whilst the work on this matter was well received by HSP, wider discussions regarding the limitations in provision people with disabilities were initiated. In this context, the specific reference was to access to the local bus service; however, this soon broadened. Given this, and the fact that such questions have been raised previously by HSP, members and officers agreed that a wider, more in depth review of this area may be appropriate.

5.2 As a result, HSP made the following recommendations:

- That a recommendation be made to the Cabinet to seek its commitment in principle to take further action to make Slough a 'disability friendly town'.
- That the Panel receive a report at the first meeting of the municipal year on 28th June 2018 to establish a Task & Finish Group to explore the practical issues and steps required to make Slough a 'disability friendly town'.

This report is the response to the second of those recommendations.

Cabinet – 16th April 2018

5.3 At the subsequent meeting of Cabinet, this recommendation was reported back. Given the enthusiasm of the relevant Lead Members for this proposal, the Cabinet will be taking an interest in the future work of this Task & Finish Group should it be commissioned. It should also be noted that the Cabinet have made a commitment to address this matter and therefore should be receptive to any positive ideas or proposals emerging as a result of any review.

Online Disability Access Guide

5.4 To demonstrate the work already being undertaken by SBC, a proposal for an online disability access guide has been made and accepted; Councillors are placing some of their allocated funds to support this. SBC will be putting the matter out for a competitive tender, with quotes to be taken in July 2018. It is anticipated that the procurement process should not be overly protracted, with the work on the guide to begin later in 2018.

Community Cohesion

5.5 The issue of making Slough a disability friendly town involves the issues of attitudes as well as physical amenities. The Slough Wellbeing Strategy contains the following vision for Slough in 2028:

“People are proud to live, where diversity is celebrated and where residents can lead safe, fulfilling, prosperous and healthy lives.”

As a result, any work on this matter should involve ensuring that this commitment is met and that disabled residents are part of a cohesive and strong local community.

- 5.6 As part of this, a Members' Community Cohesion Group was established in 2014. Should HSP decide to commission a Task & Finish Group on the experiences of disabled residents, work alongside bodies such as this may be an area for the Group to consider when forming its work programme.

Bus Stops

- 5.7 Members have also conducted visits into sites across Slough, assessing the suitability of locations and facilities for disabled local residents. The findings of these visits will also be included in the work of the Task & Finish Group, and the Group may revisit this issue and conduct a more detailed survey of bus stops across the Borough.

Potential Next Steps

- 5.8 Should the Task and Finish Group be commissioned, the next phase of the procedure would be:
- a) Scrutiny Officer to request nominations for membership of the Task and Finish Group (these individuals need not be confined to members of HSP);
 - b) Meeting to be held with Task and Finish Group to draft terms of reference for the review;
 - c) OSC to be asked to approve, amend or reject these terms of reference (either electronically or at its next meeting); and
 - d) Once terms of reference agreed, Task and Finish Group to undertake its review. Once this is completed, it will then report back to OSC with its final report and any recommendations arising.

6. Comments of Other Committees

The support given for this proposal by Cabinet on 16th April 2018 is discussed in Section 5.3 of this report.

7. Conclusion

The Panel is asked to note the support for activity on the matter of making Slough a disability friendly town and commission a related Task & Finish Group.

8. Appendices Attached

None

9. Background Papers

Agenda papers and minutes, Health Scrutiny Panel (26th March 2018).

Agenda papers and minutes, Cabinet (16th April 2018).