

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 20th November 2019

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PART I

FOR INFORMATION

DISABILITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Panel with information on the steps taken by SBC so far to implement the recommendations of the Disability Task and Finish Group.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Panel note the information included in Appendix A.

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

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

The work of the Task and Finish group supported the Joint Wellbeing Strategy's second priority:

2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Task and Finish Group's recommendations will help the council to deliver the following outcomes of the Five Year Plan:

- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
- Our residents will live in good quality homes

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications to this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no risk management implications to this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Some of the Task and Finish Group's proposals relate to Slough Borough Council's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Should the implementation of the recommendations necessitate such an exercise, it will be carried out as required.

(e) Workforce

The implementation of the Task and Finish Group's recommendations will require officer time and commitment, as well as agreement from line managers.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Background to the Task and Finish Group

The Task and Finish Group was formed in response to the fact that, across a wide range of Health Scrutiny Panel agenda items, the issue of disability access was continually emerging in discussions.

The group's intended aim was to help Slough become a 'disability friendly town', encompassing a wide range of matters such as building access, transport and leisure options.

5.2 Recommendations

The group concluded that the ultimate objective for Slough should be to create a town with full accessibility for all its residents and to provide a safe environment. Based on its investigations, the group identified seven key areas which it recommended form the basis of Slough Borough Council and partner's approach to making Slough a disability friendly town.

- 1) Residents with disabilities should be provided with clear information on services available, and the wider public should be made aware of the challenges faced by them.
- 2) The council should review how its customers might best be able to report concerns around accessibility as part of its ongoing Transformation Programme.
- 3) The council should seek to improve the accessibility and safety of public transportation and taxis in the borough.
- 4) The council should raise awareness of the high quality leisure services available for disabled residents, and facilitate their use.
- 5) Full accessibility should be the default position for all future SBC buildings, and the council should utilise the opportunities presented by regeneration to embed accessibility in our town.

- 6) Further action should be taken to prevent the obstruction of pathways and the council should consider further locations where disabled parking may be appropriate.
- 7) GP surgeries should examine opportunities for implementing 'quick fixes' for improving access, and accessibility should be factored into all future designs as standard.

Within these areas, the Task and Finish Group proposed a number of specific actions it felt would be most effective in helping SBC to achieve these objectives. These are included in Appendix A. The proposals relating to GP practices were shared with the CCG, as SBC is not responsible for their implementation. These have not been included in this report.

5.3 Further scrutiny

The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group were endorsed by the Cabinet on 15 July. The Health Scrutiny Panel subsequently resolved that an information-only update should be brought to them every other meeting to inform them of the steps that have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group so far.

The first such update can be found in Appendix A.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has yet to be seen by any other committees.

7. **Conclusion**

Appendix A includes information on timelines for the implementation of the Disability Task and Finish Group's recommendations and the initial steps that have been taken.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' Disability Task and Finish Group implementation grid

9. **Background Papers**

Agenda, decisions and minutes - Cabinet, Slough Borough Council, Monday, 15 July, 2019.