

NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: BUILDING FOR EQUALITY – DISABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1 Purpose/For Decision

1.1 To consider the Notice of Motion set out below.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by Councillor Stuchbury and seconded by Councillor Bateman:-

Legislation is in place which should, in theory, prevent inaccessible buildings and public spaces being created and enduring. The Equality Act 2010 requires employers and bodies providing services to anticipate the need for reasonable adjustments so as not to discriminate against disabled people; this is relevant not only to the occupiers of buildings but also to the planning and building control process. However, the burden of ensuring that an accessible environment is achieved falls too heavily at present on individual disabled people, an approach that we consider to be neither morally nor practically sustainable. That burden needs to lie more obviously with the bodies who create, occupy and manage the environment.

The Government should make it easier for local planning authorities to follow this lead through revision and clarification of national planning policy and guidance. Local Plans should not be found sound without evidence that they address access for disabled people in terms of housing, public spaces and the wider built environment; to support this, the Equality and Human Rights Commission should investigate the Planning Inspectorate's compliance with the Equality Act. Planning consent should only be given where there is evidence that a proposal makes sufficient provision for accessibility.

Buckingham Town council has endorsed the Parliamentary report, 'Building for Equality: Disability and the Built Environment' and in recognition of previous agreements it is proposed:

"That AVDC incorporate the findings and recommendations of the report within the Vale Of Aylesbury Local Development Plan (VALP)"

2.2 The Chairman has consented to this Motion being dealt with at this meeting. The procedure will be as follows:-

- Councillor Stuchbury will be invited to propose the Motion and explain the rationale. **(Maximum of 5 minutes).**
- Councillor Bateman will then be invited to second the Motion. Councillor Bateman may speak at that point or reserve his speech until later during the debate. In either case, Councillor Bateman will have a **Maximum of 5 minutes.**
- The Motion will then be open for debate.
- The Chairman of the Council will ask Members who wishes to speak.
- Councillor Stuchbury will have a right of reply at the end of the debate.
- A vote will then be taken.

Contact Officer: Bill Ashton (01296) 585040 (Re. the process)

Background Documents: The proposer of the motion has provided links to 2 documents which contain further information that Members may wish to read:

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmwomeq/631/63102.htm>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>