

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

11th June 2013

**ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TASK GROUP MONITORING UPDATE –  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REFERRAL**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Greg Chance, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration Economic Development and Transport, and Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for community Leadership and Partnership.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Acting Head of Community Services
Ward(s) Affected	Abbey ward
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report summarises the action proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to install a canopy over the entrance ramp access to Shopmobility.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that**

**funding of £5,000 be released from balances in 2013/14 to meet the costs associated with the installation of a canopy over the access ramp to Shopmobility.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Background:**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review of access for people with disabilities to Redditch town centre in 2011. A total of seven Members served on the review over the course of two municipal years including Councillors M Chalk, A Clayton, Fry (Chair, May – August 2012), Hartnett, Mason (Chair, September 2011 – May 2012), Quinney and Smith. The review was completed in August 2012.
- 3.2 During the course of the review the Councillors focused on the needs of people with all types of disability. The group was specifically tasked with investigating access for people with disabilities to the town centre by bus, taxi and by car. At the end of the review the group proposed 11 recommendations, the majority of which were approved, though a number required external organisations to make a final decision.

- 3.3 Included within the recommendations were proposals for Officers to investigate a number of areas in further detail. One of the subjects that Officers were asked to review was the potential for a canopy to be installed over the ramp access to Shopmobility. Officers investigated this subject in detail and reported their findings for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd April 2013. (Appendix A).

**Financial Implications**

- 3.4 The estimated cost to install the shelter, including Landlord approval costs, would be £5,000. The figure quoted in this report relates only to the plans provided in Appendix B.
- 3.5 Additional expenditure would be required if seating was added to the shelter. The cost of incorporating seating into the structure would be £300 for a small bench and £600 for a bench extending across the width of the shelter, in addition to the £4,857 reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the cost for the installation of a canopy. This proposal would cost just under £5,500. An outline of a canopy incorporating seating can be viewed in Appendix C.
- 3.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was advised that the installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility could not be paid for out of existing budgets. The Committee therefore proposed that a request be made to fund the cost associated with the installation during 2013/14 from balances, a request that would be subject to Full Council approval. However, an alternative option would be to fund the installation of the canopy using the Shopmobility service's earmarked reserves.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.7 There are no legal implications for this report.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.8 The ramp is located on private land owned by the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. The Council will therefore require the Kingfisher Shopping Centre's approval to carry out the proposed works.
- 3.9 Generally, in cases where the Council installs bus shelters planning permission is not required because these structures are often installed on Council land. However, as the shelter would be installed on private land planning permission would be required in this case.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.10 The canopy would benefit Shopmobility users as it would provide shelter to customers waiting for a Dial a Ride vehicle during adverse weather. In addition, the canopy would benefit users if it allowed for seating.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There are none identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Extract from the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2013.

Appendix B – Draft proposed plans for the canopy.

Appendix C – Draft proposed plans for a canopy incorporating seating.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Access for Disabled People Task Group – Final Report (August 2012).

Access for Disabled People Task Group – Monitoring Update Report (April 2013).

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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