

Report

Report to:	Equal Opportunities Forum
Date of Meeting:	15 September 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Accessibility Report on Operational Properties
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ update the Equal Opportunities Forum on the activities being carried out by Property Services, Asset and Estates Team with regards to the development of a new customer focused accessibility survey and property summary

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the changes in the Council's approach to surveying and reporting on accessibility be noted.

3. Background

3.1 Accessibility started as a Statutory Performance indicator (SPi) reported simply as a yes, no or re-engineered. This was a very technically focused appraisal, taking into account several factors such as building regulations, time of construction, ability to be adapted and service being delivered. In recent years this has been changed to a Key Performance indicator (KPi), however, the methodology for assessing buildings has remained substantially the same.

3.2. Following customer feedback, it has been recognised that whilst the KPi is useful for benchmarking properties it is not of much assistance to service users. A review was, therefore, carried out into what information on accessibility was collected and how could it be presented differently to assist customers, visitors and building users.

4. Activity to date

4.1 The following activities have been progressed to date:-

- ♦ reviewed and amended the survey sheet used on site to capture information on each building (example shown in Appendix 1)
- ♦ created a new summary sheet (example shown in Appendix 2), where technical information is translated into a customer focused statement on key areas of accessibility
- ♦ completed initial pilot programme of 6 properties at the start of 2021 to test the process
- ♦ agreed a set list of terms used in summary sheet to provide consistency

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. All operational properties are surveyed by the Council's in-house Building Surveyors as part of a 4-year rolling programme. This survey activity captures information on legislative responsibilities including fire compartmentation, condition and insurance details.
- 5.2. The new accessibility assessment will now form part of that survey programme.
- 5.3. The next step will be to discuss how the results from the surveys can be shared with service users, for example adding information to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Cultures (SLLC) website and booking information.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. No employee implications identified at this time.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. No financial implications arise from this report, however, information collected through the survey programme will inform decisions about future investment programmes and will assist in accessing accessibility requirements during refurbishment or investment programmes.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications associated with this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Incorporating the assessment into the single survey helps reduce the number of visits to any one property and helps reduce environmental impact from travel.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This briefing paper does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Daniel Lowe

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

25 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient, and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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