

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 1999**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS (DETR) - GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF TACTILE PAVING SURFACES**

4. Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 1 April 1998, there was submitted a report dated 28 January 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development advising (1) of the publication of new guidelines regarding the use of an extended range of tactile paving surfaces; (2) that the new guidance covered the use of tactile surfaces not only at controlled pedestrian crossings but also at uncontrolled crossings, steps and stairs, ramps etc.; (3) of the obligation on all Council Departments to extend the use of all types of approved tactile surfaces to make the public access network more user friendly for visually impaired people; (4) of his intention to incorporate the advice contained within the guidance in all new road and footway works commissioned by his Department; (5) that his Department will seek to implement improvements to the existing road and footway network as and when resources become available, and (6) that the guidance will be included in the Council's Local Transport Strategy document which his Department is currently preparing.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the guidance be noted;
- (2) that the obligation on all Council Departments to extend the use of all types of approved tactile surfaces to make the public access network more user friendly for visually impaired people and thereby to promote social inclusion be noted;
- (3) that the intention to incorporate the advice in all new road and footway works commissioned by the Department of Planning and Development be noted;
- (4) that it be noted that the Department of Planning and Development will seek to implement improvements to the existing road and footway network as and when resources become available, and
- (5) that the report be referred to the Construction Services, Education, Environmental Services, Housing, Leisure Services, Planning and Development and Social Work Committees for their interest.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Transportation and Development Sub-Committee)		Subject: DETR GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF TACTILE PAVING SURFACES
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 17 February 1999	Ref: JM/KG	

Purpose of Report

1. This report informs Committee of the publication of new DETR guidelines covering the use of an extended range of tactile paving surfaces.

Main Report

2. As reported to this sub Committee on 1 April 1998, revised guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces has been produced by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) with input from the Transport Research Laboratory and the Royal National Institute for the Blind. This guidance which has now been formalised with the publication of **Guidance on the use of Tactile Paving Surfaces** on 11 January this year, supercedes existing Disability Unit Circular 1/91 on The Use of Dropped Kerbs and Tactile Paving at Pedestrian Crossing Points.
3. The use of tactile surfaces to aid the mobility and safety of blind and partially sighted people has been ongoing for a number of years. They can be a major factor in giving blind and partially sighted people the confidence to go out independently and Committee will be aware of the extensive use of this material in and around the Civic Centre in Motherwell.
4. The new guidance covers the use of tactile surfaces not only at controlled pedestrian crossings but at:-
 - a) uncontrolled crossings
 - b) steps and stairs
 - c) ramps
 - d) level crossings
 - e) rail station platforms
 - f) shared cycle track/footways
 - g) guidance path surfaces
 - h) information surfaces i.e. telephone, post-box, information board, cash dispensers, toilets, ticket offices etc.
5. This guidance will be included in the Local Transport Strategy document which will have to be prepared for the Council by 31 July to meet new Scottish Office requirements. The use of these surfaces will be required in all new build and will be implemented in existing infrastructure on a rolling programme as and when resources are available.

6. Consultation and discussion is ongoing with other Council Departments - Housing and Construction Services in particular - who will also have an obligation to implement this guidance in works which they commission.

Sustainability Implications

7. The deployment of tactile surfaces is consistent with the promotion of walking as an environmentally friendly mode of transport and it is also important in terms of promoting social inclusion.

Recommendations

8. Committee is asked to note:-
 - a) the publication of this guidance.
 - b) the obligation on all Council Departments to extend the use of all types of approved tactile surfaces to make our public access network more user friendly for visually impaired people and thereby to promote social inclusion.
 - c) the intention to incorporate this advice in all new road and footway works commissioned by this Department
 - d) that the Department will seek to implement improvements to the existing road and footway network as and when resources become available.

J. G. Mason

Stanley C. Cook
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

28 January 1999

For further information please contact John Marran on 01236 616253.