

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

<b>TO:</b> Social Work Committee	<b>Subject:</b>  <b>SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE:  DISABILITY RIGHTS TASK FORCE REPORT</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Social Work	
<b>DATE OF COMMITTEE:</b> 06 June 2000	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b> Brian McAteer	
<b>REF:</b>	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of a process initiated by the Scottish Executive to assist it in responding to the Disability Rights Task Force Report.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive is committed to supporting "comprehensive and enforceable civil rights for disabled people." The Executive has invited local authorities and other organisations to consider recommendations contained in the final report of the UK wide Disability Rights Task Force and propose how they may best be taken forward.
- 2.2 This report, published in December 1999 after two years of consultation, makes recommendations in reserved as well as devolved areas. The Scottish Executive's consultation process is designed to ascertain how best to reflect Scottish circumstances in implementing the recommendations in devolved areas. The deadline for responses is 23rd June 2000.
- 2.3 One of the first tasks of the Disability Rights Task Force was to develop proposals for the establishment of a Disability Rights Commission. The commission was formally launched in April this year with its Scottish base in Edinburgh.

**3 PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The report makes a large number of detailed recommendations, over 150 in total, covering a wide range of areas under the headings of:

- ◆ defining disability
- ◆ education
- ◆ employment
- ◆ access to goods, services and premises
- ◆ travel

- ◆ the environment and housing
- ◆ participation in public life
- ◆ local government health and social services.

3.2 At the request of the Convenor of Social Work, the Department is consulting with organisations representing service users to seek their views on priorities for implementation.

3.3 The next stage for the Council is to consider corporately how it might implement the recommendations of the report.

#### 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Committee is asked:

- (i) to note publication of the document concerned and;
- (ii) bring forward a report to future Social Work and other relevant Committees.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**25 May 2000**

*For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Principal Officer (Planning and Development) (TEL: 01698 332067)*