



Report 09.34  
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Committee Transport and Access Committee  
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## Review of Disability Liaison Role

### 1. Purpose

To review the role of the Public Transport Disability Liaison Officer.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

At its meeting on 26 March 2008, the Committee was advised that a new role had been created within the Council's Public Transport Division – that of a Public Transport Disability Liaison Officer (DLO). The DLO role was allocated to Anke Kole, and ten hours per week was allocated to the task. The aim of the role was to make public transport more accessible to people with disabilities.

The role was to be reviewed after six months. This paper constitutes that review.

On a related, but separate matter, at its 7 May 2008 meeting, the Committee recommended that Council establish a Disability Reference Group, and provide for a 0.25 FTE position of Disability Advisor (which was to have a council wide focus rather than just public transport). This recommendation was subsequently approved by Council. A Disability Reference Group was subsequently established, and it has met twice to date. The position of Disability Advisor has yet to be established.

### 4. Comment

Anke has undertaken the DLO role for the last nine months. Her work has included the preparation of a public transport accessibility work programme, containing twenty-four action points. A provisional budget for 2009/10 has

been provided for those actions which have funding implications. The programme has been discussed by the Disability Reference Group, and is intended to form the basis of the future work of the DLO.

It was intended that the need for a specific public transport disability role be reviewed once a Council Disability Officer was appointed. However given that such an appointment has yet to be made, and the success of the DLO in raising awareness of disability issues, it is intended to continue the DLO role.

Anke has recently left the Council, and Rhonda Christensen, who is currently working on the improvements to the Total Mobility scheme, has been allocated the public transport DLO role.

## **5. Communication**

Disability organisations, and the Council Disability Reference group, will be advised that Rhonda Christensen has taken over the role of Public Transport Disability Liaison Officer.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Notes that the Public Transport Disability Liaison Officer role will continue.***

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