

## Planning services

The council already has detailed policies to promote a high standard of accessibility in all types of development in Islington, set out in its Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The policies relating to Lifetime Homes and adapted housing for wheelchair users have been exemplary.

Greater emphasis has been placed on promotion of equality of opportunity, inclusive design and the importance of consultation in recent government legislation and guidance. At the regional level, the **London Plan** sets an ambitious policy agenda through its **2004 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 'Accessible London; achieving an inclusive environment'**. This encourages Islington to further develop and refine its policies relating to inclusive design and accessibility under the new Local Development Framework, though this is still at an early stage of formulation.

For planners, the **Planning Manual** provides legal background and notes for processing applications in Section 4.5 'Access and Inclusive Design'. Section 2.3 'Liaison with Building Control' is also relevant. Supplementary Planning Guidance for Lifetime Homes and Wheelchair Users Housing is reproduced in full through a link on the council's website page 'Access and Inclusive Design'

In 2005 all new housing should be built to **Lifetime Homes** standard and around 10% of affordable housing should be to **Wheelchair** standard. It is likely, under the UDP review, that Islington will follow London Plan guidance and expect all residential development to include some units designed to Wheelchair standard. At the time of writing, the national standard for wheelchair users' housing is under review. It is expected that the new edition will be simplified for ease of use.

For non-residential design, **British Standard BS5300** (2001) is the most recent and relevant document, and should be referred to for parking, ramps, door widths and other general accessible guidance, together with the Part M Approved Document.

**Conservation** is an issue that can conflict with the need for greater accessibility. PPG15 advises on the need to reconcile the two. Two recent guidance documents from English Heritage are 'Easy Access to Historic Buildings' (2004) and 'Easy Access to Historic Landscapes' (2005), both downloadable from [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)



LSO Old Street