

Highways and transport

Highways and public transport services were generally passed over lightly under the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Gaps have been plugged and new duties imposed by DDA 2005, which will prompt all highways and transport authorities to review their policies and demonstrate that positive action is being taken to eliminate discriminatory practices. To assist in this process, Islington's Street Management have set up a consultative body, the Mobility Forum, whose first meeting was in November 2005. This forum brings together disabled and older people and organisations, public and community transport providers as well as highways, traffic engineering, environmental and parking services. The scope of the issues that are likely to be raised through the forum include:

- door-to-door services – *Taxicard, Dial-a-ride*
- street management issues including street maintenance, dropped kerb provision, tactile paving, street clutter removal, traffic calming and parking management, improving bus stop accessibility and accessible signal controlled crossings
- buses – public transport
- local accessible transport services including *PlusBus Hail-and-Ride and Scootability Scheme – free mobility scooter loan service*
- planning – new developments, projects and service proposals
- design – vehicles, infrastructure, information and publicity
- policies – fares, service reliability, timetables, staff and training
- TfL updates
- freedom pass
- equality and inclusion
- NHS transport
- parking – disabled blue badge

Contact: transportplanning@islington.gov.uk and tel 020 7527 3017 for information on the Islington Mobility Forum and Contact Islington on 020 7527 2000 for information on the specific services.

The council's Highways Services Standards leaflet 'Accessibility' sets out parking concessions for Blue Badge holders and services offered for disabled residents i.e. removal of trip hazards and obstacles on pavements; provision of disabled parking bays and dropped kerbs and help with rubbish collection. The safety of all highway users, by controlling moveable obstacles on pavements, is helped by the recent introduction of a strict licensing and enforcement policy.

The Department for Transport's **Mobility Unit** provides up to date information on all accessible transport and pedestrian matters. Their publications '**Inclusive Mobility**' and '**Guidance on the use of tactile paving**', available on www.mobility-unit.dft.gov.uk and free of charge in printed form, are the design bibles for accessible highways and pedestrian routes.

The **Islington Streetbook** refers directly to these guidelines for best practice in the borough. The Streetbook also sets out the conditions under which applications for ramps on the footway will be considered. Street Management also has responsibility for ensuring that streetworks are properly guarded and temporary diversionary footways are accessible to all.