

News Release

071 512 3000

London Docklands
Development Corporation
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ
Telex 894041 LDDC G
Fax No. 071 512 0777

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LONDON DOCKLANDS SETS OUT STANDARDS ON BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY

Getting about London Docklands will be made easier for people with disabilities as a result of a comprehensive new design guide on building accessibility just published by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC).

The Access and Mobility Check-List has been drawn up by the Corporation in conjunction with Access Officers from the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Newham, in whose areas the London Docklands Urban Development Area falls.

The brochure sets out the minimum statutory design requirements for accessibility to public buildings in an easy-to-use format. Details of regulations are listed in nine sections covering parking, surfaces, main entrances, entrance doors, lobbies, internal doors and circulation, lifts, stairs and toilets. A summary of current legislation concerning disabled access and a list of local authorities in England and Wales publishing similar guidelines are also included.

The check-list will be used principally by planners and LDDC designers when negotiating new schemes in the London Docklands area but it will also be of general interest to developers and architects.

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Howard Sheppard, City Design and Planning Task Group Manager at the LDDC, said: "Easy and quality access for disabled people is vital. What is set out in the Check-List are the minimum standards required but we shall be encouraging architects and developers to go beyond these minimum provisions."

The check-list concentrates mainly on standards of access for wheelchair users but people with other disabilities such as blind people, the elderly, carers with small children in buggies and pregnant women as well as people with heavy shopping or other items will also benefit. Although the brochure's focus is on public buildings, there are also applications for housing and other types of building.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

- * Sections 4 & 7 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 & BS5810 (Code of Practice for the Access of Disabled to Buildings) seek both to enhance disabled people's ability to participate in community life and to find and keep gainful employment as well as to make public buildings accessible to the disabled. Under Section 76 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, it is the duty of the Corporation, as local planning authority, to bring this Act and Standard to the attention of developers.

COPIES OF THE ACCESS AND MOBILITY CHECK-LIST ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS BELOW

For further information, contact:

LDDC Press Office
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ

Tel: 071-512 3000/0444