

## Access for all

- 4.96 Good access and inclusion benefits everyone. However, many people are disadvantaged by poor access to facilities and buildings and many vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as disabled people, older people and others who experience a barrier to the built environment, can be particularly affected. Poor access can also be caused by difficulties in using the specific facilities themselves.

### Policy C6 Access for all

The Council will seek to promote fair access and remove the barriers that prevent everyone from accessing facilities and opportunities.

We will:

- a. expect all buildings and places to meet the highest practicable standards of accessible and inclusive design so they can be used safely, easily and with dignity by all;
- b. expect facilities to be located in the most accessible parts of the borough;
- c. expect spaces, routes and facilities between buildings to be designed to be fully accessible;
- d. encourage accessible public transport; and
- e. secure car parking for disabled people.

The Council will seek to ensure that development meets the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods.

- 4.97 Many people experience difficulties in using buildings and spaces as their access needs are ignored, or considered too late in the development process to ensure inclusive design principals are included.
- 4.98 The Council will require all buildings and spaces to be designed to be fully accessible and promote equality of opportunity. As accessibility is influenced by perceptions as well as physical factors, buildings should also be designed to appear, as well as be, accessible. We will require a Design and Access Statement for new developments and spaces to show how the principles of inclusive design, including the specific needs of disabled people, have been integrated into the proposed development and how inclusion will be maintained and managed.
- 4.99 The Council will balance the requirement to provide access with the interests of conservation and preservation. We will seek sensitive design solutions to achieve access for all, to and within listed buildings. "Policy D2 Heritage" sets out our detailed approach to development affecting listed buildings and other heritage assets.
- 4.100 Making sure that people can move through streets and places easily and safely is as important as making the buildings themselves accessible. The Council will expect improvements for all pedestrians including disabled people to ensure

good quality access and circulation arrangements, including improvements to existing routes, surfaces and footways. The Camden Streetscape Design Manual and supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design provide further guidance on this issue.

- 4.101 The Council aims to increase the attractiveness of public transport by creating networks which make people feel safe, link to all parts of the borough and enable use by everyone including disabled people. The provision of public transport allows independence in travel choices and is vital to those without access to, or without the means to use, a car.
- 4.102 While the Council encourages public transport and car-free schemes, in line with sustainable development objectives, we recognise that some disabled people rely on private motorised transport. We will therefore require relevant planning applications to demonstrate how the needs of disabled drivers have been addressed. Where appropriate, the Council will support provision of disabled parking and drop-off facilities which are integrated with public transport facilities.
- 4.103 The Council believes that new housing should allow less mobile residents to live as independently as possible. Accessible homes give them greater choice about where to live and mean people are less likely to need to move when they become less mobile. The Council's policies on accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair user dwellings are set out in "Policy H6 Housing choice and mix" and in supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on housing.

#### **Lifetime Neighbourhoods**

- 4.104 Lifetime Neighbourhoods are a government initiative to ensure that our places allow people to live fulfilling and independent lives as they grow older. Lifetime neighbourhoods is broad in scope, but the elements most relevant to planning are providing homes to meet people's needs (including lifetime homes), ensuring development promotes sustainable travel (including walking and cycling), protecting the vitality and viability of our town centres and shopping areas and protecting community facilities. Further information is available in the document Lifetime Homes (Communities and Local Government 2011).