

COUNCIL POLICY NO: 002

Responsible Directorate	Corporate and Community Services
Responsible Section	Community Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Services

OBJECTIVE:

To state the Council's commitment to ensuring that Council facilities are accessible for people with disability, their families and carers and that as far as practicable "reasonable measures" the level of access provided is taken into consideration.

The commitment is extended to encourage people with disability to use the Town's facilities by offering free entry to their carers', to all of the Town's facilities and reserves.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Directorates of the Town of Cambridge.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Town of Cambridge interprets an accessible community as one in which all Council functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) are open and available to people with disability providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by all other people in the community as far as practicable.

The Council:-

1. recognises that people with disability are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life. The Council believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation of all its members, makes for a richer community life;
2. recognises that providing complete access may not be possible and beyond "reasonable measures" due to "unjustifiable constraints" based on physical, technical or financial limitations;
3. is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers and, where required, disability organisations to ensure that barriers to access are addressed appropriately;
4. is also committed to working in partnership with local businesses to improve access to community facilities and services;
5. acknowledges that it has a responsibility to various legislative frameworks and industry standards;
6. acknowledges that to enable people with disability to use the Town's facilities, an assistant, a support worker, an approved assistance animal or a disability aid may be necessary;

7. a person who has a disability or medical condition, an effect of which can be alleviated or managed by the use of an assistance animal; is entitled to be accompanied by the accredited assistance animal (as defined in section 9 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*) in any Town's buildings or facilities;
8. to facilitate people with disability to bring a carer, the carer is offered free entry to all of the Town's facilities and reserves as part of the Companion Card program;
9. will work with both internal and external stakeholders in the community to progressively deliver its objectives of access and inclusion for people living with a disability, as outlined in the Town's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022; and
10. will comply with all relevant legislation regarding access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

DEFINITIONS:

Definitions are taken as those detailed in the *Local Government Act 1995* and associated legislation.

Document Control				
Office Use Only:				
Previous Policy No	Policy No. 2.1.2			
Statutory Legislation and Compliance	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>			
Related Documents/Legislation	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996; Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>			
Date of Adoption by Council	Council Meeting - 23 January 1996			
Date Reviewed/Amended	17 September 1996 28 October 2003 27 April 2010	28 October 1997 22 March 2005 28 June 2016	27 June 2000 20 December 2005 28 July 2020	25 March 2003 22 April 2008
Next Review Date	April 2024			