
Secretariat memorandum

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Agenda item:

TRS028

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Step-free stations in London

1 Purpose of report

1.1 To provide members with a briefing on progress towards a step free rail network.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That members note the report.

3 Introduction

3.1 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Part 3) referred specifically to access to goods, services and facilities. It is a civil rights provision and the duties which it places on service providers were introduced incrementally in three stages between 1996 and 2004. Subsequently local highway authorities were included in its provisions. On 5 April 2011 the public sector equality duty (the equality duty) came into force. This duty replaces the existing race, disability and gender equality duties, but applies in a similar way regarding access issues.

3.2 Transport providers in the UK were aware that this legislation was due and acted in advance of it by building stations on the Jubilee Line, the Docklands Light Railway and Croydon Tramlink with a step-free route to the platforms.

3.3 In current practice, any new transport infrastructure ensures that accessibility is integrated into the design. However, most stations in London pre-date concerns about step free access and need retrospective works to provide a step free route.

3.4 London TravelWatch has been consulted by Transport for London and Network Rail regarding the various programmes to improve step-free access in London. This paper summarises the two main programmes and highlights changes since the last update to the Committee in June 2009.

4 Railways for All

- 4.1 Railways for All is the Department for Transport's (DfT) accessibility strategy for the National Rail network. It was launched in 2006 and runs until 2015. It provides £370 million to install a step free route at the busiest stations and a further £7million per year for local initiatives.
- 4.2 The criteria used for selecting stations for the main fund was to choose the busiest stations, weighted by the number of people declaring themselves as disabled in the 2001 Census. Around 30% of the stations on the national network were chosen in order to ensure a fair geographical spread across the country and DfT Ministers made the final decisions on which stations were included. The London stations are listed in Annex A.
- 4.3 The £7m Access for All small schemes funding is allocated annually to train operating companies.
- 4.4 Additionally DfT also launched £37.5m a Mid-tier programme in 2011 for projects requiring between £250K and £1m of government funding. The successful bidders were announced in December 2011. Successful London stations include Edmonton Green, Paddington, Hampstead Heath, Stratford, Queen's Road Peckham, Crystal Palace, Blackhorse Road, South Tottenham, West Hampstead, Kensal Rise and Bexleyheath
- 4.5 Outside the Railways for All programme Farringdon and Blackfriars stations have just become step-free as part of the Thameslink programme.
- 4.6 It should be noted that there are still a number of stations for which simple step free improvements could be made at modest cost, as they would not require the installation of lifts. However, these have not been progressed to date on account of their low footfall as recorded in the Office of Rail Regulation's usage statistics. These include stations such as Bellingham, Maze Hill, Penge West, Ravensbourne and Sudbury Hill Harrow in London, and Saunderton (within the London TravelWatch area). Penge West is on the London Overground network and had a significant boost in service levels in 2010 with the expansion of the number of trains calling from four to 12 per hour off-peak. Numbers of passengers have increased as a result. It is recommended that London TravelWatch maintains its position that it would be worthwhile pursuing step free access at these locations.

5 London Underground's step-free access programme

- 5.1 When members were last updated in June 2009 there were 56 step-free London Underground (LUL) stations and a previous programme had been curtailed. Now LUL has 65 stations that are step-free and a further 7 that are programmed to become step-free as part of major station redevelopments, Crossrail, Thameslink in the main. 231 LUL stations have no step-free access.

- 5.2 Two other LUL stations, Finsbury Park and Vauxhall are not programmed, but seem to be the most likely candidates should funding become available in the future.
- 5.3 In Annex B a list provided to us by LUL showing the status of all their stations in the step free access programme.
- 5.4 LUL are installing humps at stations on the sub-surface lines which means more and more stations will be fully accessible (street to train) between now and 2016 as the new trains come into service. All Victoria line stations with the exception of Pimlico have humps, and there are a few other stations with level access platform to train.

6 Equalities and inclusion implications

- 6.1 This is clearly an equalities issue. Many stations in London are inaccessible to those that cannot use steps.

7 Legal powers

- 7.1 Section 248 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 places upon London TravelWatch (as the London Transport Users Committee) a duty to consider - and where it appears to the Committee to be desirable, to make recommendations with respect to - any matter affecting the functions of the Greater London Authority or Transport for London which relate to transport (other than of freight). Section 252A of the same Act (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Railways Act 2005) places a similar duty upon the Committee to keep under review matters affecting the interests of the public in relation to railway passenger and station services provided wholly or partly within the London railway area, and to make representations about them to such persons as it thinks appropriate.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 None

Annex A

Railways for All funded step free access

June 2009 update list. The planned completion dates are added where works have not yet been done.

2006 - 2009	2009 - 2011	2012 - 2015
Balham	Dorking	Elstree & Borehamwood 2013
Blackheath	Finsbury Park 2013	Brockley 2013
Clapham Junction	Forest Hill	Bromley South 2012
Denmark Hill 2012	Grove Park 2013	Camden Road 2012
Earlsfield	Highbury and Islington	Gospel Oak 2012
Herne Hill	Horley	Hatfield 2013
Kew Gardens 2013	New Cross	Hemel Hempstead 2013
Kingston	New Cross Gate	Honor Oak Park 2013
Lewisham	Norwood Junction ¹	Ilford 2014
Orpington	Staines	Limehouse 2013
Oxted	Streatham Common	New Eltham 2013
Purley	Thornton Heath 2013	New Malden 2013
Putney 2013	Tulse Hill ²	Swanley 2013
Streatham Hill	Twickenham	Tilbury Town 2012
West Norwood	Vauxhall 2013	Tottenham Hale 2013
	West Byfleet	Walthamstow Central
		West Hampstead Thameslink
		Worcester Park 2013

Additional stations added to programme since 2009

Weybridge	Wembley Central	Chadwell Heath 2012
	London Euston	Hackney Central 2012
	Elmers End	Harpenden 2012
		Slough 2012
		Berkhampstead 2013
		Crystal Palace 2012
		Brentwood 2013
		East Dulwich 2013
		Luton 2013
		Wendover 2014
		Stevenage 2014
		Crayford 2014
		Edmonton Green 2014

^{1, 2} Taken out of the programme due to the complexity and cost

Hampstead Heath 2014
West Hampstead 2014
Kensal Rise 2014
South Tottenham 2014
Blackhorse Road 2014
Bexleyheath2014
Queens Road Peckham 2014
Hackbridge 2014

Annex B

London Underground step free access programme December 2011

<u>Step-free access stations list</u>	
Existing step-free stations	
1	Acton Town
2	Barking
3	Bermondsey
4	Brixton
5	Caledonian Rd
6	Canada Water
7	Canary Wharf
8	Canning Town
9	Chalfont & Latimer
10	Chesham
11	Chorleywood
12	Dagenham Heathway
13	Earls Court
14	East Ham
15	Elm Park
16	Epping
17	Finchley Central
18	Fulham Broadway
19	Hammersmith (District)
20	Hammersmith (H&C)
21	Harrow & Wealdstone
22	Heathrow T123
23	Heathrow T4
24	Heathrow T5
25	Hendon Central
26	Hillingdon
27	Hounslow East
28	Hounslow West
29	Kensington Olympia
30	Kew Gardens
31	Kilburn
32	London Bridge
33	Morden
34	North Greenwich
35	Oakwood
36	Pinner
37	Richmond
38	Southwark

39	Stanmore
40	Stratford
41	Sudbury Town
42	Tottenham Hale
43	Upminster
44	Upney
45	Uxbridge
46	Wembley Park
47	West Finchley
48	West Ham
49	Westminster
50	Willesden Junction
51	Wimbledon
52	Woodford
53	Wood Lane (H&C line)
54	Woodside Park
55	Roding Valley
56	Golders Green
57	Edgware
58	High Barnet
59	Hainault
60	Southfields
61	Kingsbury
62	King's Cross St Pancras
63	Green Park
64	Blackfriars (Feb 2012)
65	Farringdon (May 2012)

Step free schemes to be completed

- 1 Paddington H&C (2013)
- 2 Tottenham Court Road (2017)
- 3 Bond Street (2017)
- 4 Victoria (2018)
- 5 Whitechapel (2018)
- 6 Ealing Broadway (Crossrail)
- 7 Bank (by 2021)

Partial step free schemes to be completed

- 1 Cannon Street (Westbound by 2013)

Existing partially step-free stations

- 1 Amersham (SB Metropolitan line only)
- 2 Barkingside (EB Central line only)
- 3 Borough (NB Northern line only)
- 4 Debden (EB Central line only)
- 5 Elephant & Castle (SB Northern line only)
- 6 Euston Square (Westbound)
King's Cross St. Pancras (WB and EB Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines, EB and WB Piccadilly line, NB and SB Victoria line only)
- 7
- 8 Liverpool Street (EB Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines only)
Paddington – District, Circle and Bakerloo station (EB Circle and District lines only)
- 9
- 10 Rickmansworth (SB Metropolitan line only)
- 11 Ruislip (EB Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines only)
- 12 South Woodford (EB Central line only)
- 13 Theydon Bois (EB Central line only)
- 14 Waterloo (EB and WB Jubilee line only)
- 15 West Brompton (EB District line only)

EB – East Bound
SB – South Bound
NB – North Bound