

ACCESS AUDIT REVIEW	
Location	Old Town Hall, Stroud
Date	15/07/2019
Assessor	Christian Drewitt and Tasha Everall

1.	<p>Parking and Wayfinding</p> <p>The closest public car park to the Old Town Hall is Church Street and has 4 accessible bays. These are free for up to 3 hours for blue badge holders. To get to the Old Town Hall you turn left from the accessible bays and take a small alleyway on the right, then the hall is on the right. The pathway is quite narrow and has a slight sideways incline.</p> <p>The main entrance door to the Old Town Hall is very large measuring 1017mm wide and has 'Town Hall offices' engraved above it. This is the only signage on the outside and may be quite difficult to find at first, especially for people with a visual impairment.</p> <p>Advice and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of the pathway is very narrow against the wall, measuring 650mm. This may cause a wheelchair user difficulty; therefore, it is recommended this pathway be extended to enable a wheelchair user to exit the pathway with ease. • It is recommended that there is additional signage outside the Old Town Hall as the original engraving above the door is difficult for those with a visual impairment to read.
2.	<p>Entrance</p> <p>The main door is heavy and large, and a wheelchair user may have difficulty opening the door themselves. After entering Old Town Hall, the lift and accessible toilet is through a hallway on the right and the stairs are on the left. When entering, the lights turn on automatically. The narrowest part of the corridor is 760mm wide and leads to an automatic door with a push button entrance.</p> <p>Advice and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that there is a push button entrance to the Old Town Hall, so that once it is unlocked a wheelchair user can enter without assistance.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Lift</p> <p>The lift is an enclosed platform lift, so only the floor moves. To open the door to the lift there is a large black button and the door opens outwards. The door does not remain open for very long and may cause a wheelchair user, who is on their own, alarm when it starts to shut. The doorway is 800mm wide which is 100mm below minimum requirements.</p> <p>The buttons are large and easy to use and must be held down for the duration of the journey. The lift doesn't make any alarming sounds.</p> <p>The entrance and exit are at a 90-degree angle, which can make exiting in a wheelchair quite difficult and doesn't leave much room for an assistant.</p> <p>Advice and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that there is a sign on the call button that states this button will also open the door. • It is recommended that the doors to the lift remain open for an extended amount to allow a wheelchair user to manoeuvre out of the lift. • When the entrance and exit from the lift are at a 90-degree angle, the lift door should be at least 900mm wide. Otherwise exiting the lift in a wheelchair can be very difficult. • It is recommended that there is a voice over in the lift to aid the visually impaired. • There were tables stored near the upstairs lift door on my visit, which meant I couldn't get into the lift at the correct angle, making exiting it at the bottom extremely difficult. It is noted that during an event these tables may be removed, however it is recommended that there is specific storage for them.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Function room</p> <p>When exiting the lift, you turn left and then immediately right and ahead is the door to the function room. There is a fire extinguisher on the wall on the left that protrudes into the corridor.</p> <p>The door is automatic with a push button entrance and opens outwards. The button is quite close to the door which means the door may open into a wheelchair users' feet. Additionally, the button on the inside of the function room does not work and the door is heavy to open manually.</p> <p>The function room is large with a capacity for 100 people. On our visit it was empty however there are tables and chairs that are easily moveable that can be used by people hiring out the venue. The floor and walls in the function room are of contrasting colour which aids the visually impaired.</p>

	<p>There is a working hearing loop to the left when entering. There is good lighting in the function room, but the light switches are small and may cause difficulty for someone with limited dexterity.</p> <p>At the other end of the function room there are two double doors that lead to the fire escape and kitchen; however, these are down two steps and there is no ramp available.</p> <p>Advice and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirements state that where possible, fire extinguishers should not obstruct a corridor. When this is unavoidable, there should be a means of guiding people around them, such as a visually contrasting guide rail. • It is recommended that the button to the automatic door is further away from the door. It is currently too close and means the door opens on a wheelchair user's feet when they have pressed the button themselves. This may cause alarm or panic. • As the door to the function room is very heavy, it is recommended that the button on the inside of the function room is fixed to aid wheelchair users. • It is recommended that the light switch buttons are larger to aid someone with limited dexterity. • It is recommended that there is a ramp available so that a wheelchair user can access the kitchen.
5.	<p>Kitchen</p> <p>The kitchen is currently inaccessible for a wheelchair user as it has 2 steps down and 2 more steps up to gain entry.</p> <p>It is a narrow kitchen and a wheelchair user would struggle to manoeuvre around it.</p> <p>Advice and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that there is a 1500mm turning circle in a kitchen. It is noted that this is difficult in a small space.
6.	<p>Accessible toilet</p> <p>The accessible and male toilets are located on the ground floor and the ladies is on the first floor. The accessible toilet requires a RADAR key.</p> <p>The doorway is 800mm wide which is 100mm below minimum requirements and the room is slightly too narrow which means that there isn't enough turning space for a wheelchair.</p> <p>The grab-rails are well placed and are the same colour as the walls. The toilet is the correct height from the ground at 48cm and the transfer space is on the right of the toilet when facing it.</p>

The toilet roll is on the right as you are seated, it is below a grab-rail which means an individual will have to lean down to reach it, this may cause instability.

There is only one ring pull on the emergency pull cord at 10cm from the ground to the right of the toilet when seated.

All amenities are at a lowered height for a wheelchair user and the floor is non-slip.

The toilet has good natural lighting and is kept clean and hygienic.

Advice and Recommendations

- An accessible toilet door should be at least 900mm wide
- The room should be at least 1500mm wide.
- It is recommended that there is also an accessible toilet on the first floor. This is so that people with disabilities that are attending an event in the function room can have easy access to the toilet.
- It is recommended that grab-rails are a contrasting colour to the walls to aid the visually impaired.
- The transfer space next to the toilet should be kept free so a wheelchair can fit in the space
- The toilet roll is quite low down on the wall and may be difficult to reach for somebody with limited mobility. It is recommended that it is placed above the grab-rail to avoid somebody having to lean down to reach it.
- It is also recommended that tissue paper is used instead of toilet roll as this is much easier to rip off for people with limited dexterity or only the use of one hand.
- An emergency pull cord should have 2 ring pulls on it, one at 10cm from the ground and the other between 80cm and 100cm.