

Q How does the information I put in my Access Statement help?

A An Access Statement provides an audit trail to demonstrate whether particular matters have been adequately considered and that the premises meet current authoritative guidance.

Q Once I have submitted my statement do I need to do any more?

A It will be beneficial to maintain and update Access Statements in order to provide the end user of the building (who may have ongoing obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) with a record of the evolution of design. It should then be built upon as use of the building, or access requirements, change.

Q Is there any guidance available on preparing an Access Statement?

A Chelmsford Borough Council has produced a basic template to assist you in this process. Please contact us at the address below for further guidance. More information can be found by following the link:

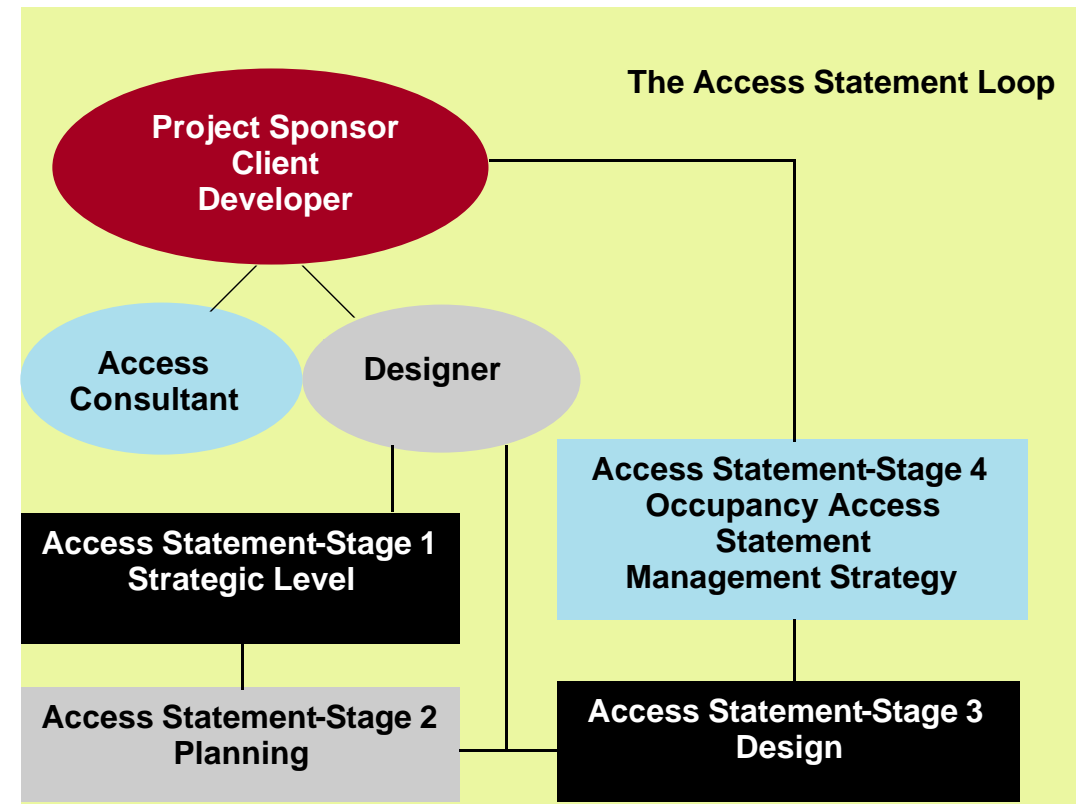
<http://www.drc.org.uk/businessandservices/bizdetails.asp?id=97&title=bs>

For further information please contact:

Paul Houghton - Access Officer
Telephone: 01245 606328
E-Mail: paul.houghton@chelmsfordbc.gov.uk
Website www.chelmsfordbc.gov.uk

Planning & Building Control Services
Chelmsford Borough Council, PO Box No. 7544
Civic Centre. Duke Street. Chelmsford CM1 1JE

Access Statements



Planning & Building Control Services

Access Statements

Achieving an inclusive environment by ensuring continuity throughout the planning, design and management of buildings and spaces.

Q What is an Access Statement?

A An Access Statement is a description of how inclusive design principles and practice can be incorporated in a particular project or development.

Q Can an Access Statement be changed once written?

A An Access Statement is not a static document but a living process that evolves with the scheme, from initially being fairly generic to becoming gradually more specific and detailed.

Q Is an Access Statement beneficial?

A Access Statements can be of benefit and relevance to the designers, contractors, planners, building control officers and access officers, building owners and managers, and local access groups.

Q What do I have to include in my Access Statement?

A The size and level of detail in the statement is likely to reflect the size and complexity of the proposed development and may therefore vary considerably.

Q When do I prepare an Access Statement?

A The Access Statement should be submitted at the planning stage as it is intended to be a living document that will grow in detail as the project proceeds, and again at the building regulation stage.

Q How does the Access Statement process work?

A A representation of an Access Statement loop is on the cover of this leaflet.

Q If my designs are different from those shown in Building Regulations and British Standards should I put it in my Access Statement?

A Access Statements are particularly valuable where design solutions vary from those contained in Approved Document M, but will not allow a lower standard to be used.

Q The undulations of the land and cost implications make it difficult for me to meet requirements set out in Approved Document M.

A Access Statements allow designers or developers to identify the constraints posed by the existing structure or its immediate environment, and to propose compensatory measures where full access proves to be impracticable or only achievable at disproportionate cost.

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