

# accessibility assessment

Due to evolving government policy, local authorities are now obliged to ensure that developments have a higher level of accessibility. A major part of this is the need for planning application submissions to provide an assessment of the location of a proposed development in relation to important local services and the wider road, footway, cycleway and public transport network.

An assessment of a site's accessibility is an essential ingredient of land appraisals, documentation submitted in support of site allocations in the LDF process and those submitted in support of planning applications such as; Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans.

Accessibility Assessments include the following:

## Demographics (from Census data)

- What is the profile of the existing local population in terms of the percentages of school, working or retirement ages?
- Where does the local population work or go to school?
- What are the car ownership levels of households in the area?

## Access to Essential Services

- How close to the site are important facilities such as hospitals, doctors surgeries, schools, supermarkets, retail areas, sports/recreational facilities and how are they accessed?

## Walking and Cycling Facilities

- Are there any designated national or local cycle routes near the site?
- How does the site connect to the cycle network, by either on or off-road cycle links?
- Are there convenient footway links and pedestrian crossings on nearby roads and are these routes well lit?

## Public Transport

- Where are the bus stops in the vicinity of the site and are they within acceptable walking distances?
- What are the frequencies and destinations of the bus services?
- Do the services provide access to schools and employment areas during peak times?
- Where are the closest rail facilities?
- Are there other convenient public transport facilities such as trams, metro systems, taxi-bus services, that could be used by resident/employees of the site?

## Access to the Wider Network

- How is the site located in relation to the strategic road and rail network?
- Are there convenient routes to easily reach the strategic road and rail network?
- How accessible are the main urban areas within the region from the site?

DLP Transportation are licensed users of **Accession** software, which is an accessibility planning tool based upon the specifications determined by the Department for Transport. Accession calculates the time and distance between origin and destination points, using road network mapping, up to date public transport information and acceptable walking and cycling distances. Users are able to produce outputs which take account of actual routes and gradients, rather than purely linear distances.

The results of Accession are presented in coloured contour maps that provide an easy to read visual aid to assist with demonstrating the accessibility of a development site. It also provides a common basis for alternative sites to be compared, that may be submitted in the LDF site allocations process.

DLP Transportation can therefore provide the accessibility planning expertise to assist with land appraisals and development promotion using the most up to date tools to demonstrate a site's compliance with current government policy.

