



Creating a public realm for all





About CIHT

- CIHT is a charity, learned society and professional membership body.
- CIHT is the home for everyone working in highways, transportation and infrastructure.
- CIHT has 12 UK Regions and Nations, plus several international groups including the Republic of Ireland, Hong Kong, Qatar, Dubai, and Malaysia.
- CIHT has a Partnerships Network, which includes over 100 Corporate Partners, as well as academic institutions and public sector bodies.
- CIHT was awarded a Royal Charter in 2009.



CIHT – Strategy 2022+ has three Strategic Aims



- Climate Action
- Professionalism
- Equality, diversity and inclusion

Why this project?

- We believe in working to improve EDI across the highways, transportation, and infrastructure sector. There is a significant overlap between social inclusion and our physical and mental health and wellbeing, so ensuring equitable opportunities for everyone to travel is essential.
- This report helps transport professionals to recognise and respect people's differences.
- We must be inclusive – in how we design, build, and maintain the public realm. This report does not have all the answers but will help you ask the right questions.



Aims of the report

- The report aims to help transport professionals to identify and design the public realm for the everyday challenges faced by some people, such as disabled people (with physical, sensory, cognitive, or intellectual impairments or differences, which may be readily apparent or non-visible), people with temporary conditions such as pregnancy or sports injuries, older people, people with young children, or those encumbered by luggage or equipment.





Chair of Project Professor Nick Tyler CBE FREng, FCIHT

- Founded the Accessibility Research Group and invented the Pedestrian Accessibility and Movement Environment Laboratory (PAMELA) at UCL, which enables detailed study of person-environment interactions
- Created PEARL - the Person-Environment-Activity Research Laboratory - where the whole human experience of interacting with the constructed environment can be studied so that we can make the environment more understanding of people's needs.



How CIHT undertook the project

- ✔ **Scoping workshop** – Jan 2024 - men and women from a range of ethnic backgrounds. Included people with lived experience of health conditions or impairments, representatives from disability groups, urban planners, highway engineers, researchers, inclusive design professionals and other experts in the field.
- ✔ **Call for evidence** - 42 responses to the call for evidence. Held a workshop session at CIHT Council meeting in February 2024
- ✔ **Webinar** - Webinar on draft findings of report in March 2024 so CIHT members and partners could feed back their comments.
- ✔ **Review of draft** –The report was then shared with all those individuals who contributed to it for review in April 2024.
- ✔ **Co-cultivation (more later!)**



Acknowledgements



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The project

- ✓ Celebrating diversity and working towards inclusion should be central to how we design, build and maintain our infrastructure and in doing so will help move towards creating a public realm for all. This report looks at the challenges involved in achieving accessible transport infrastructure in the public realm and
 - Identifies existing challenges and barriers that people can face when using the public realm
 - Highlights good practice - both in the UK and worldwide
 - Provides a comprehensive literature review of work done in this area



Key messages

- When we say creating a public realm for all we mean all.
- The accessibility of the public realm is therefore a matter for the whole of society.



How do we define disability?

- Disability can be defined using the medical or social models. From a medical perspective, impairments create differences in mental, physical, and sensory functions, such as seeing, hearing, communication, or mobility.
- This report focuses on the **social model of disability**, which says that disability is caused by the barriers that exist within society and the way society is organised. These barriers discriminate against people with impairments and exclude them from involvement and participation in daily activities.



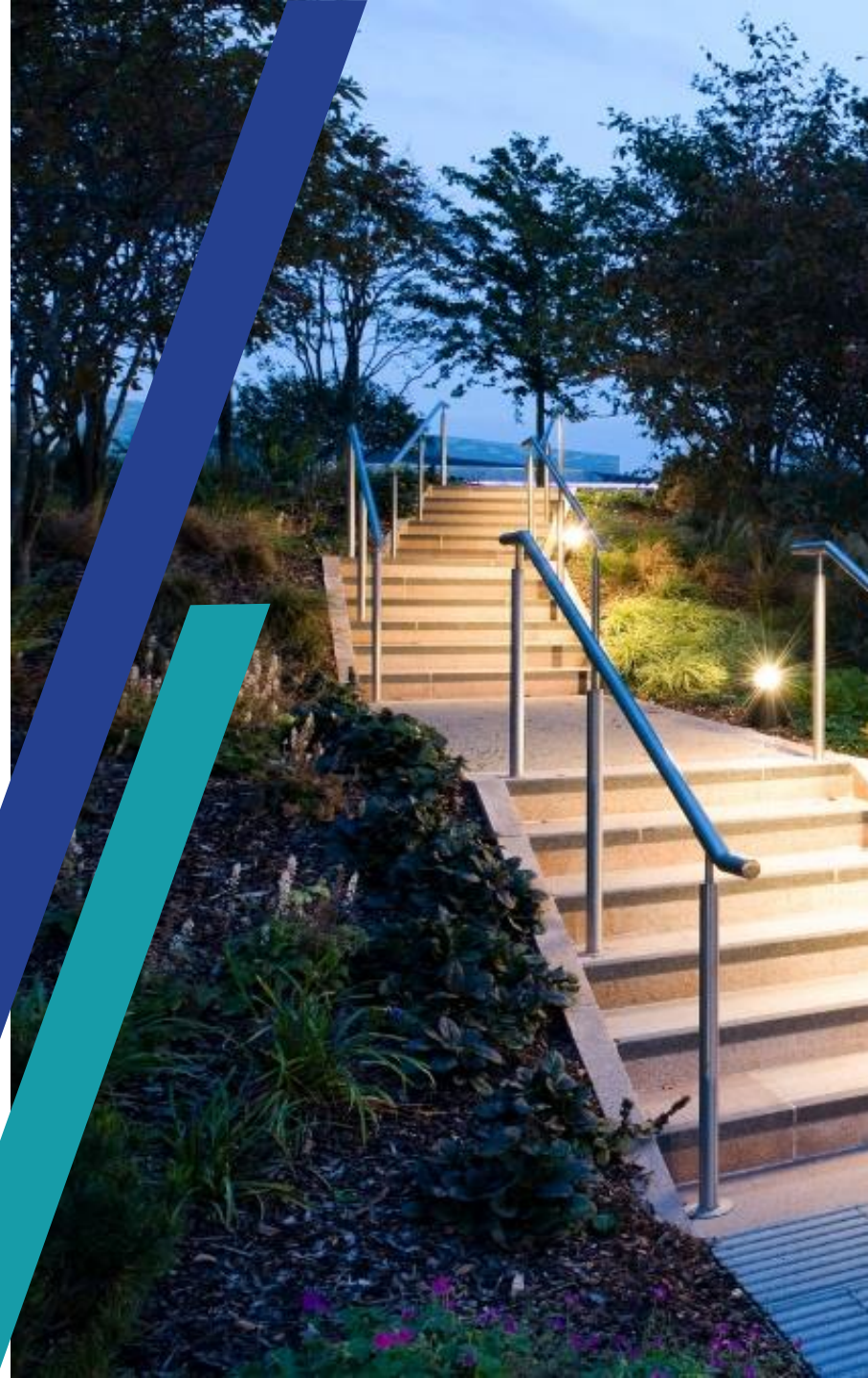
What is inclusive design?

- It is important to make neighbourhoods and communities inclusive so that everyone can access the goods, services, and facilities that they need, when they need them.
- Creating a public realm for all means incorporating the principles of inclusive design, which aim to remove the barriers that create undue effort and separation. This enables everyone to participate equally, confidently, and independently in everyday activities and in society in general



Two fundamental issues

- “ Guidance only provides for the bare minimum
- “ The only people who really know whether somewhere is accessible are the people for whom it presents a barrier.



Co-cultivation

- “ A key feature of the report is the importance of “co-cultivation”



Coverage of the report

- **Reducing barriers in the design stage**
 - Consideration should be given to how the space is used.
- **Conflicts**
 - A barrier to one group of disabled people may be an enabler for another group of disabled people



Coverage of the report

➤ **Reducing barriers after implementation**

- Consideration should be given to the safety of people during construction, maintenance, and operation of a scheme, as how the space is used also affects its accessibility.

➤ **Maintenance and reinstatement**

- Maintenance is a key component of making the public realm accessible for all.



Coverage of the report

Construction and roadworks

There need to be safe and accessible alternative walking and wheeling routes during construction and other highway works, especially as these can continue for significant periods of time and be a barrier to people accessing the local neighbourhood



Recommendations

- ❏ Aim – co-cultivation rather than high-level consultation on a scheme
- ❏ Those with lived experience are best placed to advise on how infrastructure can negatively impact them and how things can be improved
- ❏ The UK government should fund disability equality awareness training for all local authority personnel designing and changing the public realm.



Conclusion

- It is important to get the basics right – everyone should be able to walk or wheel to the local shops, schools, and services.
- Good access is not only about physical accessibility; it is also an ethos of inclusion for everyone.
- There is no one-size-fits-all solution to designing public realm infrastructure so co-cultivation is essential





CIHT resources

- ❏ Publications
- ❏ CIHT Learn
- ❏ Webinars
- ❏ Podcasts

www.ciht.org.uk/publicrealm



Where to find out more?



Report is freely available to download from:



www.ciht.org.uk/publicrealm



New CIHT Learn course has been developed to support the report and is available now

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