

TACTILE CITY MODEL

PRESS RELEASE

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How to engage those with visual impairments in the processes of spatial, land-use town planning ?

The conventional tools of drawings and diagrams are of no use, neither are the standard, fragile master-plan models that are often produced. A partnership between Knott Architects and Planning Aid for London has recently received funding from the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skill 'Transformation Fund' for a project that aims to assist people who are physically disabled, particularly visually impaired people, to understand how the planning process works and how they can get involved in the decision-making in planning. The partnership is producing a 'tactile-city-model' for use in workshops with local authorities, schools and community groups

After prototyping and testing a number of versions of tactile models a refined design for a generic city model is currently being produced by Knott Architects. The model will comprise 200 robust 'building-blocks' representing 25 different land-uses – each being identified by a tactile texture or motif to indicate its use. These are placed upon magnetic base sheets that represent the cityscape; either a notional city or a site-specific situation.

Once produced; the model will be used extensively in workshops facilitated by Planning Aid for London in early 2010.

The model workshops will assist people to gain understanding of the land-use planning process, the needs of people with physical disabilities when negotiating the built environment, and development and regeneration affecting their local area.

For further information, or print quality images, please contact:-

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