



Subject:	Motion: Elected Member Disability Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference
Date:	23rd September, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to request approval of the draft Terms of Reference for an Elected Member Disability Working Group.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft Terms of Reference for a cross-party Elected Member Disability Working Group.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Councillor McMullan raised a motion at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in June 2020, part of which agreed to: Create a Reference Group for Disabled People. This will provide a forum for Councillors, our Disability Advisory Panel, Council officers, as well as other relevant stakeholders and

	<p>experts from time-to-time, to discuss and progress actions on Belfast City Council's commitment to becoming an accessible city for all by 2035.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to various resourcing issues there has been a delay in establishing this group.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Disability-Related Work in the Council</p> <p>Disability awareness has increased significantly in recent times, with access and inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of life breaking down stereotypes held by much of society. Societal, health and economic inequalities all demonstrate that, in spite of successful gains, inequalities remains in place. With 1 in 5 people in Belfast having some type of disability and a focus on disability is increasing in the Council.</p> <p>The Council under section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 ('the Act'), (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) is required to carry out the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and ▪ Encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>Every three years, the Council produces a new Disability Action Plan outlining its commitment and what areas of work will be actioned in terms of improving accessibility and inclusion for disabled people. A new Disability Action Plan 2022-25 has been out for consultation and is being brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee this month for approval.</p>
3.3	<p>Elected Member Disability Working Group</p> <p>It is proposed that a Working Group for Disabled People is established and resourced by Legal and Civic Services. This will meet quarterly and provide a forum for discussion as well as receive updates on the Council's Disability Action Plan, so that Members are aware of the work in this area and can provide suggestions so that work can be incorporated into existing strategic programmes of work where relevant.</p>

	The Working Group would make recommendations on proposed actions and policy development. These recommendations would then be referred to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for agreement, as required. The proposed draft Terms of Reference are attached.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None. Will be met within existing budgets.
	Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications
3.5	Any new policies will be subject to the Council's equality, good relations and rural needs screening processes.
4.0	Document Attached
	Elected Members' Disability Working Group Draft Terms of Reference