

Draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Disability Working Group

Introduction and purpose

A Disability Working Group has been established to provide Members with a forum to discuss and progress actions on Belfast City Council's commitment in the Belfast Agenda to becoming an accessible and inclusive city for all by 2035. This includes progress and implementation of the Belfast City Council Disability Action Plan 2022-2025 and support the development and delivery of a new Council Disability Strategy.

Whilst the Working Group will not be a decision-making body, it will be required to report into or make recommendations to the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on progress against the strategy and associated action plans.

Terms of Reference

The Disability Working Group Terms of Reference are:

- to provide elected Members with a forum to discuss and identify actions with disabled people on how to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, and encourage their participation in public life across all areas of Council
- to support the development of a new Council Disability Strategy; a strategic roadmap for delivering an accessible and inclusive city for all by 2035 that leaves no one behind, providing a common strategic vision of disability access and inclusion across all council strategies and plans, and outlines how we will get there.
- to learn from other models of best practice of accessibility and inclusion from other cities that will provide recommendations on how these could be applied within Belfast through the Council and its NI Executive partners
- to monitor the delivery of the commitments set out in the Disability Action Plan;
- to report on progress or make recommendations to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on a regular basis through reports and minutes of meetings.
- To receive updates on the work of the Council's Disability Advisory Panel

Membership

- All political party groupings should be represented.
- Each political party grouping should have one representative.
- The Council's Disability Advisory Panel as associate members
- Explore how we can engage other associate members that includes citizens with disabilities and representative organisations to advise and support the work of the Council.

Ways of Working

- The Working Group will decide on arrangements for chairing the meetings.
- The Working Group will meet quarterly or as required. Initially meeting once a month to ensure the work of the Working Group is established.

Governance

The Working Group will be supported by staff within the Council's Legal & Civic Services Department. The Working Group does not have decision-making powers.

It's recommendations, as set out in the minutes of its meetings, will be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources to adopt, amend or reject the recommendation of the Working Group