

# Disability Working Group

Monday, 14th October, 2024

## DISABILITY WORKING GROUP HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors R. Brooks and Doherty.

In attendance: Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer;  
Ms. J. Beck, Sign Language Interpreter;  
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Resolved – that Councillor R. Brooks be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Disability Working Group until the date of the Annual Meeting.

### **Disability Champion**

The Working Group was reminded that former Councillor G. McAteer had been appointed as a Disability Ambassador, on behalf of Belfast City Council, and therefore a replacement was required.

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Doherty would replace former Councillor G. McAteer as the Council's Disability Champion (Ambassador).

### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Disability Advisory Panel**

The Policy, Research and Compliance Officer reminded the Members that following the information presentation from the Disability Advisory Panel to the Disability Working Group on 12th June, the Panel had subsequently been invited to a meeting of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) to discuss its work, along with suggestions on improving disability access and inclusion at council premises, parks, events and other council services.

The officer advised that a further update would be submitted to the Disability Working Group once the meeting with the CMT had taken place.

Noted.

### **International Day for Persons with Disabilities**

The Members were advised that International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was held every year on 3rd December. The day was about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development and to raise awareness.

Several of the Members stated that they would be keen to participate in this event.

The Language Officer advised that he was currently liaising with the Equality Commission and Disability Action who were working in partnership with the Council to organise the event regarding the agenda, and he undertook, when available, to forward more information to the Members of the Working Group.

Noted.

### **Next Meeting**

The Chairperson advised that she would be keen to have another meeting of the Working Group before Christmas and the Democratic Services Officer undertook to identify a date and to let the Members know.

Chairperson