



Belper Town Council – Full Council Meeting November 10th 2020

Report Title : Draft Accessibility Strategy

Approval/Noting

For Approval

Purpose of the Report

To present for approval the Belper Town Council draft Accessibility Strategy and Action Plan.

Background Information

At the Council meeting held on June 9th 2020 (Minute 4447)Members agreed to develop an Accessibility Strategy and appointed a working group to oversee its development guided by terms of reference. The Members appointed were Cllrs Mallett, Angharad, and Hale who would work alongside 2 members of the Accessible Belper Group.

Since the meeting the group has met usually on a fortnightly basis to discuss the challenges and opportunities involved in developing the strategy and to collect evidence on which to base the key aims and to develop a draft action plan. Attached as appendices to this report are 3 documents:

1. An Accessibility Strategy Framework which sets out the details of the journey towards drafting the Strategy ; this includes a SWOT analysis, identification of key issues, the commitment to partnership working, and the deserved acknowledgement of the role of Accessible Belper in developing the strategy.
2. The draft Accessibility Strategy which is intended to be a public document and which is explicit in setting out the main aims, the governance structure surrounding it, and the draft action plan to be taken forward by the Council, Accessible Belper, and other partners and stakeholders.
3. A draft Action Plan which sets out the key actions identified thus far to ensure that the delivery of the strategy fulfill the aims. Members should note that this is currently a work in progress and designed to be a flexible document which can be added to and amended.

It is envisaged that once the Strategy has been approved the Working Group will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis to oversee the delivery of the actions and make recommendations on any future changes. As it is intended to be a flexible and evolving document, once approved it will be circulated to partners and stakeholders to invite feedback on its contents.



<p>Legislation</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 identifies Disability as one of nine protected characteristics and makes it an offence to discriminate against people falling in to one of these. Alongside this is a moral obligation to ensure that our communities are fully inclusive and open to all</p>
<p>Financial Implications</p> <p>None directly but acknowledgement that in future funding requests may be submitted to help deliver specific aspects of the strategy. Furthermore, the fulfillment of the Council's own obligations as set out in the strategy may give rise to expenditure needed to complete them.</p>
<p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves the draft Accessibility Framework, Strategy and Action Plan2. Asks the Accessibility Working group to continue its work, notably, overseeing the completion and delivery of the action plan and general delivery of the strategy
<p>Reasons for recommendation(s)</p> <p>Presenting the Accessibility Strategy for approval is a requirement in line with the decision of the Council made in June 2020</p>