

Belper Town Council

Accessibility Strategy Action Plan 2020 – 2023

Aim	Nos:	Action	Target Date	Progress / Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">To ensure that the needs of people with a disabling condition are taken in to account when designing and delivering Belper Town Council services</p>	1	Ensure that all Councillors and staff utilise the Accessibility Training video produced by Accessible Belper	September 2021	All Councillors and staff completed training by revised target date. All new councillors and staff will have this training as part of their induction process.
	2	Approach Derbyshire County Council with a view to the Town Council Office being registered as a ‘Safe Place’	December 2022	Application made November 2020, the scheme was suspended due to COVID 19. Renewed application being progressed again with consideration for potential change to BTC office location.
	3a	Review the Councils literature and make recommendations on changes to ensure they are accessible to people with a Disabling Condition	January 2023	Consultation with digital accessibility experts in place. Meeting with Council communications and customer contact working group scheduled.
	3b	Review the Council’s digital information to investigate how it can be made more accessible for people with communication (e.g. Dyslexia, Autism) or Learning Difficulties	January 2023	Linked to action 3a above
	4	Review the Council’s Grants Policies to ensure that accessibility considerations are fully taken in to account when awarding grants	March 2021	SLA and Small Grant Application forms amended to include additional question regarding Accessibility implications
	5	Amend the Council’s Committee template to	January	Agreed at Council 12 th January

		include a section which requires an assessment of Accessibility implications in all reports	2021	2021, template in use
	6	Review the Council's events policy to ensure that guidance includes requirements for making events accessible for people with a disabling condition	February 2021	Amended Policy agreed at Council meeting in April 2021
	7	Review the Council's accommodation and make recommendations on improvements to make Council buildings more accessible to people with Disabling conditions	October 2022	Being progressed as part of the Council's review of communications and customer contact with alternative office location identified as preferred solution
To provide guidance, advice and support to the community in taking positive action on disability	8	Review the current Accessibility Impact Assessment process and develop it in to a toolkit which can be used by businesses and community groups	April 2021	New "Toolkit" and audit process completed and tested by Business Community.
	9	Investigate how the Accessibility Audit programme can be re-started and maintain accurate statistics on organisations which have made changes and make this information available to the community	April 2022	Linked to Action 10 below
	10	Develop partnership relationship with Nimbus Disability potentially acting as 'Petri Dish' development site	November 2022	Initial discussions have been successfully completed with Nimbus Disability with agreement to promote the use of 'Access Card' throughout the town, subject to FC agreement
	11	Support the ongoing development of 'Accessibility Partnership Belper'	December 2022	Initial discussions with new organisation 'Accessibility Partnerships Belper' resulting in agreement to utilise and promote

				the on-line information service previously posted on the Accessible Belper platform
	12	Invite disability organisations and other organisations with related issues to contribute views on improvements which could be made to access for disabled people and share this with businesses, community groups and other stakeholders	August 2022	Contact details being compiled and meetings being arranged. Initial discussions with Amber Valley Access Group concluded
	13	Review the Council's grants programme to examine the possibility of specific grants to deal with Disability Access issues	October 2021	£5K ring-fenced in addition to Small Grants 22/23 budget agreed 11 January 22
	14	Work with established leisure organisations to encourage the development of disability specific activities and sports	September 2022	Initial discussions with Belper Leisure Centre and Derby County Community Trust
To work effectively with partners and stakeholders in supporting the needs of people with disabling conditions	15	Encourage more disability groups to become aware and involved with BTCs Accessibility Strategy	August 2022	Linked to Action 12 above
	16	Liaise closely with Accessible Derbyshire to identify where joint initiatives can be undertaken	March 2022	Need to re-establish contact and working relationship previously developed by Accessible Belper
	17	Develop a continuing and influential relationship with Derbyshire County Council - Highways Dept	December 2022	Contact established and initial meeting held. Agreement for consistent on-site meetings to be held with influence on available budgets
	18	Identify key issues affecting people with disabling conditions that are not under the control of the Council and develop a lobbying strategy for the relevant issue i.e. Accessible Buses and Bus Stops Other accessible transport options	November 2022	Written and verbal presentations to AVBC Taxi consultation process. Increased grant funding for Community Transport to develop car scheme

To champion the needs of people with disabling conditions	18	Accessible housing	November 2022	
	19a	Ensure Council's Planning Committee scrutinises housing proposals in line with NP4B requirements to deliver the provision of accessible housing for people with disabling conditions	May 2021	BTC Planning Committee established with Accessibility Strategy Working Group representation committed to examining NPP13 accessibility issues as part of relevant Planning Applications
	19b	Ensure Council's Planning Committee scrutinises housing proposals in line with AVBC Local Plan requirements	December 2022	BTC Planning Cttee submitted support for inclusion of Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings Standard M4 (2) of Building Regs 2010 in AVBCs Local Plan
	20	Circulate the Accessibility Strategy to other Local Authorities in the area, as well as Disability groups and other relevant public bodies and invite feedback	December 2020	Sent to DALC December 2020 and over 20 other organisations. Ongoing contacts with other organisations
	21	Regularly publicise successful actions completed or being taken forward in this action plan	Ongoing	The Working Group has attended market days to publicise the work and encourage completion of a survey
To celebrate the contribution made to society by people who have disabling conditions	22	Publicise news stories about people with disabling conditions overcoming adversity or achieving success (e.g. features on local Paralympians.)	April 2022	Discussions have taken place considering whether this action should be part of the strategy
	23	Examine the feasibility of holding an annual conference or celebration event which focuses on people with Disabling conditions	November 2021	Under discussion and to be referred to Arts, Events & Heritage Cttee
Monitoring Progress	24	Develop a set of SMART outcome measures which evidence the progress being made in achieving the aims	November 2021	Action Plan with RAG rating developed for monitoring progress within the Working Group and

				regular updates to Full Council
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Key to RAG Rating :

Blue = Completed

Green = Completed but ongoing developments

Amber = In progress

Red = Serious delays or concerns