

# ‘Disability Devolution’: a chance to do things better.

## Transport.

### **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Invest in step-free access to metro stations.
- Improve access to wheelchair accessible taxis. 24-hour coverage and access to accessible vehicles should be a condition of licensing.
- Provide Disability Equality Training for all bus, train and metro staff, and action against those who discriminate and non-attendees.
- Make all bus stops accessible.
- Remove disabling barriers to walking and wheeling (street clutter, lack of dropped curbs)
- Embed accessibility in Active Travel strategy and planning for inclusive infrastructure, including making separate cycle paths that are safe.
- Make Disabled people's bus passes valid for use 24/7.
- Two wheelchair places on buses as standard.
- Quiet carriage on trains and metros.
- Ensure an inclusive and accessible cycling infrastructure that removes barriers to and supports, cycling for Disabled people, establishing Inclusive Cycling Hubs across the North East to ensure access.

# Housing and Development.

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Improve the North East's accessible housing and Inclusive design policies. Targets needed, based on local need.
- Increase the supply of accessible housing across all tenures, especially social housing.
- Ensure existing accessible housing targets for new build homes are adequate to meet Disabled people's needs.
- Enforce and monitor compliance with accessible housing targets for new build homes.
- Expansion of Changing places toilets across the region.
- Introduce requirements for building owners and developers to create and maintain PEEPs.
- Prioritise actually affordable housing development with access to local services.
- 'One Stop Shops' to be trained in meeting people's access needs when topping up key cards for energy.

# Policing and Crime.

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Strategically work with DDPOs to reduce and prevent disability-related hate crime.
- Tackle institutional disablism to increase Disabled people's trust and confidence in the police.
- Compulsory, regular and up to date Disability Equality Training for all staff.
- Invest in person-focussed services and support for Disabled victims of domestic abuse and promote greater understanding about the dynamics of disability and domestic abuse.

# Environment and Climate Resilience.

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Enable Disabled people to access nature in spaces that they own or already visit, such as health centres, and make sure more green space is accessible.
- Ensure any environmental initiative does not negatively impact on Disabled people.
- Put in place mitigation measures for any future road user charging schemes.
- Grants for retrofitting homes to make them more sustainable to be given first to Disabled people on a low income.
- Grants for Disabled people to help them access energy in their homes that is good for the planet.
- Make it cheaper to fix and mend mobility aids.

# Education, Employment, and Skills.

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Create skills and employment programmes which are accessible to all Disabled people in the region.
- Ensure the North East's employers have fair and inclusive employment practices and introduce requirements to address disability inequality and discrimination of Disabled people in the workplace.
- Reduce the Disability pay gap in the North East.
- Increase the number of Disabled learners gaining the skills they need and progress into higher-level learning, work, or an apprenticeship.
- Actively challenge ableism in institutions.
- Infrastructure investment plans and regulatory measures to ensure Disabled people's access to the environment, transport, information, and communication.

# Health

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Reduce the impact of fuel poverty on Disabled people's health in North East by working in partnership with health and social care partners to proactively identify and support Disabled households who live in and/ are at risk of fuel poverty.
- Prioritise properties lived in by Disabled people for energy efficiency improvements.
- Implement disability impact assessments as standard when admitting someone into hospital care.

# Social Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equity

## **NEMCA could commit to:**

- Establish a post of senior disability equality policy adviser employed within the Combined Authority with sufficient authority to truly embed a strategic, social model approach to disability across NEMCA.
- Host and resource a regular strategic policy forum with Disabled Peoples Organisations across the North East.
- Increase visibility of Disabled people by including images of Disabled people in publicity and communications.
- Ensure access to arts and culture.
- Abolish Social Care charging.