

Disability Devolution

What are the Mayoral Candidates saying they'll do to make life better for Disabled people in the North East?

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Green Candidate



Representation of disabled people in decision-making:

Acknowledges a lack of control over formal voting members and suggests increasing the visibility and audibility of under-represented groups in decision-making processes through a scrutiny function. This function would enable panels from various groups to review decisions and challenge them if necessary, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Strategic Policy Forums and Visibility:

There is a proposal for hosting strategic policy forums with disabled people's organizations to increase the visibility of disabled people in publicity and communications. Discusses embedding principles of equality and inclusion even if governmental obligations do not mandate it, emphasizing proactive measures rather than reactive compliance.

Transport and Accessibility Concerns:

Discussion about the active travel strategy highlights shortcomings in accommodating adapted cycles and the broader needs of disabled people. The conversation points to a need for policy adjustments to consider expensive adaptive equipment and the lack of appropriate infrastructure like secure storage at transit stations.

Addressing Broader Transport Issues:

A participant shares a personal experience that highlights the lack of understanding among bus drivers regarding space allocation for wheelchair users, which often leads to significant inconvenience and exclusion. The discussion underscores the need for better training, policies, and designs to accommodate disabled passengers effectively.

Strategic and Operational Changes:

Suggestions are made for incorporating disability equity and inclusion (EDI) standards into contractual processes for public transport regulation to ensure systemic changes. There is also a call for more rigorous enforcement and revision of designs and policies to prevent afterthought solutions that fail to meet the needs of disabled users.

Overall, the dialogue focuses on improving representation, participation, and visibility of disabled groups in policy-making and the execution of public services, with specific attention to transport and infrastructure accessibility.

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