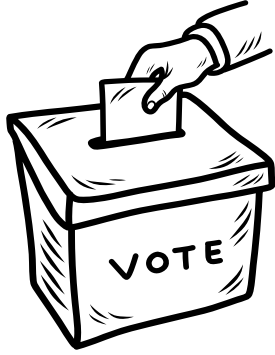


Accessible Voting Report



This report is all about how we make voting more accessible for disabled people.



The report starts with Chloe, saying how important representation is to making lives better for disabled people.



The authors are Mel Kennedy, Chloe Schendel-Wilson and Arun Veerappan.

Welcome

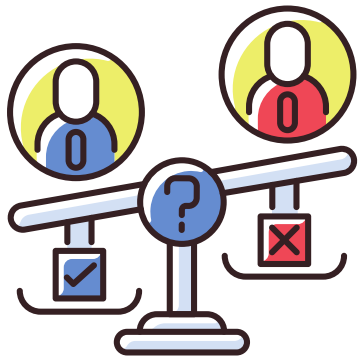
Our partners were an organisation called WelcoMe.

JRSST Charitable Trust

Our funders were the JRSST Charitable Trust.



At the start of our report, we talk about how disabled people have always been held back in our politics.



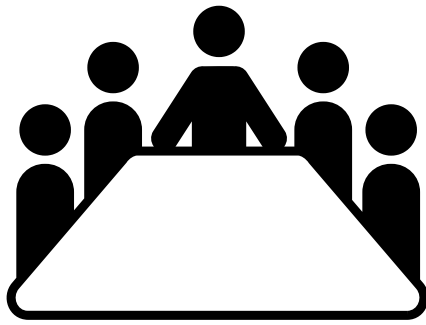
Disabled people
vote less than
non-disabled
people.



This matters
because disabled
people still face
many barriers in
their lives.



These barriers
can be social or
physical.



For this research, we spoke to disability groups and council staff.



These were in four different parts of the country.



They were: Sefton, in Merseyside



Basildon, in Essex



City of Westminster

Westminster, in London



And Wolverhampton, in the
West Midlands



We also had an online survey.



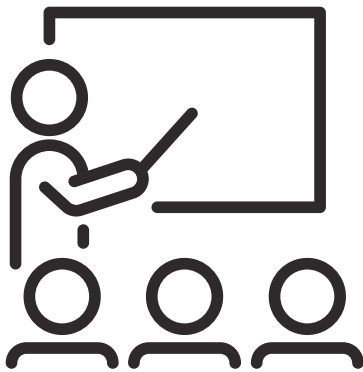
152 people answered our survey.



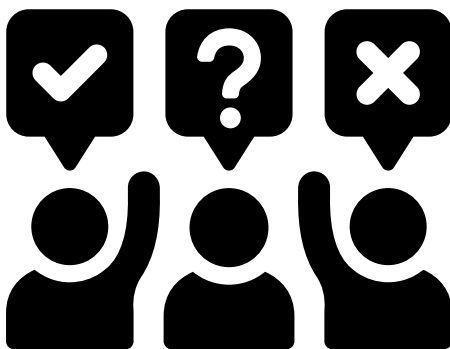
We highlighted local councils who were working on accessibility.



Swindon Council used AI to generate Easy Read resources.



Bradford Council improved training to social care staff.



Sefton Council hosted a 'Mock Polling Day'.



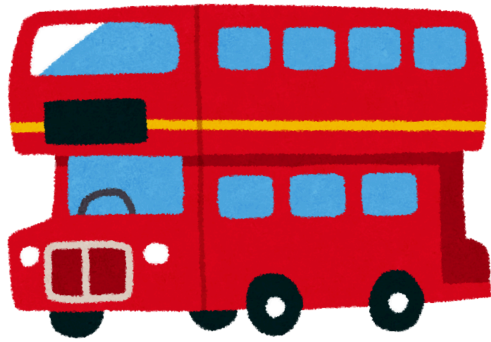
Wolverhampton council worked with disability groups to improve their processes.



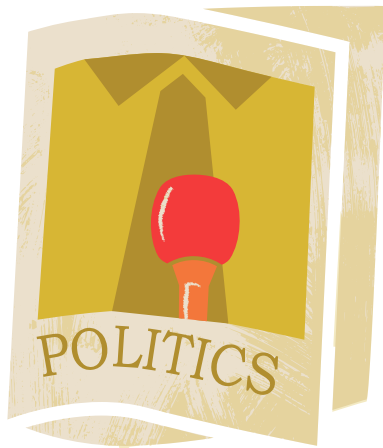
In our survey, we found that the understanding of staff and volunteers of disability was a big issue.



Delivering of reasonable adjustments was also a key issue.



Accessible transport was also a barrier on Polling Day.



People said that accessible elections literature is not always available.



They also said that local councils do not do enough for disabled people.



And that political parties do not do enough for disabled people.



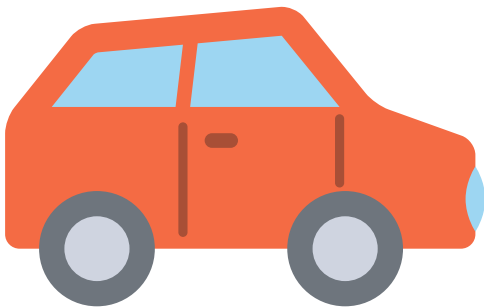
Our recommendations for councils are as follows:



Amplify disabled voices through co-production.



Run 'Mock Polling Days' with local disability groups.



Provide an Accessible Transport service on Polling Day.



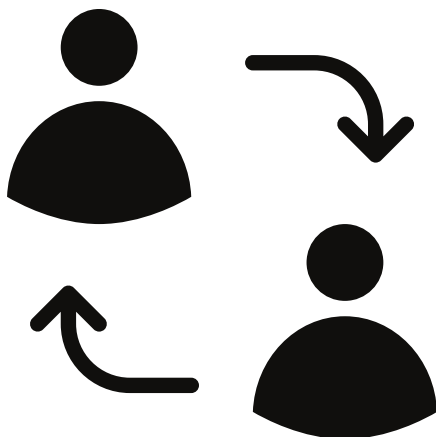
Communicate a shared message across different parts of the council.



Ensure all communications is in accessible formats.



Audit all Polling stations, in partnership with disabled people.



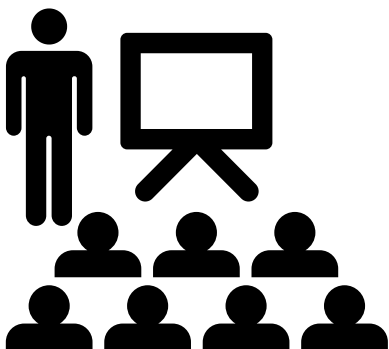
Let people transfer polling stations if theirs isn't accessible.



Ensure all
reasonable
adjustments are
provided.



Ensure all polling
staff are visible.



Improve training for social
care staff.



Create accessible manifestos, with political parties.



Create a way for disabled people to give feedback.



For political parties, we propose the following:



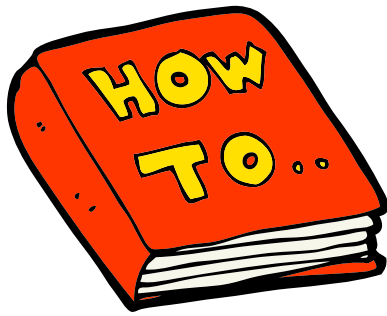
Ensure all
literature is
accessible.



Increase
representation of
disabled people.



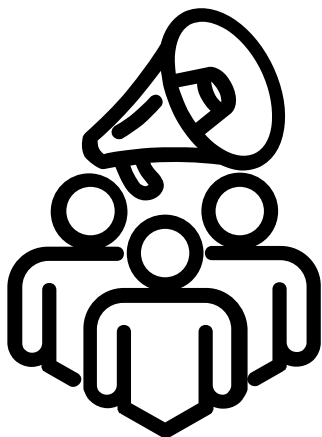
The Electoral Commission
should produce accessible
templates for all.



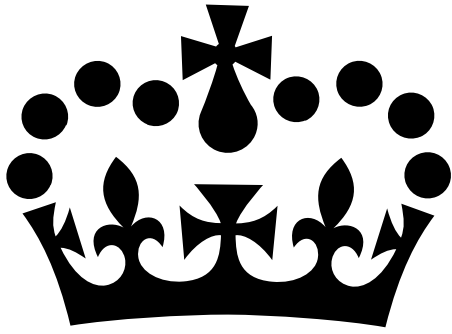
They should produce accessible 'How to' guides.



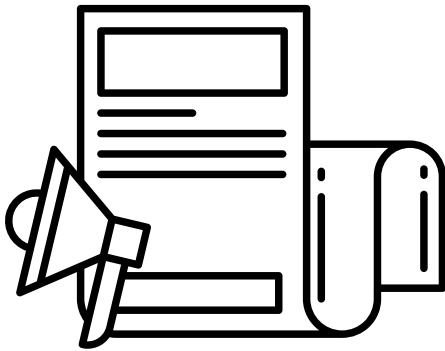
They should standardise reasonable adjustments.



They should raise awareness of reasonable adjustments to disabled people.



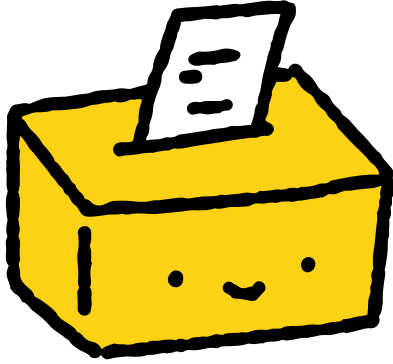
The Government should update the Elections Act 2022.



They should allow accessible formats of official materials.



The Government should provide funding for small parties to provide accessible materials.



We believe we
can improve
voting for
disabled people.



And improve the
lives of disabled
people by doing
so.



Thank you for reading.