



*Access for All*

# DISABILITY ACCESS MANIFESTO

*Galway City*

22% or 1 in 5 people in  
this constituency live  
with a disability or  
disabling condition.  
(CSO, 2022)



## OUR TOP PRIORITIES

- Ensure our local authority has a full-time Access Officer
- Ensure Disabled people have a say in the decisions that affect them locally
- Ensure there is a dedicated budget to achieve both of these priorities

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?



- The Disability Act 2005, requires all public bodies including local authorities to have an access officer.
- There is no standard approach to how this is implemented across 30 local authority areas. Some areas employ full-time access officers, others hold the role on a part time basis, while also managing, sometimes several, other roles.
- There is no specific budget in local authorities for initiatives targeted at disability access and inclusion.

# HOW CAN SUPPORTING OUR PRIORITIES HELP?

Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in 2018. By ratifying the convention, Ireland committed to working to achieve the articles set out in the convention.

These include ensuring that people with disabilities can:

- Participate in public and political life;
- Have equal access to information in the formats they prefer;
- Can access their community and public amenities and the built environment;
- Can participate in the cultural and sporting life of their communities on an equal basis to others;
- And that Governments support awareness raising activities.

A full -time Access Officer in each local authority, guided by local disabled people, with a targeted budget, can support and coordinate the implementation of UN CRPD at local level.



The information in this manifesto has been provided by a network of Access and Disability Interest Groups Nationally and is Supported by Disability Federation of Ireland.