**Disability Wales/Anabledd Cymru**

**Civic Participation Officer**

**Information about the Role**

**Introduction**

Welsh Government has agreed to establish a fund which for the purposes of this recruitment exercise will be referred to as the ‘Access to Elected Office Fund Wales (AEOFW)’.

The Fund will be established on a pilot basis and will support candidates standing for election in the May 2021 Senedd Elections and the May 2022 Local Government Elections.

It is designed to support individuals who have been accepted as candidates for the purposes of one of the elections specified in the pilot.

The administration of the fund and management of allocations made available to support disabled candidates will be undertaken by Disability Wales

**Aims and Objectives**

The Aim of the project is to provide the following:

* An advice and support service which will work with disabled candidates to explore the support which would enable them to mitigate the additional costs associated with the access or communications requirements
* Establish arrangements to promote the fund and application process across Wales
* Arrangements to support the application, assessment and allocation process associated with operation of the fund
* Financial support to assist prospective candidates to meet the additional support costs necessary to take part in the election
* A review of the arrangements following the Senedd elections to enable lessons learned to feed into the Local Government elections element of the pilot

Welsh Government is currently consulting on the details of the scheme:

[Arrangements for the Access to Elected Office fund (gov.wales)](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-11/consultation-document_2.pdf)

**Exciting Opportunity**

Disability Wales has long campaigned for the establishment of an access to elected office fund in Wales and is excited to play a leading role in establishing the first scheme of its kind in Wales. The Civic Participation Officer will develop and deliver the scheme and engage with a range of stakeholders including political parties, organisations responsible for electoral governance and administration, third sector equality organisations as well as disabled people.

The role of Civic Participation Officer provides an exciting opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting the equality and inclusion of disabled people in political participation, including through the development of a cross-party Charter.