**Politics and Public Life workshop**

Things are worse since 2017

Not aware that any of the Committee’s previous recommendations have been implemented.

Major new issue since 2017 is Covid and its aftermath. The major thing that has happened is the cat has been let out of the bag about the fact at the people can work remotely, and should be allowed and there should be a hybrid system of allowing people who can work, to work. But also, that along with that we have the human right to be able to have active and independent lives even if it doesn't mean that we're running for Council. We need to have the access to elected office campaign restarted and also to encompass being councillors. We need legislation changed in order to allow people not to be penalised for taking up being an elected councillor or MP. That reasonable adjustments need to be met and through doing the hybrid type meetings and things, it means at the people who because it, it is women mostly who are, who are having a problem with not being able to get to meetings, whether it's for caring responsibilities or illness. So, with the remote access people can still be fully engaged in whatever electoral venue that they happen to be wanting to engage with.

Three priority areas for the shadow report and List Of Issues:

1. Job shares need to be allowed for political offices.
2. The way allowances are counted as income impacts on benefits and is a major barrier to participation in political and public roles for disabled people who are not well enough or face too many barriers to earn a living from paid employment.
3. Inability to take actions to over-turn a wrong case because of lack of legal support.