



Clerk Report AccessiBe Software for Accessibility

Clerk Recommendation

That NMPC do not immediately consider the purchase of the assistive software 'AccessiBe' but defer it to the next budget setting period September/October 2021.

Background

Nash Mills PC are working to upgrade their website provision to comply with current accessibility regulations (Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulation 2018ⁱ). The work to revisit all historic documents from 2018 onwards to make them fully accessible is creating a large work stream to fit in to the clerk's current workload. It is likely that NMPC could claim 'disproportionate burden' for amending the historic documents. All new uploads are being provided in accessible formats and the clerk is still working to resolve the 'contrast' issues.

The clerk has attended a training session with a local resident who uses the software provided by AccessiBe. AccessiBe makes the website compliant with the WCAG 2.1 at the AA Level.

Examples can be found here <https://www.cblservices.co.uk>

The software enables anyone who requires assistive technology or assistance with our current website to utilise a 'toggle' type approach that amends the functionality of the website to enable the site to be viewed in an accessible way, personalised to that individuals' requirements.

Deferral is recommended by the clerk on the following grounds.

- the additional cost has not been considered for the 2021/22 budget year. It should also be noted that council have required the use of reserves to balance the budget figures this year rather than increase the precept therefore additional expenditure would be difficult to reconcile.
- The website and its possible overhaul is a proposed future project for NMPC in the current council four year plan and this software could be included in that project.
- Deferral is recommended rather than a straight decline as the software is impressive in what it can provide to improve accessibility and the ease with which it can provide this.

Costs

Dependant on website size. Up to 1000 pages is £490 per annum.ⁱⁱ

Decision Needed

Council to deliberate and to decide on whether the clerk should purchase the software or wait and reconsider later in 2021.

Nikki Bugden 25/2/2021

ⁱ [The Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\) \(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

ⁱⁱ [Pricing - accessiBe](#)