**Annex 3 Themes and outcomes**

DRILL is open to applications from all 4 themes. However we are particularly interested in the themes of participating in civic and public life and participating in the economy.

**Participating in the economy**

There are different ways that people might participate in the economy. There are lots of activities and roles related to this. Unfortunately there can also be lots of barriers that get in disabled people’s way.

For disabled people to participate equally in economic activities they need access to the right education and training for the current and future job market, to career opportunities, and opportunities for self-employment and to set up new businesses. Disabled people need employers who recognise what they can do and that they can have just the experience and qualities needed by businesses. There can be different, but equally good ways of doing a job.

As consumers, they need to be able to get into shops and be treated appropriately as customers and access to on-line shopping. They should have choice about the goods and services they need to achieve independent living.

Within the theme of **participating in the economy** DRILL is particularly interested in solutions that:

* support more disable people into self - employment and to be self - employed
* support more disabled people to set up and run social enterprises
* close the employment and pay gaps between disabled people and non - disabled people, including approaches that encourages employers to change their practice

**Participating in civic and public life**

There are different ways that people might participate in civic and public life. Civic and public life is when people, as citizens, take action on things to do with public policy and practice, or get involved in the institutions that make them. ‘Public policy’ means decisions that affect lots of people, or particular groups of people. Such decisions might be taken by local councillors, or national governments, or European institutions. ‘Practice’ is how those decisions are implemented.

There are lots of activities and roles related to civic and public life. For example, these include things like voting in elections, or being a candidate in an election, or working together with others to lobby for local services that are at risk of being cut. It involves people who are elected as members of local councils, national governments and the UK and European Parliaments. It includes the people who elect them and work for them, like civil servants, advisors of all public bodies such as government departments and local authorities. It includes people in ‘non departmental public bodies’. These are organisations like the Equality and Human Rights Commission. If you want to be on the Board of organisations like these, you have to go through a process of public appointment.

For disabled people to participate equally and achieve independent living, they need practical assistance in all sorts of ways to be involved in civic and public life. To be effective you need to have leadership and influencing skills. Disabled people might need support to get these. Or, if they have these skills, they need to have access to opportunities to use them. It is not just about influencing decision makers but about more disabled people becoming decision makers themselves. In this way, the decisions that affect disabled people would be made by people who really understand disability because they have personal, direct experience of it. It means disability issues should be given more priority.

Within the theme of **participating in civic and public life** we are particularly interested in solutions that:

* support the legal system, including civil and criminal justice systems, for example jury service and the Bench, and/or the treatment of disabled witnesses, applicants, defendants and/or victims of crime
* reduce the use of coercion and restraint, including in health and social care settings
* promote a wider definition of leadership and influence, beyond public appointment, to include membership of political parties and opportunities to progress once elected.

**Participating in community and social life**

The communities we live in and the friends and support we have are very important to our lives.

Communities come in many shapes and forms. They can be defined in terms of place, for example, your “local community” where you live, or rural or urban communities. Or the word “community” can describe a group of people who have the same interest or culture. There are lots of ways to describe a community but is usually a place where people find mutual support and company, as well as services to meet every day needs.

Being part of a local community which supports and includes disabled people, and respects disabled people’s rights, is very important for independent living. Everyone should have the freedom to visit their friends and relatives. Everyone should be able to go to the local cinema, sports centre, evening classes, places of worship, or any other local places and events if they want to.

But too often disabled people are excluded. They do not get the support or money they need to do these things. And even if they can get to such places, it does not follow that they will be able to participate on an equal basis. Too often disabled people have not been involved in any discussions about how the services they need are provided to them, for example from the local authority or from a voluntary organisation. Without hearing disabled people’s views, organisations providing services don’t know how the services could be best designed and planned to meet disabled people’s needs. And even if well designed, properly funded services may not be available to all, or, disabled people may live “in the community” but not be included in it. They are left in isolation.

Within the theme of **participating in community and social life** DRILL is particularly interested in projects that lead to / promote solutions:

* that work best for disabled people in relation to social security implementation
* that work best for disabled people in relation to social care support
* to achieve more accessible and inclusive housing

**Participating in anything!**

There are some things that can help disabled people to participate fully and equally in anything and everything. Sometimes these things can be essential, if this is to happen.

**Peer support:** Disabled people can support each other by sharing their experiences and their learning. They can support each other to develop their own ways of living their lives. They can encourage each other to pursue their hopes and dreams. This form of support can be very helpful in relation to social life, or work, or public life.

**Choice and control:** Disabled people want freedom to make their own decisions about where and how they live. This is sometimes called having ‘self-determination’ or having ‘autonomy’. How can the laws disabled people have to protect their rights to these things be better exercised? Could things be done to strengthen those rights? There are some situations where disabled people’s choice and control can be particularly important but also likely not to be respected. This includes things like being admitted to care homes, or when a person’s mental capacity is questioned. What can be done about this?

**Accessible information:** You cannot participate in the economy, or your local community, or public life if information about all these activities is not accessible to you. What needs to be done to address this?

Within the theme of participating in “anything else” we are now particularly interested in solutions that:

* improves wellbeing (impact on family life and relationships)
* provides improved transport
* reduces poverty