
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

1. Purpose of report

To report on the work and achievements of the Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) in the first year of their current term and to state the intentions of the group for the second year of their term.

2. Executive summary

The Pacific Advisory Group has produced their Annual Report covering the period May 2011 to July 2012 attached as Annex 1.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note the progress and achievements of the Pacific Advisory Group.*
- 3. Note the request to respond to the community requests for a Pacific Fare.*
- 4. Note that at Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 12 June 2012 the Pacific Fare was signalled as a matter for further consideration in the 13/14 Annual Plan.*
- 5. Note the intention of the Pacific Advisory Group to add value and progress through working on an overarching Pasifika Strategic Action Plan.*

4. Background

Wellington City Council's Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) was established in 2003 to strengthen the relationship between the Council and Pacific people from Wellington's seven main Pacific nations (Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu).

Under the Terms of Reference representative members will be selected by each Pacific nation group according to an election process outlined by the Council.

Members elect the Chair and Deputy Chair by ballot at the first meeting once member elections have been completed.

The standard term of appointment is three years. A member can apply to be appointed for a second term. No member will be allowed to sit on the group for more than two consecutive terms.

The purpose of the PAG is to:

- represent Pacific people's views and provide feedback and advice to Council business units on the Council's strategy/policy development, planning, service delivery and activities, as and when required
- ensure Pacific people's opinions are represented in Council
- build Pacific people's knowledge of Council processes to enable them to participate in Council's decision-making processes
- ensure that the Council understands the specific needs of Pacific people (and different Pacific nation groups) and how these can best be addressed.

As an advisory group, the PAG informs the work and activities of the Council. It does not have the mandate or an independent budget to commission work or undertake activities outside of its advisory role.

The role of the group is to:

- advise the Council on challenges and issues faced by the Pacific population in Wellington City and relevant trends and opportunities
- advise the Council on engagement and consultation with Pacific people and communities
- liaise and share information with other Council advisory groups
- advise on potential new initiatives to be considered for inclusion in the Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan
- where required, present submissions on Council's plans and policies.

The group comprises 15 members in total – three members representing Samoa and two members representing each of the following nations: Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

PAG membership should include an appropriate balance of representation from:

- men and women as well as youth and senior Pacific people
- Pacific people born in New Zealand and in the Pacific

The group should include the range of skills and experience required for the group to adequately perform their role.

A Councillor is appointed to the group to act as a liaison between the group and the Council's other elected members. The appointed Councillor, Council liaison officer and other officers of the Council are not members of the PAG but will support the work of the group.

5. Discussion

The Annual Report from the Pacific Advisory Group is attached as Annex 1. It contains an acknowledgement of the Council's partnership with the Pacific Communities as well as highlighting issues the group would like the Council to consider:

- lack of a Pasifika Community development worker
- the development of a Pasifika Strategic Action plan
- an ongoing request for the Council to consider provision for a Pacific Fale.

In the deliberations on submissions to the Long Term Plan at SPC on 12 June 2012 the Pacific Fale was signalled as a matter for further consideration in the 13/14 Annual Plan.

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

The Pacific Advisory Group has produced the report attached as Annex 1.

5.2 Financial considerations

The Pacific Advisory Group Annual Report contains a request for the Council to respond to the wish from the Pacific Communities to have provision of a Pacific Fale.

5.3 Climate change impacts and considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the report have an impact on climate change.

5.4 Long-term plan considerations

The Pacific Advisory Group Annual Report contains a request for the Council to respond to the wish from the Pacific Communities to have provision of a Pacific Fale.

6. Conclusion

This report provides a brief summary of the progress and activity of the Pacific Advisory Group in the first year of their current term.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

This activity fits with the outcomes for the Consultation and Engagement strategy.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The Pacific Advisory Group is managed within existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications for this report.

4) Decision-making

This report does not require a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

No general consultation has been undertaken for this report.

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation with Maori has been undertaken for this report.

6) Legal implications

There are no legal implications from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The activities of the Pacific Advisory Group are consistent with existing policy and support ongoing policy development.