Accessibility Advisory Group

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington** City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: **Tuesday 27 August 2019**
Time: **5.34pm–7.37pm**
Venue: **Level 8 Mayors Office, Wellington City Council,
            113 The Terrace, Wellington**

PRESENT
Co-Chairpersons
Tristram Ingham and Rachel Noble

Members
Rosie Macleod, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Alan Royal, and Nick Ruane

Councillor
David Lee

In Attendance
Kay Houlahan – Democracy Advisor
Jenny Rains – Community Services Manager
David Chick – Chief City Planner
Dominic Tay – Senior Democracy Advisor & Deputy Electoral Officer
Willy Trolove – Communications and Engagement Lead, Let's Get
Wellington Moving

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1. MEETING PROCEDURES
1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all present.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Erikka Helliwell and Stuart Mills.

Moved Nick Ruane, seconded Rosie Macleod   Carried

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 30 July 2019

That the minutes of 30 July 2019, as amended, be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Nick Ruane, seconded Tristram Ingham   Carried

3. General Business   5.35pm-5.42pm

The group discussed the Accessibility Awards, which took place on 31 July 2019. Councillor Lee queried whether there might be a lack of candidates.

Action:
Invite the Wellington City Council Comms Team to discuss how it might encourage people to nominate candidates.

2. PRESENTATION
2.1 Local Authority Elections   5.42pm-6.03pm

Presenter: Dominic Tay, Deputy Electoral Officer, Wellington City Council

Dominic Tay presented on this years' local authority elections noting that candidate biographies and photographs are now on the Council website and screen accessible. He also noted that the Blind Foundation is hoping to hold a meet-the-candidates meeting. It was acknowledged that postal voting is not the most accessible form of voting and that confidence in the postal system is not what it once was. The presenter went to say that help is available in service centres, such as Manners Street, or that voters could call the Council assistance line. It was noted that legislative changes had been put in place to

allow a trial of online voting, and that the Council was interested in participating, but that regulations still need to be passed, policy developed, and funding secured. The presenter advised that after every election a parliamentary select committee holds an inquiry to which the group could make submission.

Members discussed with the presenter:
- assistance provided for those with mobility disabilities
- timeframes for voting and election day
- postal delays
- guidance given to candidates regarding accessible documents
- making the Council website and social media outlets, such as Facebook, fully accessible
- the inability of all voters to make an informed decision if information is not fully accessible.

Motion: That the Council provides all newly produced council-provided electronic material in an accessible format or formats; and that the Council communicates to all Wellington City Council local body election candidates the importance and benefits of candidate produced material being accessible to all members of the community.

Moved Nick Ruane, seconded Rosie Macleod   Carried

Action:

The presenter agreed to:
- discuss with AAG a possible submission to the next parliamentary inquiry into local elections
- advise the WCC Communications team of the motion.

Democracy Services agreed to advise the WCC Communications Team of matters discussed including, that the phone number to get support is not widely publicised.

2.2 Let's Get Wellington Moving   6.03pm–7.00pm

Presenters: David Chick, Chief City Planner, Wellington City Council and Willy Trolove, Communications and Engagement Lead, Let's Get Wellington Moving

Willy Trolove presented on the Let's Get Wellington Moving project noting that it is not just about improving access but includes liveability and reducing

reliance on cars. The presenters indicated that they will soon start work on detailed plans for the project, including engagement which will occur later in year. The input of AAG input on this matter was requested. The presenter noted that the project wants to lay out an engagement programme going forward.

Members discussed with the presenters:
- the placement of accessibility in the plan and its definition
- that older people use cars less as time goes by need more public transport
- the continued use of buses alongside mass transport systems
- appropriate tools for discussion around engagement with disability groups
- engagement plans, including with the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the inclusion of senior in engagement groups
- the degree to which internal and external capacity has been built into the project
- whether current best practice is 'best'
- the possible inclusion of United Nations conventions, including Article 4.3
- the merits of having people within the team who specifically engages with accessibility groups
- transport hubs.

Action:
The presenters agreed to:
- forward AAG feedback to the Greater Wellington Regional Council
- engage communications across the whole project
- to report back to AAG
- engage in meaningful communication
- consider the inclusion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3.   General Business   7.00pm

AAG Members Update

AAG Members provided an update on items they were currently working on:

- Rachel Noble updated the group on her meeting with Victor Calise, Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

- Councillor Lee noted the work done by the policy team on the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.

Action:
- Revisit Rachel Noble's insights with the advisory group review team.
- Democracy Services staff to forward the resolutions of the City Strategy Committee (CSC) on the Accessible Wellington Action Plan at its meeting on 22 August 2019.
- Add to the AAG Forward Programme consideration of what the CSC resolution means.
- Check on the status of AAG's Forward Programme previously tabled.

4. AAG Members only time   **7.29pm**

The advisory group resolved to:
- initiate recruitment procedures
- defer discussion of portfolio suggestions until the next meeting.

The advisory group discussed the need to keep to the agenda and the issue of items being deferred or not progressed.

The meeting was declared closed at 7.37pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 at 5.30pm.