

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2020

Time: 5:32pm – 7:11pm

Venue: Level 8 Mayor's Reception Room, Wellington City
Council, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

PRESENT

Chairperson

Rachel Noble

Members

Amy Evanson

Erikka Helliwell

Rosie Macleod

Solmaz Nazari

Alan Royal

Councillor

Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

Moana Mackey – Chief City Planner

Jenny Rains – Community Services Manager

Kristine Ford – Senior Policy Advisor

Nadine Dodge – Principal Advisor, Transport and Strategy

Hedi Mueller – Democracy Advisor

Raewyn Hailes – CCS Disability Action New Zealand

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:34pm

1.1 Welcome

New AAG member Amy Evanson introduced herself and gave a brief outline of her lived experience and work experience within the disability sector.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Tristram Ingham, Nick Ruane and Stuart Mills, and for lateness from Solmaz Nazari.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 3 Feb 2020

That the minutes of 3 February 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Alan Royal, seconded by Rosie Macleod

Carried

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Accessible Wellington Action Plan Q+A

5:36pm

Facilitated by Kristine Ford

Kristine gave an update on where the Council is at with the Accessible Wellington Action Plan, and what has happened since Kristine started on it in October 2019 (see attachment Report of on Progress against the Accessible Journey Action Plan 2019).

Members discussed with the presenter:

- That it is great to have an update and see progress, and that feedback loops are requested from each presenter at AAG.

- That it is helpful to have large amounts of information prior to the meeting.
- What the collection of staff information in WCC HR department will inform, and what support will be provided to ensure that staff feel that it is a safe space.
- Concern over speed that plan is progressing, and ensuring that the community is not being left behind. Reassurance that community is being engaged with early and that Fiona Bailey from Communications and Engagements will work alongside any communications.
- Whether an easy read/picture format of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan is available.
- That a list of outcomes set against the Accessible Wellington Action Plan would be appreciated.
- Whether the WCC Staff Accessibility Hui are open to AAG members and if staff are familiar with the work of the AAG? Kristine advised that people with lived experience do attend, but may not necessarily be AAG members, though Rachel Noble attended a previous meeting. Moana and Kristine to discuss and return to AAG with outcome.
- Importance of the Action Plan being led by a position of leadership in the organisation.
- Whether any barriers for implementation exist - Kristine reassured that individual business units are taking accessibility seriously and several have organised and funded their own audits by themselves, but that the organisation as a whole needs to own it and be clear on what it requires.
- Whether there are competing plans or strategies, and where the Action Plan sits in terms of priorities. Moana advised that the Action Plan is embedded into several policies and strategies, and needs to be integrated in to business as usual.
- Whether Council has committed any resource to implementing the plan – Kristine advised that individual business units are accessing funding, and is driving to have more resource allocated.

- The need for continuity across staff turnover and for the plan to be engrained – Kristine advised that online modules on accessible information have been purchased to be included in staff online learning system.

Actions:

The presenter agreed to:

- Follow up with HR about collection of staff information and support provided.
- Compile an action/outcome list (see attachment Report on Progress against the Accessible Journey Action Plan)
- Moana to have conversation with Kristine about from where in the organisation the action plan is being led.

2.2 Transport Strategy Footpath Improvement Survey

6:17pm

Facilitated by Nadine Dodge

Nadine gave background to the research survey that was sent out, which has been commissioned by the NZTA. The survey was solely about amenity upgrades; and was not about maintenance, renewals or safety upgrades of footpaths.

Maintenance, renewals and safety upgrades are the bare basics that must be provided, amenity upgrades are extra that need to be justified. The survey is about quantifying the benefits so that funding can be received from central government. Benefits could include things like faster journeys, health benefits, safety or improved quality of experience.

The first stage of research included a literature review of 25 international studies, and the survey is intended to replicate those results as there is a concern that international averages may not align with New Zealand values – for example early results have

shown that Wellingtonians do not value brick footpaths, which were highly valued in the international studies.

Members discussed with the presenter:

- Whether the survey was sent out to the general population or targeted towards specific communities? Nadine advised that the survey was not specifically targeted, Moana advised that usually we do work with Mana Whenua but this survey hasn't taken that lens.
- That the survey was not accessible for people with visual impairments or learning disabilities – Nadine advised that the survey was supposed to have alt text but there was an error and this wasn't available. Nadine has talked to the research team and will ensure this does not happen again. Suggested that research team attend upcoming Accessibility Hui on alt text.
- Ease of engagement with senior citizens through retirement villages and senior associations.

Actions:

- Research team to be invited to next Accessibility Hui

2.3 Footpath Management Policy

6:37pm

Facilitated by Kristine Ford

Kristine presented on the Footpath Management Policy, which was last reviewed in 2007. The policy manages street activities, such as buskers, traders and restaurants; and ensures that pedestrians have priority. The Trading in Public Places Policy is also going to be reviewed. The Footpath Management Policy review is also an action in the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.

Members discussed:

- Whether the policy includes enforcement.
- Concerns around restaurant cordons in Courtenay Place being a hazard.
- Ensuring that WCC staff are aware of visibility requirements and that licences displayed in windows need to be accessible too.

3. General Business

3.1 Members Update

6:45pm

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

- Alan Royal advised that the online version of the Health Passport through the DHB is pretty close to completion. Alan also met with team from the FIXiT app in regards to new version updates and accessibility.
- Rosie Macleod has been working with Pacific people with disabilities and been encouraging them to engage with groups such as AAG. She has recently stepped down from one such group and had another person step into the role.
- Erikka Helliwell has had lots of feedback around accessibility information for festivals being unclear or unavailable. It would be better for the information to be accessible even if the venue isn't, and to be upfront about it. Moana asked that examples be sent through and will follow up with the Communications and Engagement Team.
- Amy Evanson discussed the Sky Stadium accessible seating, which is beside only two chairs and means that groups of friends are forced to split up.
- Rachel Noble advised that Access Alliance had wanted to speak at AAG, but were directed to present to Council Staff instead. The DHB's Sub-Regional Disability Advisory Group

holds a forum every other year and wondered if a joint forum was a possibility – Rachel to discuss with Jenny Rains. The last forum discussed having closer relationships between the DHB and the Council. Alan Royal and Councillor Matthews to assist with organising joint forum.

3.2 Councillor Update

6:53pm

Councillor Matthews met with Paula Tesoriero, Disability Rights Commissioner. Paula raised the issue of a lack of accessible taxis and is also seeking a meeting with the Mayor.

Cr Matthews had a meeting with Rose Wilkinson, Chief Executive of Blind Citizens New Zealand; and a meeting with Ollie Goulden from Access Alliance.

Cr Matthews moved the following amendment on the Draft Parking Policy: "Agree to add the following phrase to the end of *Support access for all* on page 11 of the statement of proposal document: 'through an improvement in mobility parking across the city'".

Cr Matthews has been in touch with WCC Chief Executive Barbara McKerrow in regards to having a staff resource on accessibility issues to build capability within the organization, and that conversation is ongoing. A role description is being developed and would need to include aspects of Urban Design and Community Engagement.

3.3 Annual Report Planning

7:04pm

Hedi Mueller discussed the requirements of the Annual Report, which will need to be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of 4 June 2020. There will only be three AAG meetings prior to that date (31 March, 28 April and 26 May), however the 26 May meeting is too late for changes to be made as the report will be due on 21 May. Hedi will send out examples of

previous Annual Reports and include time in the March agenda to discuss this.

3.4 Other Items

- Briefing on Planning for Growth requested.
- Forward programme to be recirculated so that AAG agenda content can be populated for the remainder of the year.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:11pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on 31 March 2020 at 5.30pm.