

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 30 March 2021

Time: 5:29pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Ngake (Room 16.09), Level 16, 113 The Terrace

PRESENT

Chairperson

Rachel Noble and Nick Ruane

Members

Stuart Mills

Solmaz Nazari Orakani

Alan Royal

Elected Members

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

Angelique Jackson (Manager City Housing)

Daniel Tai (Senior Advisor Operations Policy)

Rebecca Tong (Programme Manager Build Wellington)

David Ensor (Operations Manager)

Kate Hodgetts (Senior Advisor)

Samantha Hutcheson (Senior Policy Advisor)

Claire Richardson (Chief Operations Officer)

Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager)

Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor)

Hedi Mueller (Democracy Advisor)

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:29pm

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

Cr Matthews said the karakia on behalf of the group. Group members and staff introduced themselves.

1.2 Introductions

Apologies for Amy Evanson, Erikka Helliwell and Jenny Rains were received.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Rachel Noble declared an interest with her role at the District Health Board.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 23 February 2021

That the minutes of 23 February 2021 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Nick Ruane, seconded Stuart Mills.

Carried

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 City Housing

5:35pm

Angelique Jackson, Daniel Tai, Rebecca Tong and David Ensor presented on

- their work in the social housing space.
- who the team members are.
- the demographics of tenants.
- disability data and a new tenants' portal in the future.
- the ongoing upgrade of housing and the Deed of Grant signed in 2007.
- a summary of upgrades at Marshall Court, Harrison Street, and Nairn Street.

Members discussed:

- 32,000 disabled people in Wellington as per 2013 census, their median income \$402/week, and median rent \$600/week in Wellington.
- The size of the waitlist.
- WICT that used to run digital inclusion courses, is there an emphasis on that? Digital Inclusion Alliance do run courses on some of our sites, some received laptops as part of their course, and Skinny Jump wifi is available for some too.
- 65+ age group has a 50% disability rate, and over 65% of that age group also living on pension alone.
- Elderly population – 19% are 65+, focus is on 'aging in place'.
- Housing action plan includes 'proactive development', would like for targets to be higher than the current 5%.
- Reports coming to Council in May which will covers aspects of accessibility, things like Homestar and Greenstar ratings.
- Accessible units primarily on ground floors – due to risk of power cuts or fire emergencies, that ground floor accessible units are the preferred option.
- City safety currently frequently in the media – some things agree to in last couple of month: using currently vacant space for organisations to be co-located in the city, MSD employing a person to work with people being placed in housing, police working on more consistently enforcing liquor ban, and patron Code of Conduct from hospitality organisations.
- Accessibility of the service for the Deaf community for example.
- Being clear on collection of data and that it is for the purpose of better service.
- Wording suggestion for the Housing Action Plan.
- Meaning of 'universal access unit' on slide 10 – Angelique to follow up with Ivan.
- That we are above 5% target of accessible units but actual number to be confirmed.
- Value of user/personal experience in addition to the use of Standards.

2.2 Two Priority Strategies

6:27pm

Kate Hodgetts and Samantha Hutcheson discussed:

- the Aho-Tini 2030 (Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy) vision and focus areas.
- feedback from Arts Access Aotearoa.
- Social Wellbeing Framework for Council's to understand its contribution to the social wellbeing of its communities.
- Children and Young People Strategy outcomes and focus areas.

Members discussed:

- Arts, culture and creative events being available as a digital experience for those who aren't able to physically participate or access those areas.
- Events like CubaDupa being really difficult to participate in due to crowding.
- The accessibility aspects of CubaDupa that were done well.
- Support of events that come organically through the disabled community, which would have a less 'tacked on' feel.
- The wording of 'belong' – disability to disability connections are really important for wellbeing, and this can be hard in a mainstream schooling environment.
- Cr Matthews visiting Maranga Action Group and will ask them to be part of engagement process.
- Day bases in the city operated by service providers and how to create opportunities for young disabled people to have positive social interactions with society, and the benefits to both parties.
- The wording of 'empowerment' and how that implies that power had previously been removed.
- A piece of work looking at the safe spaces within the whole of Wellington and how these serve the communities now and in the future.
- Submissions and how these are analysed with the disabled community in mind and interpreted correctly.
- The difference between accessible and Accessible.

3. General Business

3.1 Members' and Councillor Updates

7:15pm

- Melissa:
 - Libraries now have a Digital Inclusion Coordinator, have received funding from the National Library for that role.
 - Melissa will be working with Urban Design team to update Design Guide, and working alongside MBIE.
 - Meet and greet with Comms and Engagement teams tomorrow.
- Cr Matthews has fortnightly catch ups with Melissa and Jenny, discussing possibility of Disability Strategy.
- Claire gave an update on WCC working on updating its inclusion strategy, and ensuring that our people are being as inclusive as possible.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:29pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on 27 April 2021 at 5.30pm, on Level 16, 113 The Terrace.