

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 31 May 2022

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwi, 113 The Terrace, Wellington and Zoom

Purpose

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the Communication and Involvement of communities points below.

Attendance

Chairpersons:	Susan Williams, Nick Ruane
Members:	Humphrey Hanley, Stuart Mills, Olivia Murphy, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Rachel Noble, Alan Royal
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews
WCC Staff:	Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Alice Bray (Principal Advisor Commercial Procurement), Nadia Webster (Manager Data and Insights), Sean Johnson (Democracy Team Leader), Jennifer Parker (Manager Governance and Democracy Services), Fiona Bailey (Principal Comms and Engagement Advisor)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:31pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Erikka Helliwell – for absence.No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Procurement Strategy, *Presented by Alice Bray and Nadia Webster.*

Discussion topics included social procurement outcomes and reframing the return on investment to include people's quality of life and achieving social, cultural and environmental outcome; and broader outcomes being imbedded in the product itself.

Members discussed:

- Prioritising using companies that test accessibility with disabled people, especially in the digital space, and whether that can be transferred to the infrastructure space as well. Whether contracts can include specific concerns as key deliverables. User testing varies by disabled person, so testing with a range of people is key.
- Having a common template form website – agreeing on the accessibility standards internally and then requiring all websites to be baked in for 'offshoot' websites such as consultation sites.
- All of government digital service design standards, the Accessibility Charter, commercial partnerships working together – being more ambitious and expanding beyond the public sector partners.

4. Election 2022, *Presented by Sean Johnson, Jennifer Parker and Fiona Bailey.*

Discussion topics included the purpose and location of the central city voting hub and the accessibility of community candidate meetings. Whether there are voting centres in each ward, and the difference between central and local election voting hubs, and the accessibility of postal voting. Accessibility of getting information and how the election process works, whether there could be drop ins at local libraries or candidate meetings specifically for the disability community.

Members discussed the right to privacy in voting and not wanting family/friends involved, with phone and online voting not being legally possible. Responsibility of council staff to make financial decisions and ensure access for all eligible voters. Important to not make assumption that people know what/who they are voting for, but need to emphasise how much Council business impacts on everyday lives. Consider not just disable voters but also disabled candidates, the accessibility of nomination process and form, and to list accommodations that can be provided.

5. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:

- Meetings regarding design of Central Library are ongoing.
- Annual Plan funding decisions on accessible and green building fund, city housing to be agreed on 1 June 2022 and adopted 30 June 2022.

Melissa shared the following updates with the group:

- AAG meeting presenters are scheduled through to October 2022.
- Accessibility Action Plan pre-engagement survey has closed with 84% of respondents disabled, and mostly negative responses to whether WCC is meeting the needs of disabled people.
- Accessibility walks of Te Aro Park and laneways ongoing.
- Begonia House in Botanic Gardens being upgraded, survey open now.

Susan shared the following updates with the group:

- Have joined director team Disability Pride Arts Festival, happy to connect if people want to get involved.

Nick shared the following updates with the group:

- Porirua City Council doesn't have an accessibility advisory group and that it's great that WCC's AAG exists to be able to feedback to council projects.

The following updates were also shared with the group:

- Alan provided an update parking/footpath issues on Cuba Street, and that he is continuing to advocate for livestreams of firework displays. He has been involved with a recent bus stop review and workshop on accessibility features on mobile devices.
- Solmaz provided an update on a survey about experience in accessing healthcare.
- Stuart notified the group of his resignation, and received thanks from the group.
- Rachel provided an update on the implementation of Health New Zealand, and that focus on localities (currently Porirua) are underway. Councils are active partners in this.

6. AAG Members-only time.

The meeting concluded at 7:28pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 28/06/2022

Actions from this meeting:

1. AAG to send a letter to confirmed candidates and residents associations regarding accessibility of candidate events.

Actions from previous meetings:

1. Group keen to hear an update on Pōneke Promise programme in the future.
2. Te Matapihi Central Library Project team to report back with updates in August.