

## **Accessibility Advisory Group Annual Report 2016/17**

### **1. Overview**

#### **1.1 Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) structure and members**

##### **Accessibility Advisory Group membership:**

##### **Co-Chairs**

Lee Rutene (until Oct 216)

Michael Bealing (from Oct 2016 onwards)

Julia Aguilera (from Oct 2016 onwards)

##### **Members**

Tim Pate

Julia Aguilar

Lee Rutene

Tristram Ingham

Christine Richardson

Alan Royal

Christine O'Sullivan

##### **Staff Support**

Delia Nolan – Democracy Advisor

Nevada Lee Mariu – Democracy Advisor

Carline Thomas – Democracy Advisor

Crispian Franklin – Acting Advisor

Caleb Bridgeman – Senior Democracy Advisor

#### **1.2 Purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Group**

- 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.

- The AAG will not be seen as representing all views on accessibility in the City.

### **AAG meetings and topics of discussion**

The AAG had a busy year and provided feedback to Council on a wide range of areas including:

- Let's Get Wellington Moving
- AAG's structure
- The Chinese Garden
- North Kumutoto Development
- Water Supply Resilience Project
- Accessibility Action Plan
- Parking developments
- Play spaces
- Accessibility of sport and recreation facilities
- Community and Engagement
- Johnsonville Library developments
- Annual Plan
- Mobility Parking

### **1.4 Challenges**

- The high rate of turnover of supporting council staff and a lack of dedicated accessibility officers adversely affected the effectiveness and ability of AAG to improve accessibility in Wellington City.
- The Kaikoura earthquakes since November 2016 caused major damage to many Council buildings and this has caused ongoing accessibility issues and led to two AAG meetings being cancelled.