

Accessibility Advisory Group

Purpose

The Purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) is to:

- 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.

Group Composition

AAG membership has been selected to provide a considerable range and depth of accessibility expertise. All members have lived experience of disability and a variety of access needs. We do not purport to represent any particular community or the full spectrum of accessibility perspectives, however we do have a diverse mix of gender, ethnicity, age, impairments, and accessibility experiences.

AAG Members as at June 2018 – January 2019

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Nick Ruane (Co-chair Jun – Sep 2018) | Stuart Mills |
| Michael Bealing (Co-chair Jun – Sep 2018) | Erikka Helliwell |
| Tristram Ingham (New Co-chair Oct 18 -) | Rosie MacLeod |
| Alan Royal | Rachel Noble (New Co-chair Oct 18 -) |
| Solmaz Nazari Orakani | |

Council appointed members

Councillor Lee
Councillor Foster

Reporting Structure

The Accessibility Advisory Group currently reports as a single body. It has, however, recently agreed to develop portfolio groups to enable AAG members to effectively monitor a broader range of issues of interest to accessibility communities and to support the further development relationships and capabilities in those portfolio areas. The portfolio areas and group memberships have not yet been finalised,

however we anticipate reporting to those specific portfolios in subsequent time periods.

Membership and Meetings

AAG does not have any current internal or external memoranda of understanding or formal relationships. AAG regularly sends a representative to the Safe and Sustainable Transport Forum.

Member attendance has been extremely high, despite several members suffering inter-current illnesses. Overall engagement from members, including engagement between meetings and involvement in other fora, has been excellent.

AAG Attendance June-Dec 2018

| Name | No. | Percentage |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Tristram Ingham | 3 | 50% |
| Rachel Noble | 5 | 88.33% |
| Michael Bealing | 6 | 100% |
| Nick Ruane | 6 | 100% |
| Alan Royal | 6 | 100% |
| Solmaz Nazari Orakani | 6 | 100% |
| Stuart Mills | 5 | 88.33% |
| Erikka Helliwell | 6 | 100% |
| Rosie MacLeod | 5 | 88.33% |

Annual Work Programme

A formal 2018 work programme was not formally agreed and is therefore not available.

Activity

This reporting period has been heavily occupied by the in-depth discussions with Councillors and Council officers on the (re)development of the Accessibility Action Plan. In addition AAG has initiated a number of activities as part of its annual work plan, highlights included:

- GovTech Incubator Programme (Creative HQ)
- Accessibility Initiative Parking and Mobility Parks
- Accessibility Awards
- Accessibility Action Plan Development
- Disability Pride Week

Provision of Advice

AAG was able to provide advice to the following projects during this report period:

- WCC Accessibility Awards

- Transport Safety & Public Transport Development
- Cycling Programme
- Property & Facilities renewal programme
- Digital Lead Action Plan
- Te Papa Sensory Art Tour
- Election of new co-chairs
- Annual Reporting and Planning for 2019

Acknowledgements

The Accessibility Advisory Group acknowledges the leadership and commitment provided by our outgoing co-chairs Michael Bealing and Nick Ruane. Both have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advocating on behalf of all citizens with access needs in the region, and working closely with Council Officers to make significant progress on the development of an Accessible Action Plan.

Aspirations and challenges for the year ahead

The AAG is committed to supporting the Council to be a national leader in accessibility. We look forward to the results of the review of the advisory groups to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of these important groups. Meanwhile, we have proposed a bold forward work programme for the coming year that, with appropriate support and buy-in from WCC, will see a greater level of engagement and progress on accessibility issues in partnership with AAG. We remain committed to being of service to officers and individual business units who need our input to their various projects and initiatives, but we

There are a number of initiatives at international, national and local levels that provide exciting opportunities for us to collectively provide strategic influence in the next twelve months to leverage accessibility improvements for our population, some of which include:

- The Second Examination of New Zealand under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability (UNCRPD)
- The commitment by government to explore national accessibility legislation
- The renewal of the Disability Action Plan 2019-2022 (by Office for Disability Issues)
- The opportunity for WCC to sign the Accessibility Charter (led by the Ministry of Social Development - currently signed by all central Government Departments)
- Modernisation of local election processes (removing barriers to equity in voter participation, particularly for people with accessibility needs)
- The Reform of the Local Government Regulatory Systems Amendment Bill (will provide an opportunity to ensure council documents are accessible by requiring accessible formats through rules created by the Secretary of Local Government)
- The WCC 'Planning for Growth' Programme (to accommodate up to 30,000 new residents over the next 30 years)
- The WCC 'Let's Get Wellington Moving' (LGWM) Transport Plan

- The WCC Earthquake strengthening projects of the Michael Fowler Centre, Town Hall, City Council Offices and Central Library
- Appointment of AAG Co-chair as new Director of Disability Responsiveness at Capital & Coast DHB