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**REPORT 3**  
(1215/52/IM)

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To report on the work and the achievements of the Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) in 2011. The AAG's Annual Report for 2011 is attached as Appendix 1.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The AAG has written its own Annual Report for 2011, which is attached as Appendix 1.

The AAG state that that 2011 was a busy year in terms of its input into the Council's work. Their activities for the year are listed in the report.

Looking forward to 2012, the AAG are delighted that the Wellington City Council is planning to adopt the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note the work and achievements of the Accessibility Advisory Group in 2011.*
- 3. Note the issues highlighted in the report.*

### **4. Background**

The AAG is one of the most long standing Council advisory groups. It was established in 1996 to provide advice to the Council on issues that concern people with disabilities in Wellington City.

As outlined in the AAG's Terms of Reference (TOR) <sup>1</sup>, the purpose of the AAG is to provide feedback and advice on the Council's strategy and policy development, planning and service delivery across all of the Council's strategy areas from the perspective of people living with disabilities. The AAG achieve

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/meetings/comgroup/Accessibility\\_Advisory\\_Group/profile.html](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/meetings/comgroup/Accessibility_Advisory_Group/profile.html)

this by actively giving advice, feedback or formal submissions internally to Council officers and to external parties.

The TOR specify that the AAG Annual report to the Council should note work undertaken with Council staff, the group's achievements and any issues it wishes the Council to consider further.

## **5. Discussion**

The AAG's report for 2011 is attached as Appendix 1. It contains responses to the reporting requirements set out in the TOR.

The report contains an extensive list of achievements for the year and comments on the excellent relationship that exists with the Council (Councillors and Council officers). It does make a correlation between this relationship and the amount of work achieved by describing the AAG as being victims of their own success. The report also notes that there are still some areas of Council that are not familiar with the work of the AAG.

The Accessible Wellington Action Plan is seen by the AAG as a platform from which accessibility can be addressed within the Council.

The AAG has used the Annual report to highlight the ongoing issues that are experienced by people with impairments when there are street maintenance and development works. They cite the development of lower Cuba Street as an example.

### **5.1 Consultation and Engagement**

The AAG has written its own report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

### **5.2 Financial Considerations**

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the AAG's report require increased funding.

### **5.3 Climate Change Impacts and Considerations**

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the AAG's report has climate change impacts or considerations.

### **5.4 Long Term Plan Considerations**

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the AAG's report will impact on WCC's Long Term Plan.

## **6. Conclusion**

This report provides a summary of the work and activities of the AAG in 2011.

Contact Officer: *Lisa Matthews, Senior Advisor, Consultation and Engagement*

## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This activity fits with the outcomes for the Governance Strategy.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*The Accessibility Advisory Group is managed within existing budgets.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications from this report.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This report does not require a significant decision.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*No general consultation has been undertaken for this report.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*No consultation with Maori has been undertaken for this report.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*There are no legal implications from this report.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*The activities of the Accessibility Advisory Group are consistent with existing policy and support ongoing policy development.*



## Accessibility Advisory Group Report 2011

### Overall assessment of 2011

The last year has been a very busy one for the Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG). As you can see by the number of submissions and projects we were consulted on, our work load is rising and we are victims of our own success. This reflects the mutual respect that has developed between Councillors, council officers and AAG members.

There are still areas of the Council and Council Controlled Organisations that we are struggling to get early engagement with, but in general this relationship has developed into a stronger one.

This has been supported by the Consultation and Engagement unit who have been encouraging council officers to consult and engage the AAG at the earliest possible opportunity.

### Looking forward to 2012

The AAG is delighted that the Accessible Wellington Action Plan has come to fruition and would like to acknowledge the hard work of all that have been involved. It is our hope that when it is adopted we will have a platform to continue our work to imbed accessibility in everything the Council does.

### Issues for the Council to consider

We have been frustrated by the recurring issues with street maintenance and development making areas inaccessible. The bottom of Cuba Street development was an example of repeated mistakes where numerous issues were raised with the Wellington City Council help desk. The temporary routes should take accessibility into consideration and international standards should be adhered to for all permanent changes. We wish to raise this as a major challenge that needs to be addressed for the coming year.

### Summary

To the council officers and Councillors who our group has worked and engaged with to get to this point, thank you for your support. Finally to the AAG I think we can look back with pride on what we have achieved over the last year and the benefits this will bring to Wellingtonians of all abilities in the future. Keep up the great work and let's keep advocating for better accessibility for everyone.

### Work for the year ending 2011

Accessible Wellington Action Plan

### Submissions

Draft Annual Plan (including oral submission)

Arts and Culture Strategy (including oral submission)

# APPENDIX 1

Cable Car Upgrade  
Digital Strategy  
GWRC Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2012 (including oral submission) Hutt  
Corridor Plan (including oral submission)  
Town Belt Plan  
Wellington 2040 strategy

## **Advice/Feedback/Early engagement**

ASB Sports Centre  
Council roading design and kerb/crossings  
GWRC Wellington City Bus Review  
Accessibility and the Rugby World Cup  
Khandallah temporary road closure  
Kilbirnie Town Centre Upgrades  
Lower Cuba shared space  
Miramar Upgrade Planning  
Newlands McMillan Court project  
NZTA Basin Flyover  
Shopping Centre Upgrade  
Temporary Access & Enforcement  
The GRAND additional seating consent application  
Older Persons Strategy  
S112 & 118 of the NZBA and how council implements jurisdiction.  
Wellington Public Transport Spine Study  
Arts Access Aotearoa workshops

## **Articles**

Restaurant Association Article about accessibility and hospitality

## **Membership**

Safe and Sustainable Transport Advisory Group  
Greater Regional Council Accessibility Reference Group

## **Members**

Kendall Akhurst  
Thomas Bryan – Chair (left at end of second term December 2011)  
Rosemary Cole  
Linda Hobman  
Isobel King (resigned March 2011)  
Lachlan MacKay (appointed August 2011)  
Alan Royal  
Jason Strawbridge  
Angela Vanderpoel  
Lisette Wesseling (resigned December 2011)