

Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Committee Room 1, WCC Building, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington

Tuesday 28 November 2017, 5:30pm – 7.30

Chair Michael Bealing

Members present Tim Pate, Allan Royal, Tristram Ingham,

Staff present Caleb Bridgeman Senior Democracy Advisor
Alice Bates, Policy Advisor
Anna Harley, Design and Delivery Manager.

Also present – Brett North (WCC Staff member observing).

1. Opening, Apologies and Minutes

5.30pm

Apologies from Stuart Mills, Nick Ruane, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, and Barbara McKerrow (ELT member)

The group noted their apologies.

Minutes from October 2017 meeting:

The group wished to consider the minutes before noting them.

2. Alice Bates, Accessibility Action Plan

5.45pm

Alice had sent material to the group for consideration: including: Purpose / Summary of the plan + appendix A, and B

Feedback:

- Don't need an app to inform you that the curb cuttings are often not fit for PWD.
- Doesn't appear to be high level buy in to make actual change.
- Need an actual budget.
- Website: would like to see strategic context that ties this to the LTP.

- Christchurch City Council is a good example of where this has been done well.
- A side by side table could be useful to compare the last plan with this new plan.
- Interested about the reference to “Demand Forecasting”. AAG’s feedback is that it does not appear that the Council is doing that – or at least, it isn’t obvious that the Council is doing that.
- It would be worthwhile recommending a finding because the previous plan didn’t appear to be effective because: no accountability / no timeframes / It appeared that some managers did not know the plan existed.
- Appears to be a disconnect between demand and what the council will actually do. E.g statistics show 1 in 4 people live with a disability. But there is only a 5% allocation for housing.
- It should be clear to staff that the information itself also needs to be accessible.
- Learning and cognitive disabilities must also be considered. There is a wide spectrum of disabilities.

Action Point: Alice is working on this now. She may send out her thoughts again after she has considered the feedback above. Alice may need to come back to speak to the group again. Possibly at the January meeting.

3. Anna Harley, Our City Tomorrow

6.00pm

Anna presented to the group on “Our City Tomorrow”.

Feedback:

- How will accessibility be worked into the vision? It appears to the AAG that this would be a significant issue with the size of the expansion.
 - Clearly there would be accessibility / disability issues if there is an earthquake.
- Auckland Council has produced a guide on how to approach accessibility and the guide does look good. That might be worthwhile looking at. There is an aspect of a “Universal Design”. Michael could send the link to it if required.
- The group is concerned about whether this project will be able to / or will struggle to fit in accessible design.

- Does the project have an idea of what “Universal Design” might mean for this project.
- AAG recommend that Council consider accessibility at the very beginning of a project. And it could be an on-going consideration and could include getting both technical advice as well as advice from the AAG.

Action Point: Anna may speak to the group again, possibly in January, to follow up.

4. General Business

7.00pm

- The group discussed how to best use the time available for meetings.
- Want to continue to encourage Council officers to send information that they want advice / feedback on to the AAG as early as possible. This will mean that a presentation is not necessary, and the group can go straight to providing advice / feedback.
- Wellington Fireworks – Alan explained that PWD are often not able to experience the event.
- Malvina Major – This is an example of an intersection design that isn't PWD friendly. A visitor to the address had found it very difficult to cross the road there in a wheelchair.
 - This is an issue that was raised in the previous meeting RE transport. The council have several curb cuttings, and intersections that do not appear to comply with NZ disability design standards. The AAG would again like to bring this to the Council's attention.

Meeting closed 7.30pm