

MINUTES of ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 28 July 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Tim Pate, Julia Aguilar, Michael Bealing, Christine O'Sullivan, Tristram Ingham, Lee Rutene

Councillors: Cr David Lee; Cr Andy Foster

Officers: Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer), Helen Walker (Policy & Reporting); Moana Mackey (Policy & Reporting)

Apologies: Christine Richardson.

2. Welcome from the Chair

Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Social Strategy

Moana Mackey discussed the development of the Social Strategy. She emphasised that it is in the early stages of development. To date, research has been carried out both internationally and nationally. Other councils have been contacted and information shared. The Accessibility Advisory Group is a critical stakeholder. General conclusions are that:

- It needs to be whole of council
- Resilience is the cornerstone to the strategy – this means accessibility is pivotal
- Measurement is critical – because what is measured is what is prioritised
- Extensive early engagement is crucial to successful implementation
- Needs to be linked to central government initiatives
- Assumption that the new strategy can be implemented within existing resources
- The title Social Strategy may not be the best title.

Moana is moving to a different role and the Policy and Reporting business unit is currently recruiting a person to continue the development of the strategy. That person may not be on board until October.

Moana left the meeting.

5. Transport and Urban Design issues

Councillor Andy Foster discussed current priorities in the transport and urban design portfolios. He began by noting that the Council has seven strategic delivery points – Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental, Transport, Urban Design and Governance. A new transport strategy was adopted last month and it is intended

there are new strategies in all areas. He noted that urban design and transport were interdependent and that the Council was neither pro or anti car but rather was looking for the best urban design and transport solutions.

Transport – key areas of work include:

- the work being done with NZTA on RONS (roads of national significance) which include the Basin Reserve, tunnels and the Petone – Grenada connection
- road safety – in particular speed limits in suburban centres
- public transport – bus rapid transit (or bus priority). Greater Wellington is looking at routes; tendering; new vehicles and integrated ticketing.
- Cycling – aiming for a transformational change
- Walking - aim for the CBD and outer areas to be walkable. Journey to school is important. Council has agreed to fund walking initiatives \$200k. Living Streets have highlighted hot spots like the walk from the railway station to the CBD.

Built environment is critical. The inner city has had extraordinary growth between 2001 and 2013. The city grew 13%, the region grew 7% while Te Aro grew 143% and CBD 93%. It is important to keep the CBD liveable and attractive. We also must look at getting medium density housing in suburban areas and supporting ageing in place.

Michael outlined AAG position that consistency is critical, that the council templates should include sections on accessibility and advocacy for NZ Design Standard 4121.

Examples include consistency with traffic lights and bus services.

Audits are a great idea and the AAG can be involved. Julia was opposed to the idea of blindfolding sighted people and prefers that sighted people are escorted on a walk with a dog user and a cane user to benefit from their lived experiences. There was support for using wheel chairs for people to experience that transport in the city. There are issues with a lack of taxis able to take wheel chairs and clients being left with no transport.

Andy would be keen to have a conversation off line about demand and provision of vans with lifts.

Discussion around how walkable sometimes excludes disabled and there needs to be access to community spaces.

Discussion around parking: the parking policy to be reviewed; the technology available to monitor mobility parking usage (and abuse); the need for a city plan for mobility parking.

Discussion around buses and cycle lanes.

Cr Foster said he would be keen to have further discussions with the group. Cr Foster left the meeting.

6. Policy Forward Programme

This discussion was deferred. Helen to reload the forward programme on DropBox and invite Gunther Wild to the next meeting to discuss the forward programme.

8. Accessibility update

Jenny Rains to attend the next meeting.

9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Michael moved that the draft minutes be accepted as true and correct with minor corrections. Tristram seconded the motion and it was passed.

A representative from the Westpac Stadium was unable to attend the meeting to discuss access. Lee will organise a meeting with Westpac.

10. Project reports

No reports were made.

11. Other business

Membership update

Helen is to progress recruitment of two new members.

Social media

Helen will invite a member of the Comms Team to come to the next meeting to discuss social media.

AAG chair

Michael advised that other commitments meant he may be unable to chair meetings from October.

Actions

Action points from 28 July	Person	Status
Recruitment	Helen	
Arrange a meeting with Westpac Stadium and David, Michael and Lee to discuss mobility parking	Lee	

Action points from 30 June	Person	Status
Develop an AAG communications strategy before thinking about whether and how to run a social media site.	Tim, Julia, Christine, Michael	Comms person to attend next meeting

Action points from 26 May	Person	Status
Contact the Chair of the TAG to discuss how the TAG is incorporating NZS4121 into its work and to discuss how the TAG minutes could be made more useful for the AAG	Michael	