

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 25 August 2020

Time: 5:34pm – 7:36pm

Venue: Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson

Rachel Noble

Tristram Ingham

Members

Amy Evanson

Erikka Helliwell

Rosie Macleod

Stuart Mills

Solmaz Nazari Orakani

Alan Royal

Nick Ruane

Elected Members

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

Moana Mackey – Acting Chief Planning Officer

Matt Lane – Digital Services Manager

Jane Hadaway – Team Leader Website Product Management

Hedi Mueller – Democracy Advisor

Paula Tesoriero MNZM – Disability Rights Commissioner, Human Rights Commission

Callum McMenamin – member of the public

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:34pm

1.1 Welcome and Karakia

Councillor Matthews said the karakia and Tristram welcomed the group with introductions around the table.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for lateness were received from Erikka and Rachel.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 28 July 2020

That the minutes of 28 July 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Alan Royal, seconded by Nick Ruane

Carried

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 WCC Website Redesign

5:41pm

Facilitated by Matt Lane and Jane Hadaway

Matt and Jane presented on the redesign of Wellington.govt.nz. This included background on why the redesign was needed, and the strategy and concept for it. The presenters showed previous designs of the website and what the new design will look like, and features of the website that are better designed for accessibility needs.

Members discussed:

- Compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 (WCAG) - not many websites are fully compliant with WCAG, but there is a continuous cycle of reviewing and making improvements which is better than meeting the standards at

one point in time. Testing has included actual humans as different testing tools give different responses.

- User testing with people with impairments has occurred, particularly focused on visual and cognitive impairments. More testing may occur after the launch to check that it's accessible as possible for people with other impairments, such as motor impairments.
- Three aspects of the project: the Website redesign, update of information architecture and the creation of the Digital Style Guide (DSG). The main focus is getting the website done and then reverse engineering it for the DSG. The website team are working closely with Jason Kiss on this.
- Use of alternate formats such as word documents, Easy Read formats or videos in New Zealand Sign Language - documents such as Annual Plans are available in accessible formats.
- That the redesign doesn't reinvent the content for the website, but it changes the visual presentation layer.

2.2 Paula Tesoriero – Disability Rights Commissioner 5:35pm

Paula thanked the group for their work and discussed local governments around the country working with Advisory Groups, and challenges that were faced during COVID-19. Paula would encourage councils to think about access to food, access to transport and access to information as specific issues that were not well met for the disabled community over lockdown, with the hope to do better next time.

Paula suggested that this time could be used as an opportunity to think about building cities in the future, and that shovel ready projects are way to rebuild cities. Paula would urge local governments to think about data collection during peace time which can inform service provision and the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people.

The *Making Disability Rights Real* report has just been published by the Independent Monitoring Mechanism, about the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is available on the Ombudsman website.

Paula discussed employment post lockdown and the current economic climate, as well as how she could support disability leadership through local government in NZ. Paula would like to see advisory group members being remunerated in a way that showed partnership and for projects to be co-designed rather than consulted upon.

Members discussed:

- Resilience can't be built in during the crisis; it has to happen in peace time.
- A nationwide advisory group conference, alongside the LGNZ Conference, and a network of advisory groups.
- Doing more work regionally with the eight territorial authorities in the greater region.
- Senior Accessibility Advisor role going out to market shortly.
- AAG speaking at more Council and Committee meetings
- Strong support from a range of councillors with Cr Matthews at the forefront.
- Looking for easy wins – connecting with Minister of Local Government or other Ministers with infrastructure portfolios. Following the money as spending increases to boost the economy.
- Risk of disabled people being stigmatised or verbally abused for not wearing masks on public transport, even if holding an exemption.
- WCC has a role in determining civic culture – linked to disability attitudes and ableism.
- Since lockdown, more people have a wider appreciation about issues disabled people face and have realised that disabled people have been missing out for decades.

Actions:

- Briefing to Minister for Disability Issues to incorporate points from the Accessible Action Plan – Amy to lead, Erikka, Nick and Rachel to contribute.
- Hedi and Moana to discuss resource and collating information, whether it goes to council and if appropriate for WCC staff to contribute.

3. General Business

3.1 Councillor Updates

6:25pm

Cr Matthews discussed the following:

- More detailed work around mobility parking with Regulatory Processes Committee, good feedback from CCS Disability Action.
- Parking policy finalised, with amendment passed to account for households with more than one mobility permit.
- Met with Prudence from Disable Persons Assembly to discuss housing.
- Planning for Growth Joint Workshop, opportunity to have input on the Spatial Plan
- Greater Wellington Regional Council's Bus Network Review
- Post-lockdown grants and for more focus to be put towards disability organisations

Actions:

- Cr Matthews to follow up about grant application forms being in an accessible format.
- AAG to encourage activities that might lead groups/individuals being nominated for a Wellington Accessibility Award.

3.2 Member Updates

6:35pm

- Nick: Workbridge have launched Policy That Works document, which has been well received. Nick sees a need for the

disabled community to partner with Kainga Ora, as he has seen how disruptive changes in social housing can be.

- Rachel: CCDHB have a commissioned report which highlights link between transport and health, and invites an AAG member to be part of co-design group.

Moved Tristram Ingham, seconded Nick Ruane:

That Solmaz Nazari Orakani be nominated to take part in this on behalf of AAG. **Carried**

- Alan: My Health Passport has launched, online version still to come.
- Amy: Planning for Growth Joint Advisory Group Workshop on 19th August was a good experience, other Advisory Groups picked up on accessibility issues and were supportive of AAG members.
- Tristram: Thanked the group as this was his last meeting, having resigned due to work commitments. Glad to see more and more traction and support behind the disabled community. Group members and attendees thanked Tristram for his work and leadership.
- Rosie: discussed the difficulty in being able to explain a situation fully to someone that it outside of the situation.

4. Member only time

6:45pm

Co-Chair Election

As there were two valid nominations for the two available positions, voting was not necessary. Rachel Noble and Nick Ruane were duly elected as two Co-Chairs of the AAG.

Moved Tristram Ingham, seconded Stuart Mills:

That the AAG endorse the results of the Co-Chair election. **Carried**

The co-chairs addressed the group. Nick thanked the group for their work and discussed what he is looking forward to as co-chair, and in imbedding accessibility into WCC's operations. Rachel acknowledged working with Tristram and the benefits of the co-chair model, and setting the priorities of the AAG and achieving goals.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:36.

The next AAG meeting will be held on 29 September 2020 at 5.30pm.