

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 22 March 2022

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

Purpose

- 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.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities. It is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes.

Attendance

Chairpersons:	Nick Ruane
Members:	Alan Royal, Humphrey Hanley, Olivia Murphy, Rachel Noble, Solmaz Nazari, Stu Mills, Susan Williams
Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews, Cr Jill Day
WCC Staff:	Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Damian Storey (Democracy Advisor), Rebecca Tong and Sam McKeown (Housing Development)
Housing forum guests:	Thomas Bryan, Chris Ford, Erin Gough, Huhana Hickey, Patsy Wakefield

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:30pm

1. Apologies were received from:

- Erikka Helliwell
- Jenny Rains

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

1. **Housing Forum** *Co-hosted with Chris Ford (Acting-Kaitiaki for Wellington DPA)*

- WCC staff provided an overview of Council's actions towards achieving greater housing accessibility. They presented primarily on WCC's Te Kainga Project, and also provided updates on City Housing, as well as WCC's Environmental and Accessibility Performance Fund. Both of these will be consulted on through the Annual Plan.
- Participants shared their lived experience, and staff shared a draft floorplan of some accessible unit designs. Participants gave extensive feedback, which the team were eager to receive and thanked participants for.

Discussion topics included:

- Housing configurations must consider a variety of accessibility needs, and not a "one-size-fits-all" approach, because that simply does not work. It is critical to work with the person to ensure their needs are met. Matching tenants to a unit before completion will enable adaptation of the unit to meet their specific accessibility needs, and thus provide a suitable tenancy for the long-term. Finding those people will be a key step.
- Design requires thinking about floorplan and layout, and understanding that technology can help meet people's accessibility needs - but this relies on more electrical sockets better distributed. Emphasising the need for adaptable solutions, and the stability to adapt a home to people's specific needs, and the role of recognising people's choice (e.g. paint colour) as this can further help meet their needs. Lifemark standard housing can be more easily and cheaply modified to suit a range of needs.
- The holistic needs of access must be considered in housing, such as location of housing near to public services and parking. Housing-related services like call centres need to be equipped and trained to meet people's additional needs.
- Private market generally does not meet accessibility or cost needs. When there is no housing that meets all of a person's needs, the choice becomes between accepting a part-solution or accepting homelessness. Finding temporary accessible accommodation while waiting for more permanent accessible accommodation is

difficult. The market does not cater for those with accessible housing needs, and that also limits location. Consider having a minimum percentage of building consents for housing granted by WCC be accessible housing.

- On the public housing wait list, income can be a major factor affecting position on that list, despite the income threshold not being a good reflection of having other suitable options. Housing access tied to financial income must not stifle the career aspirations and fulfilment of people with additional accessibility considerations.

2. Updates were shared by:

- Melissa Wells: update on Accessibility Action Plan – will hopefully have the pre-engagement survey open in April, members to please let Melissa know if they are keen to help test it. Also spoke to the establishment of the Environmental and Accessibility Performance Fund, and that Melissa has sent guidelines on hosting accessible events to WCC's events manager.
- Cr Matthews: Environmental and Accessibility Performance Fund to be voted on in June with the Annual Plan, and work on the removal of library fines.
- Members' updates included: international collaboration and action, support worker shortages in Wellington, discussions around the future of interaction with central government.

5. Leadership election

- Due to the limited time remaining in the meeting, the leadership election was postponed until April.

The meeting concluded at 7:32pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 26/04/2022

Actions from this and previous meetings:

- Group keen to hear an update on Pōneke Promise programme in future.