

AIAC Meeting Minutes

Date: 20 April 2023	Time: 10am – 12pm	Venue: Level 1, City Administration Centre
<p>Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance in the application of planning instruments that prioritise access, social inclusion and overcoming discriminatory impediments to promote a highly accessible, inclusive and welcoming community that respects independence and human dignity.</p>		

1. Welcome

Committee Members Present

Cr Margaret Wood	Councillor, City of Newcastle (Co-Chair)
Cr Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk	Councillor, City of Newcastle
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor, City of Newcastle
Patrick Bellamy	Clear Sky
Chad Ramage	Accessibility in the City
Sandra Irons	Community Representative
Lindsay Gardner	Community Representative
Stewart MacLennan	Community Representative
Ben Moxey	Community Representative
Lynn Duffy	Acting Executive Director, Creative & Community Services (Facilitator)
Petria Jukes	Community Planning & Development Manager, CN
Stephen Warham	Community Development Facilitator, CN (Committee Advisor)
Tanya Marmara	Senior Administration Officer, CN (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle
Andrew Vodic	CDAH (Co-Chair)
Julie Baird	Director Museum Archive Libraries and Learning

Guests:

Donna McGovern	Acting executive Manager Community & Recreation
Michelle Bisson	Interim Executive Director Planning & Environment
Jacqueline Hicks	Senior Transport Strategist

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

An acknowledgement of Country was delivered by Lynn Duffy.

1.2 Apologies

Cr Nuatali Nelmes
Andrew Vodic
Julie Baird

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of interest

2. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the AIAC meeting held on 20 February 2022 were confirmed as true and accurate recording of the meeting. Committee members accepted the minutes.

3. Draft Inland Pool Strategy 2043

Donna McGovern presented. The Draft Inland Pool Strategy 2043 is currently out for community consultation.

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It was discussed that currently City of Newcastle has five seasonal inland swimming centres, none of these facilities are open year-round and across the five swimming centres there is a lack of accessibility.

Cr Wood raised the issue to retrofit accessible features to existing structures. With the age of the pools, it was queried whether a mobile hoist for access is the only option? Donna advised that once the strategy is adopted, the approach will be to commence a detailed analysis for access options such as platforms and hoist chairs into the pool and an accessible change room at Wallsend Swimming Centre.

The committee queried how work at Hunter Park will affect this strategy if it goes ahead. Donna advised that the draft strategy is a plan for protecting and improving all five of Newcastle's public pools for the next 20 years and in the strategy, it considers an option for either scenario (i.e. Hunter Park going ahead or not).

Stuart had deeper questions regarding wheelchair users and would need to see a detailed design before he could give valuable feedback. It was reaffirmed that this detailed design will roll out in a stages order once strategy is adopted.

Cr Wood commented that there would be a need in the capital budget for improvements to accessibility and should be a priority.

2. Update CN Pedestrian Plan

Michelle and Jackie presented the Pedestrian Plan which compliments existing CN strategies, the Cycling and Parking plans.

Regarding the name, they have received a recommendation from industry and community partners as the 'Walking and Mobility Plan' which is considered to encompass all users in the community. This title was put to the committee for discussion.

Lindsay questioned whether this would be connected to the Wickham Master Plan. Michelle clarified that the Wickham Master Plan is a much higher level of design detail, however this strategy articulates the broad strategic direction for the whole local government area.

Cr Adamczyk would like to move away from Walking and Mobility as she feels it adds positive discrimination with walking being the norm.

Jackie asked the committee to prioritise pedestrians without leaving groups out. Cr Wark commented that we use mobility in health and we don't feel any discrimination – it encompasses everything.

Chad liked the accessible pathways option, as it will have 'on the path' written after it anyway and believes this fills the gaps. Jackie responded that any walking plan would include accessibility aspects, and this is only the name, if it was accessible pathways this would only be covering one aspect of the plan.

Cr Adamczyk advised it's important to get the name right.

Ben advised that it shouldn't even need accessible in the title that it should just be accessible without needed to call it out as that. Michelle agreed.

Stewart suggested remove the 'and' and just call it walking mobility plan.

Action: Michelle Bisson will send out a poll to committee members to suggest names through Cr Wood.

3. Bindi Maps Promotion / opportunities for improvement

The committee were advised that Julie was a late apology to the meeting, however it was confirmed that Petria and Julie had discussed elements of Bindi Maps and Petria was to report. Petria discussed that Bindi maps were now in a number of CN venues and live to access by the community. Some of the barriers have been communicated, such as managing the technology around new/changing exhibitions. Wallsend Library will go live with Bindi Maps in the short term.

Stewart presented his principal findings:

- Has not found any staff that have downloaded the app themselves.
- Only civic theatre had brochures – no other locations and he was advised he was the first person to ask.
- When you first open the app it's a white screen
- The settings page is very hard to understand what the settings are and how to change them.
- Lift calling could possibly be removed as it is only for 1 location, and it doesn't work.
- Doesn't give any detailed information at the museum other than the room name even for permanent exhibits.
- Doesn't mention there is a wheelchair toilet in Civic.

Ben advised he was involved in Bindi Maps at the start of the process and he was able to go in and roughly find his way around. An example was that he was able to find a JB Hi-Fi in an unknown shopping centre. It isn't just to advise people using the app of what's in the museum this app can be used for everyone.

Cr wood advised we should treat Bindi Maps as a universal design.

Petria questioned if there was examples of audio description of exhibitions embedded in to which Ben responded he didn't believe so, Bindi Maps would need to grant access to update frequently.

Action: Petria to follow up with Bindi Maps and to stay on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. 2022 AIAC Governance Report

Governance report was handed to committee members. This report will be ratified by the elected Council at the April 2023 Council meeting.

5. General Business

5.1 Update Emergency Preparedness Forum

Stephen discussed actions we can take to support needs of emergency management. There was a report written (as part of a larger piece of research) with observations and comments people have made which Stephen will distribute to the committee.

Cr Wood stated that individuals are going to depend on family, care workers or services to complete and there is a missing link when there is an emergency and what they rely on isn't there.

Cr Adamczyk was at the original presentation and appreciated being there and able to see everything.

5.2 CRG attendance

2 new ref groups are being formed.

- Ocean Baths
- Bathers Way

Cr Wood encourages committee to nominate if they users or likely to be users by sending an email to Cr Wood and including Petria in the email. Nominations will go to managers of the ref groups.

5.3 Other Matters

Stewart raised discussion about apps to support journey planning and accessible venues. He suggested it would be good to have an app developed that CN can endorse.

Cr Wood questioned if Stewart was thinking about a customer review kind of app? Stewart advised it would need to have an expert review not as simple as a consumer review. Like the Wheel easy app.

Cr Wood asked Chad, as he has developed an app, even though it's different from this could he provide some information.

Chad explained that there are different ways data can be given to app developers and every organisation has differed ways of managing data such as asset and public domain data. Chad has worked with businesses to host and promote their own data. In the past, Ability Links / St Vincent De Paul did large audit and data project to help people with disability journey plan. There would be more things to look into like how do we hold and share data between organisations. Covid stopped a lot of companies using this and people were unable to map data.

Cr Wood asked if there were any state or federal initiatives in this space. Chad thought there was a state initiative however he isn't too sure.

Cr Adamczyk asked if working with businesses will this tie in with what Petria is doing. Petria advised DIAP requires business to upskill in general, but there is no specific approach on data sharing.

Forward Agenda

No items noted.

Meeting closed: 11:59am

			Diversity and Equity Strategy 2022-2026	
7 July 2022	Advisory Committee Membership Documents	Working with Children forms required. Volunteer registration forms to be completed.		In Progress with SW (Updated 12/08/22)
7 July 2022	Briefing of Chair by Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator	How employment data is captured and reported at CN. Discussion about proposed survey to be co-designed with A&IAC.		People & Culture rep confirmed to attend and present on CN ID&E strategy (Updated 12/08/22)
15 September 2022	Emergency Evacuation Procedure	Circulate the procedure to the committee members prior to the next meeting.	Committee meetings will now take place on the ground floor of 12 Stewart Avenue. An update will be provided at the November meeting.	Complete
15 September 2022	Co-design principles – Terms of Reference	Petria to advise when the process was established in 2018 and who created it and was consulted with.		
15 September 2022	Co-design principles – Terms of Reference	Workshopping the AIAC objective. The committee to develop a clearer understanding of the Terms of Reference. To understand where the committee sits to better enable to committee to support change of processes, or providing advice and guidance.	Terms of Reference to be listed as an item for discussion at the first meeting of 2023.	
15 September 2022	Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2026	Committee members expressed a strong view that the Strategy was included in the November meeting agenda. Whether the consultation process with the committee can be re-addressed and further	Committee members invited to provide feedback by 20 September. The Strategy has been approved and will not be coming back to the Committee.	Complete

Access Inclusion Advisory Committee



		time allowed for discussion.		
15 September 2022	Andrew Vodic	Andrew indicated share with the committee the 'ladder of community engagement' he uses in his work.		
15 September 2022		AIAC slides and presentations to be accessible (e.g. to vision-impaired members).	Cr Wood circulated Vision Australia guidelines for inclusive presentations. All presenters to receive these guidelines. CN Learning & Development team have also confirmed they will include these guidelines in future staff training.	Complete