



Report 07.433  
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
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Committee

## **Proposal to establish a Greater Wellington Disability Reference Group**

### **1. Purpose**

To raise the possible establishment of a Greater Wellington Disability Reference Group.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

In April this year Cr McDavitt presented the transport aspects of our Proposed Annual Plan to a public meeting held at Wellington City Council. One key matter raised at that meeting was the extent to which Greater Wellington was planning for the needs of the disabled community. A specific example was whether any real time public transport information system established would provide access for visually impaired persons.

Following the meeting I had discussions with the community members who raised the issues and undertook to meet with them at a later date to advance the discussions. This latter meeting took place in early May and was attended by myself and council officers from transport and parks. We met with the co-chairs of the Wellington Disability Reference Group and a Wellington City Council advisor.

### **4. Relevance to Greater Wellington activities**

At our May meeting we identified five areas where Greater Wellington activities had direct relevance to the disabled community. These were:

1. Regional parks

2. Transport – both public transport and strategic planning and policy
3. Regional components of urban design and the Regional Policy Statement
4. Consultation and engagement with the community
5. Access to Greater Wellington buildings

## **5. Disability Reference Group**

We discussed options for establishing a mechanism for input from the disabled community that would be region-wide, cover the range of disabilities, and cover all aspects of council activity.

Hutt Valley, Wellington and Porirua have existing disability reference groups. The Wellington Group co-chairs agreed to consider how a group might be formed on a region-wide basis. For example, should it be a stand-alone group or comprise representatives of existing local groups?

**Attachment 1** is the proposal that has been prepared as a result of the consideration of the Wellington group. It recommends the establishment of a Greater Wellington Disability Reference Group with members appointed from local networks that are currently in place. In addition, the proposal recommends the establishment of a Disability Advisor position within Greater Wellington.

## **6. Further consideration**

The establishment of a Greater Wellington Disability Reference Group would provide a number of benefits for the Council. In the public transport area it would provide a basis for discussion on accessibility issues relating to rolling stock and infrastructure. However, such a group would need to be engaged across a whole suite of council activities.

Given the potential impacts of how the Council operates plus potential resourcing requirements, I recommend that the matter be referred to the Chief Executive for further consideration and reporting back to the Council.

The attached proposal is only a starting point for this consideration. For example, it proposes a link with the Disability communities in Porirua and the Hutt Valley, but does not mention Kapiti or the Wairarapa. I am sure that Council would want to be assured that any proposal would encompass the full Greater Wellington region.

## **7. Communication**

The Wellington Disability Reference Group will be sent a copy of this report and the resolutions of the Committee.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee recommends that Council ask the Chief Executive to consider the establishment of a Greater Wellington Disability Reference Group and to report back to the Council.*

Report prepared by:

**Peter Glensor**  
Chair, Passenger Transport  
Committee

**Attachment 1: Proposal from WCC to establish a collaborative and consultative Advisory Group to the Greater Wellington Regional Council**