

# Meeting Minutes 17 March 2021

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Time: 4.00pm – 6:05pm

Venue: Newcastle Room, City Hall

## 1. Welcome

Attendance:

Eliot Shaw (Co-Chair)

Brett Smith (Director Strategy and Engagement)

Ashlee Abbott (Manager Corporate and Community Planning) Kirsty Russell

Margaret Wood

Nathan Burford

Tracey Walker

Steve Warham (Community Development Facilitator)

Lisa Davis (Social Planner)

## 2. Apologies:

Chris Leishman

Joseph Popov

Cr Andrea Rufo

Cr Matthew Byrne

Cr Carol Duncan

Petria Jukes (Manager Community Planning and Development)

## 3. Acknowledgment of Country

SW delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

## 4. Declarations of Interest

ES noted that he has attended Newcastle Aikido and that they are recipients of a Count Us In grant but he has no interest/ownership in the business and precluded himself from consideration of their grant application whilst being a part of the Count Us In grant EOI process. Noted. (Also noted during the grant assessment process)

## 5. Meeting Structure

The first hour of the meeting was designated as a chat session and an opportunity for the committee to be interviewed as part of Count Us In Newcastle promotion.

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Thanks to those that agreed (with very little notice) to take part.

### **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were endorsed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by ES and seconded by NB.

### **6. Business Arising**

6.1 Noted that Petria Jukes is on maternity leave, Simon Massey will be Acting Manager Community Planning and Development Manager.

6.2 SW provided an overview of the delivery of the Count Us In Newcastle program at the two weeks in stage.

- The initial event at the Visitor Information Centre included Challenge Community Services, Awabakal Disability Services Program, Visitor Information Staff and others including getting the Lord Mayor involved in Zumba sessions led by people with disabilities.
- Good pick up of Count Us In by the media including ABC radio, NBN News and Newcastle Weekly.
- Mixed level of take up in events and activities, with some events being poorly supported and others getting good attendance/engagement. Lead in time acknowledged as too short and program promotion too short.
- Good buy in from internal staff for some disability awareness training and also training on how to host inclusive on line events and inclusive design workshops. Exploring disability rights workshops, a flop.
- Business community offered participation in workshops for staff and owners however poor take up.
- Forty events throughout the month, comments made need a simplified version of the program to make it easier to share.

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- 17 submissions received for Count Us In EOI, 16 approved, 1 non eligible.
- \$18,719 currently committed to EOI projects, expect to be slightly higher.

### 6.3 Term of the Committee/Feedback

Term of the committee ends with Councillor term, in the first week of September.

Whilst there has been a vacancy on the committee since Norm MacPherson resigned, AA determined not to fill this position as a new EOI will need to be established for the next term of Council. Some initial preparation work to assist facilitate the new committee may take place in August/September but committee cannot be formulated until the new Council is in place.

There is nothing in the current committee terms of reference that precludes current committee members from re-applying, further information to come.

ES suggested that 3 Councillor members and 3 organisational representatives is appropriate but would suggest more positions be on the committee for people with lived experience, a minimum of 5 is preferred.

NB said that lived experience of disability should be highly regarded in the assessment process for all member categories.

MW and KR said that Councillor attendance is paramount and that there has not been enough buy in from Councillors attending, happy to have less Councillors allocated as long as they do attend. Like to see more Senior Leadership attending as well.

It was clarified that Council will determine how Councillors are allocated to the Advisory Committee's and also how they will operate, so the committee's opinion is valued but the decision making around this remains with the elected members. Feedback from the experience on the committee is very welcomed and can be sent to SW for collation.

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Please outline your thoughts on how often and when the committee should meet. With Councillors often also having full time jobs, daytime meetings can be difficult for the Councillors to attend.

It was commented that having a longer term of meeting dates established would be helpful. Understanding the DIAP is also noted as important for the committee and suggest that this continues with the new committee when established.

Suggested that there is a launch event created for the new DIAP to promote broader awareness and buy in.

There is some interest in knowing what other Councils are doing via their DIAP, committee and meeting structure. SW said that Community Planning and Development Team are members of a Hunter Councils' Officer network and we do discuss various aspects related to DIAP, Ageing, Safety, Youth, Homelessness strategy etc, meeting on a 2-monthly basis.

### **7. Update on DIAP Preparation**

SW indicated that the development of the DIAP in an overall sense has been delayed by COVID 19 and limiting some consultation. DIAP due to be adopted by end of 20/21 FY to meet requirements.

Some internal consultation still be held to better engage internal stakeholders and help assist develop more informed and realistic actions for the draft DIAP. Lisa Davis, Social Planner, CN is also assisting with the demographic information for the plan and drawing on the research we contracted from Demographer Jan Fallding.

MW interested in seeing draft prior to public exhibition if possible to provide input. SW to check with AA re this, but obviously the public exhibition stage will provide 42 days for submissions. Shall see if we can provide a briefing prior to exhibition period. It must go to Council for approval to go on exhibition. SW reinforced slide below.

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# Emerging Actions

-  Continue What we are doing well - keep going (not included as actions but may be reflected in the plan narrative)
-  Amplify -What we are doing - but not telling the story
-  Improve - A business improvement approach is necessary to change the way we do something to get a better A&I outcome
-  Initiate - commence a new initiative

NB and TW interested in the demographics and what it tells us about disability in Newcastle. Suggested and carried that a session for the committee on the demographics would be welcome, even if just virtual. SW to follow up.

### **General Business**

No General Business was raised.

**Meeting Closed 6:05pm**