

ITEM 9 DRAFT DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2020

The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2016 - 2020 provides a strategic framework to guide Council in meeting its responsibilities with regard to people with disability and the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014. The draft DIAP details the strategies and actions, which will be put in place to support people to fully participate in community life and access Council facilities and services. The draft DIAP is supported by a detailed Implementation Plan.

The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 was placed on public exhibition for the period 6 April to 6 May 2016. Feedback has been considered with no amendments required to the draft DIAP.

This report seeks adoption of the final draft of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 and for the draft Implementation Plan to be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 for implementation from 1 July 2016 be endorsed.
- 2 Council note the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 - Implementation Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Feedback from Public Exhibition
- 2 Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020
- 3 Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 - Implementation Plan

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Kerry Hunt, Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development.

Authorised by: Greg Doyle, Director Corporate and Community Services – Creative, Engaged and Innovative City.

COMPLIANCE WITH OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON COUNCIL DECISION MAKING DURING MERGER PROPOSAL PERIODS

The recommendations in this report satisfy the requirements of the OLG Guidelines - *Council Decision Making During Merger Proposal Periods*.

BACKGROUND

The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 (DIAP) is a whole of Council Plan informed by extensive community and internal engagement which included the consultation of more than 220 people with disability and their carers, as well as staff and managers from across Council.

The draft DIAP supports Council in meeting its responsibilities with regard to people with disability and the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, and will be implemented from July 2016.

It has also been developed consistent with the NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines for Local Government and Council's Guidelines for Supporting and Informing Documents 2015.

The draft DIAP details what Council will do under the four key focus areas:

- 1 Create liveable communities
- 2 Improve access through better systems and processes
- 3 Promote positive behaviours and attitudes
- 4 Support access to meaningful employment.

The draft DIAP was placed on public exhibition for the period 6 April to 6 May 2016. Feedback has been considered with no amendments required to the draft DIAP.

The draft DIAP is supported by a detailed Implementation Plan, which has been developed in close consultation with all relevant Divisions and Responsible Officers, and the Corporate Development Officer.

Once adopted, the draft DIAP will be lodged with the Disability Council NSW, reviewed annually in consultation with people with disability, and the progress and implementation reported as part of Council's annual reporting process.

PROPOSAL

This report seeks endorsement of the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 (DIAP).

The draft DIAP is supported by the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 - 2020 - Implementation Plan (Attachment 3) which sets out the detail for the delivery of the Action Plan.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft DIAP was placed on exhibition from 6 April until 6 May 2016. Notification of the exhibition included:

- notification to Councillors and all Neighbourhood Forums
- provision of information to the Access Reference Group and key stakeholders
- information provided to Council's Customer Service Centre and Media team

- notices published in The Advertiser on 13, 20 and 27 April.
- copies of the draft DIAP and feedback forms made available through all libraries and the online engagement webpage (Have Your Say Wollongong).

Exhibition feedback is provided in Attachment 1 and includes comments which support the outcomes of the engagement process. Feedback related to accessible toilets, public transport, footpaths, the MLAK key, accessible cabins at tourist parks and a request for greater visual references within the draft DIAP. There was also a comment in relation to the lack of specific actions and allocated funding, which is addressed through the draft Implementation Plan. Neighbourhood Forum 5 also indicated support for the draft DIAP at their meeting of 4 May 2016.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 Goal 5 “We are a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2015-16
Strategy	5 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
5.1.5 The long term needs of the community, including our people and our places, are effectively planned for.	5.1.5.1 Continue to undertake social, land use and environmental planning activities that assists in service planning	Develop Disability Access Inclusion Plan

The passing of the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 has made it a Legislative requirement for Council to develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DIAP) by July 2017. The draft DIAP has been developed in accordance with the NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines – Local Government.

The draft DIAP will assist Council with its obligation under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provide a strategic framework for Council to plan for, and respond to, issues relating to disability access.

The draft DIAP has been developed in line with Council’s Guidelines for Supporting and Informing Documents 2015.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The draft DIAP will provide evidence of Council’s commitment to continue to improve access for people with disability. As part of the development of the draft DIAP a risk management approach has been implemented in accordance with Council’s Enterprise Wide Risk Management process. This risk assessment considered risks associated with the development of the draft DIAP, identified potential risks and mitigation strategies in the ongoing implementation of the draft DIAP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft DIAP Plan is primarily funded through the existing operational and capital budgets. Many of the strategies and actions in the Plan are already identified within the Forward Capital Program and do not require additional funds. The implementation of

other strategies will rely on a continuation of what we have already planned, albeit working differently, reprioritising and/or altering the timing of existing planned projects. Some strategies are however unfunded and would require a funding proposal to progress. Unfunded projects, will be considered as part of the preparation of the 2017-2021 Delivery Program and annually via the annual planning process.

A number of strategies within the Action Plan relate to audits being undertaken as the first step. Such audits would then inform a strategic and holistic approach to improvement. This work will need to be costed and funding allocated when further details are available at the completion of a detailed strategy such as a public toilet strategy.

The detailed draft Implementation Plan outlines funded actions and funding gaps.

CONCLUSION

The provision of accessible and inclusive communities is a vital part of enabling people with disability to participate in community life. The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-2020 will assist Council in meeting its obligations in relation to the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and ensure a strategic approach exists to support people with disability to participate fully in community life and access Council facilities and services.