

AGENDA



INNER WEST COUNCIL

PLANNING & HERITAGE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

DATE: 9 February 2017

TIME: 6.30pm-8.00pm

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Petersham Service Centre

INDEX

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Disclosures of Interest (any conflicts of interest need to be disclosed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct)

ITEM	PAGE
5. Draft Terms of Reference	3
6. Election of Chairperson in accordance with the Terms of Reference	
7. Inner West Council - Vision and Priorities	8
8. Disability Inclusion Action Plan	27
9. Update from Planning Staff	
10. Scheduling of meetings and venues for 2017	
11. General Business	

Meeting Close

Please note that only community members appointed by the Administrator can vote on recommendations made by the Strategic Reference Group.

Item No: Item 5
Subject: Draft Terms of Reference
Prepared by: Marcus Rowan, Manager Planning Services

SUMMARY

Community engagement and participation processes are a vital part of local democracy for Inner West Council. Reference Groups are one element in Council's overall framework for engaging and involving the community in Council decision making and activities. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) has been prepared for the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group adopt the Draft Terms of Reference.

Background

In September 2016 Council determined to establish a number of targeted interim Strategic Reference Groups as part of Council's framework for participatory local democracy, community engagement and to ensure that Council maintains close links with the community and continues to receive strategic input and focused community involvement.

The Strategic Reference Groups that have been established include:

- Young Leaders Strategic Reference Group
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group
- Social Inclusion Strategic Reference Group
- Economic Development Strategic Reference Group
- Housing and Affordability Strategic Reference Group
- Transport Strategic Reference Group
- Environment Strategic Reference Group
- Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group

Role of the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group

The purpose of the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group is to provide informed advice to Council on matters relating to sustainable and orderly land use planning. Specifically, the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group will:

- Provide input into development of Community Strategic Plan
- Contribute input to policies which impact on emerging trends, opportunities and service gaps that impact on strategic planning and heritage
- Provide feedback and input on strategies, plans and Council initiatives
- Serve as a resource for Council in relation to aspects of land use planning and heritage where relevant

All Strategic Reference Groups are time limited to December 2017, with progress to be reviewed by the Council following its election in September 2017.

Financial Implications

Nil

Conclusion

Inner West Council is committed to engaging with the diverse community including businesses of the inner west and ensuring that participation processes are a vital part of local democracy. Reference Groups are one element in Council's overall framework for engaging and involving the community in Council decision making and activities.

Attachments

1 Draft Terms of Reference - Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group

ATTACHMENT:**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE****PLANNING AND HERITAGE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

(Adopted on **[insert date]**)

1. Scope

The Strategic Reference Group will provide feedback to Council on land use planning and heritage matters which could include;

- Input into development of Community Strategic Plan;
- Input to policies which impact on local environmental plans and development control plans;
- Feedback and input on Strategies and Plans;
- Input into new and existing Council initiatives;
- Suggestions on improving consultation processes and the provision of community infrastructure to support development;
- Assisting in the development of programs to highlight the importance of heritage to the character and well-being of the community.

2. Purpose Statement

The role of the Strategic Reference Group will be to assist Council to develop its land use planning and heritage plans and policies by providing feedback on:

- policy, research and priorities relating to development and infrastructure;
- projects and programs to encourage delivery of sustainable development outcomes;
- joint opportunities with State and Federal agencies;
- implementation of policy; and
- event planning for topical development and heritage issues.

3. Link to Community Engagement Framework

Council is committed to including the community in its decision-making processes, as outlined in the Community Engagement Framework (in development). Council's SRGs are recognised in the Framework as stakeholders that will be identified in the engagement plans of relevant projects. The SRG will be asked to provide feedback or input into specific engagements and may be asked to review an engagement plan and/or provide advice on reaching members of the demographic group/s which the SRG represents. Recommendations or advice will be included in engagement reports as the opinion of the SRG as a whole. SRG members may also participate in engagement processes as individuals.

4. Meeting principles

As a member of the Strategic Reference Groups, members agree to:

- attend meetings and participate in discussions;
- adequately review any agenda attachments or documents as required prior to meetings;
- allow all members to present their views and opinions;
- suggest agenda items;
- make suggestions regarding improvements to Strategic Reference Groups;
- clearly declare any conflict of interest regarding any issue under discussion;

- maintain confidentiality where appropriate;
- treat all persons with respect and have due regard to the opinions, rights and responsibilities of others;
- act with integrity;
- not speak publicly such as to the media on behalf of Council; and
- only maintain membership to one Strategic Reference Group at any time.

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person could perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out a public duty. Strategic Reference Group members must avoid, or appropriately manage, any conflict of interest. The onus is on members taking the most appropriate action to identify and manage the conflict of interest to ensure proper probity and good governance.

The procedure to be followed for the disclosure of non-pecuniary interests is for the member to disclose to the meeting any agenda item(s) that a member has an interest in as well as the nature of that interest. The Chairperson must ensure that the minutes of the meeting record the disclosure of the interest and how it was managed.

Confidentiality

From time to time members may be provided with draft Council reports, or possibly, other confidential or draft material. Members must not release such material without the approval of the Council. Guidance on confidentiality requirements is set out in the Council's Code of Conduct.

Media

Members must not speak or purport to speak on behalf of Council on any matter, whether or not that matter is explicitly raised in the Strategic Reference Group meetings.

Insurance

Members are covered by the public liability and personal injury policies of council, whilst undertaking actions authorised by council relating to their role on the Strategic Reference Group. This insurance does not preclude the Strategic Reference Group members from due diligence and all council policies must be adhered to.

5. Meetings

Strategic Reference Group to meet 5-6 times during 2017, at a day, time and venue to be set by Strategic Reference Group Facilitator in consultation with the members. Meetings will have a duration of 2 hours, with two extensions of a further 30 minutes available, subject to agreement by all members. These meetings are by invitation only and are not a public meeting. The Strategic Reference Group has been established by the Administrator and will operate until December 2017.

6. Membership and Chairperson

6.1 Members

Members of the Strategic Reference Group are community representatives appointed by Administrator after an expression of interest process.

6.2 Chairperson

The Chairperson will be responsible for running the meetings and liaising with the Strategic Reference Group Facilitator to coordinate the agenda and minutes. The Chairperson is to be selected from the persons appointed by the Administrator as members of the Strategic Reference Group. The Chairperson may be rotated among members to share this role. If the elected Chairperson is absent from a meeting the members are to elect a Chairperson for that meeting. If a member resigns than they will be replaced in the same way as members were appointed.

6.3 Non-voting Participants

Council staff, invited speakers and Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC) members can participate in discussion of meetings but cannot move or vote on recommendations.

7. Quorum

The Quorum of the Strategic Reference Group will be 50% of appointed members plus 1, or a minimum of 6 members.

8. Strategic Reference Group Facilitator

The Strategic Reference Group Facilitator (Marcus Rowan/Gill Dawson) will be responsible for developing the Agenda, inviting speakers to attend the meetings, be present at meetings, shall draw the meetings attention to any recommendation that is contrary to Council Policy and take notes of any recommendations or actions.

9. Agenda availability

The Agenda will be circulated to members and non-voting participants one week prior to the meeting.

10. Recommendations and Voting

Members of Strategic Reference Groups are encouraged to reach consensus on any recommendations they make. However, if consensus cannot be reached each member referred to in 6.1 above is entitled to one vote. Any Recommendations of the Strategic Reference Group will be referred to the relevant Group Manager for their consideration and action. An update on the action taken in regards to recommendations made by the Strategic Reference Group will be made at the following meeting.

11. Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting will record any recommendations or actions made by the Strategic Reference Group. Minutes will be published on Council's website within 10 days of each meeting.

Item No: Item 7

Subject: Statement of Vision and Priorities

Prepared by: Marcus Rowan, Manager Planning Services

SUMMARY

At the 6 December 2016 Council meeting a draft Statement of Vision and Priorities was adopted as a first step in the development of a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the Inner West.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning & Heritage Strategic Reference Group engage with the community consultation process for the development of the Inner West Community Strategic Plan.

Background

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) requires all newly amalgamated councils to prepare a statement of vision and priorities by the end of December 2016. Please refer to Attachment 2 for a copy this draft Statement of Vision and Priorities.

The eight high level priorities include:-

1. **Planning and Development**
2. Transport
3. Social vitality and quality of life
4. Sustainability and environment
5. One Council
6. Local business and industry
7. Advocacy
8. Local democracy

The Statement of Vision and Priorities is the first step in the development of a Community Strategic Plan for the Inner West. The priorities will be further explored as part of an issues paper and community engagement program informing the CSP that will commence early in 2017.

The draft statement has been on public exhibition including on the Your Say Inner West – page on Council’s website - <http://www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au/home1> and open for community feedback until 8 February 2017.

Financial Implications

The Operational Plan and Budget 17/18 will factor in any specific programs and projects that specifically support implementation of the priorities. It should be noted that the current Operational Plan and Budget 16/17 supports many of the priorities as they remain largely

reflective of the outcomes articulated in the community strategic plans, and therefore delivery programs, of the former councils.

Conclusion

Council will commence a broad program of in-depth engagement with the community, partners and staff to develop the Inner West's first Community Strategic Plan. The first draft CSP will be prepared for the consideration of the newly elected Council by September 2017. The Statement of Vision and Priorities is a first step in the development of the CSP and will provide direction to Council in the meantime. It will also serve to inform the Operational Plan 2017/18.

Attachments

1. draft Statement of Vision and Priorities

ATTACHMENT:

INNER WEST COUNCIL

Statement of Vision and Priorities Engagement Report

November 2016



Overview

Inner West Council engaged broadly during September-November 2016 in the creation of a vision and priorities for the new council.

The community and staff were asked for their vision of the "best inner west" five years into the future, and what they thought the key priority areas should be for Council over the next 12-18 months. Respondents to a phone survey were asked what the key challenges were for the Inner West. Over 1700 people participated across a range of face-to-face and online methods.

Engagement program

Engagement was undertaken from 05/09/16–22/11/2016.

The engagement program consisted of:

- Community forum
- Focus groups
- Community festivals
- Your Say Inner West
- Community satisfaction survey
- Staff survey
- Local Representation Advisory Committee workshop

Promotion

The engagement program was promoted by:

- Media releases
- Social media
- Posters
- Flyer to all businesses and residences in the local government area
- E-newsletters
- Emails to stakeholder groups

See appendix 1 for a complete list of promotion and engagement material.

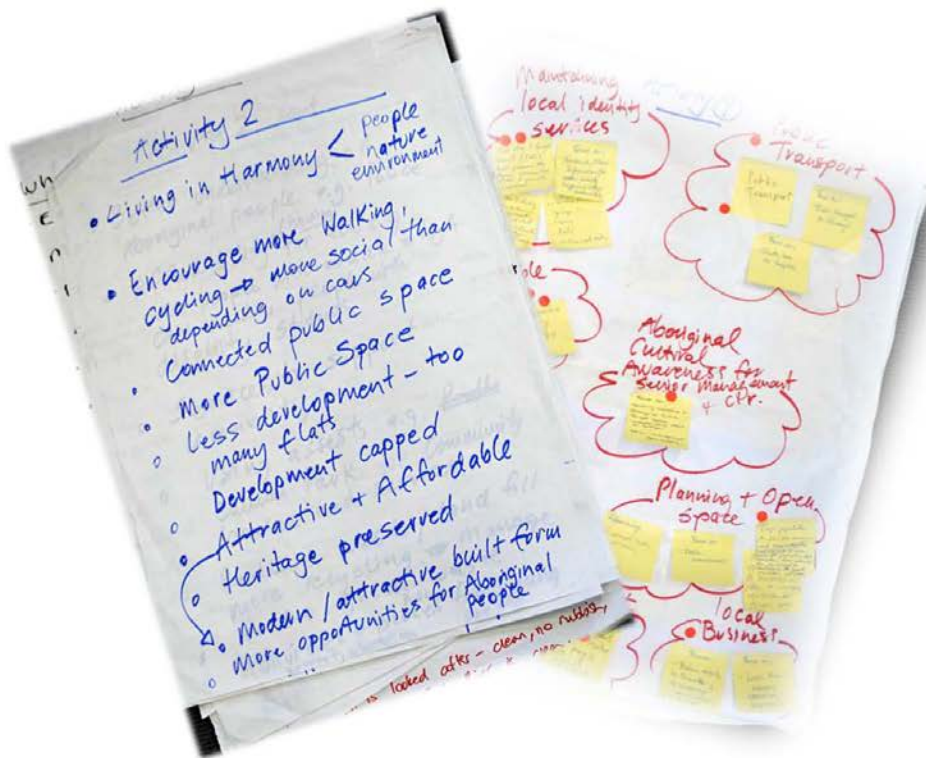
Community Forum

A community forum was held on 05/09/16 at Ashfield Town Hall, attended by over 100 people including 53 members of the former councils' advisory and consultative committees (invited directly), 17 general members of the community (invited through social media and newspaper advertisements), 10 Local Representation Advisory Committee members, Inner West Council Administrator Richard Pearson, and staff.

Participants heard a presentation about Inner West Council's community demographic profile, compared with the demographics of who was in the room, and were taken through a series of facilitated exercises at their tables to commence the process of gaining information. Discussion included a future vision for the community, issues and challenges, and priorities for action.



Community forum



Participants' comments were captured and later analysed by subject area. The most frequent subject areas were further analysed to identify recurring themes. An update was published on Council's Your Say Inner West engagement website, and participants notified.

Focus Groups

Focus groups were held with former committee members from Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Youth and Access communities.

Responses from the forum and focus groups were used to develop initial priorities.

Festivals

Face-to-face surveys were undertaken at four Council festivals throughout October:

- Ashfield Taste of Asia 07/10/16
- Summer Hill Neighbourhood Feast 09/10/16
- Marrickville Festival 23/10/16
- Norton Street Festa (Leichhardt) 30/10/16

In total 296 people participated at the festivals.



Marrickville Festival

Your Say Inner West

Community members could view information about the process, a report about the engagement undertaken at the forum, and complete a survey online at Council's online engagement hub, Your Say Inner West. One hundred and twenty-five surveys were completed online.

The festival and online comments were analysed and compared to the draft priorities established from the forum and focus groups engagement.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Council commissioned independent research organisation Micromex to undertake a statistically valid community satisfaction survey during October 2016. The survey was conducted by telephone of residents using random numbers generated from the white pages, with number harvesting, an innovative method used to increase response rates from younger people and those without a landline, used to supplement the random phone calls.

In total 1008 people across the local government area were surveyed, proportionately across the five wards. One of the questions was designed to inform the development of priorities. The question asked was:

'Thinking of Inner West as a whole what you say are the 3 biggest challenges?'

Responses were coded by Micromex and cross-referenced against the priorities identified in the broader community engagement. The results of the representative survey validated the results obtained through the broader community engagement.



Micromex word cloud – key challenges

Verbatim responses for the question were collated and entered into analytical software. This analysis 'counts' the number of times a particular word or phrase

appears and, based on the frequency of that word or phrase, a font size is generated. The larger the font, the more frequently the word or sentiment is mentioned.

Staff engagement

Staff were engaged from 25/10/16 to 04/11/16 through a survey available online or in hard copy for those without computer access. There were 232 responses to the survey, which replicated the questions asked at the festivals and online.

Local Representation Advisory Committee workshop

A workshop was held for Inner West Council's Local Representation Advisory Committee, comprising former councillors from the three former councils on Tuesday 8 November 2016. The members reviewed the process and data obtained from the community and staff, and provided feedback on gaps in the draft vision and priorities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus group follow-up

Members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus group reviewed the draft vision statement and provided feedback which was incorporated into an amended vision. The members also supported the wording of priority three in full – 'Promoting Aboriginal culture-past, present and future.'

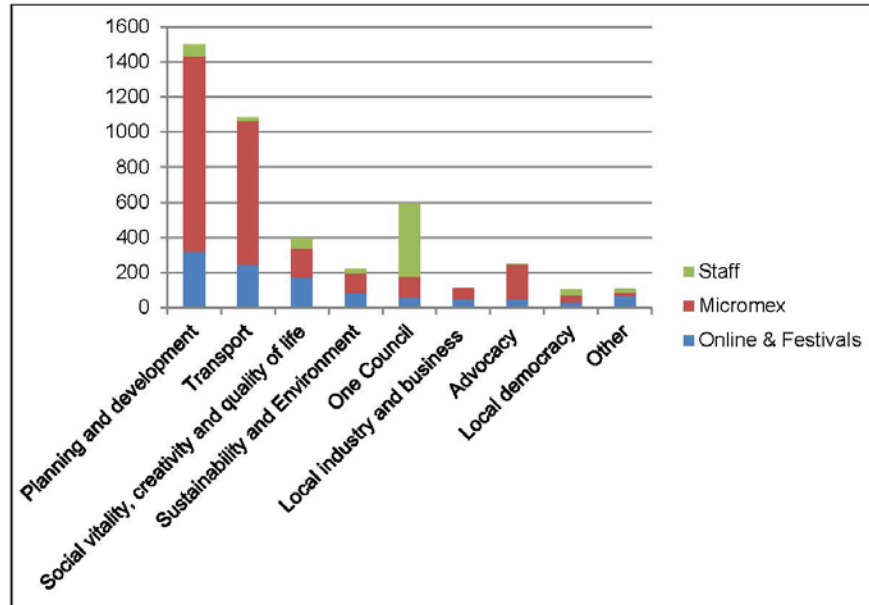
Responses

More than 1700 responses were received and incorporated into the development of the Statement of Vision and Priorities.

A breakdown of responses according to engagement method is as follows:

Source	Participants
Forum	80
Focus groups	25
Festivals	296
Online	125
Staff	232
Community satisfaction survey	1008
Total	1766

Comment analysis by source



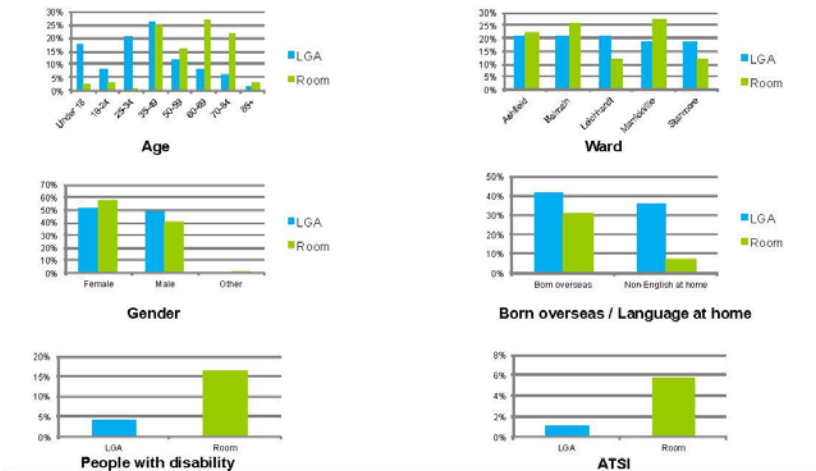
Demographic analysis

The community was asked to provide demographic data to enable Council to compare responses to the Inner West community profile (according to the Census 2011 which is the most recent data available). These questions were not compulsory and were not answered by every person so the following analysis and graphs are based on those respondents who answered the questions.

The comparison shows that the engagement was largely successful in reaching respondents generally aligned with the community profile.

At the community forum, the demographics skewed towards an older population with lower representation from people below 35. People who spoke a language other than English at home were also underrepresented.

Forum participants

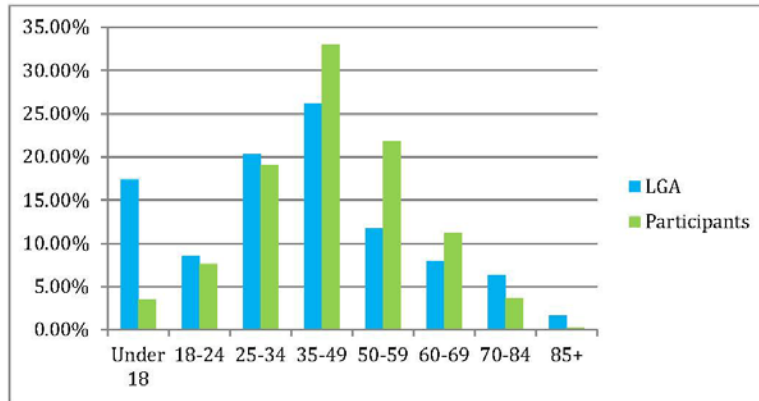


In the broader community engagement that followed, the engagement successfully reached a good proportion of 18-34 year olds – an age group that is often underrepresented in engagement activities. Under-18s were surveyed at the festivals but trend lower than the population overall. The 35-69 year olds participated at higher rates than their proportion in the general population while the over 70s were slightly lower.

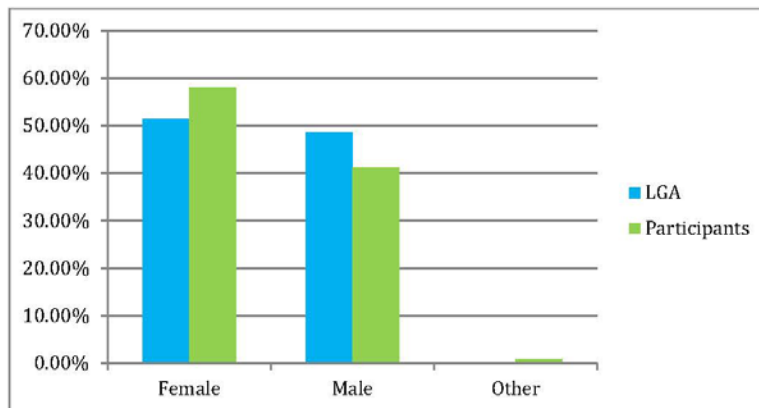
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were well represented, and in terms of gender, slightly more females than males participated when compared with the general population. The engagement reached significant numbers of people who were born overseas and who speak a language other than English at home, although not as many as the general community profile. Engagement at events was more culturally diverse than online which highlights the importance of using a range of methods to reach people.

In terms of place of residence, Marrickville ward was over-represented and Balmain underrepresented, due to high engagement at Marrickville Festival, and the fact that no festival was held in Balmain during the engagement period. Additionally, visitors to the LGA contributed, mainly through the engagement at events.

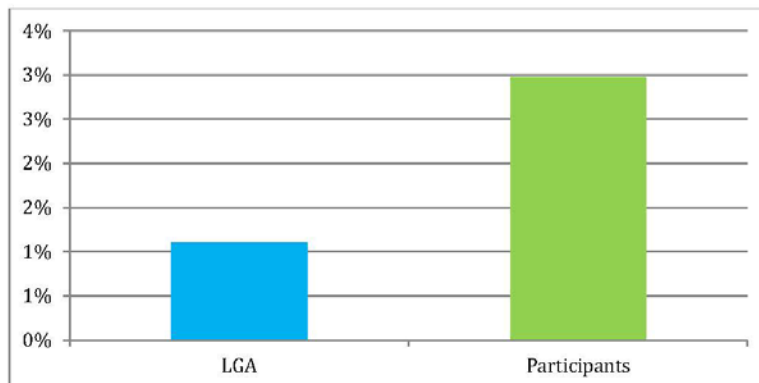
Festivals and online participants



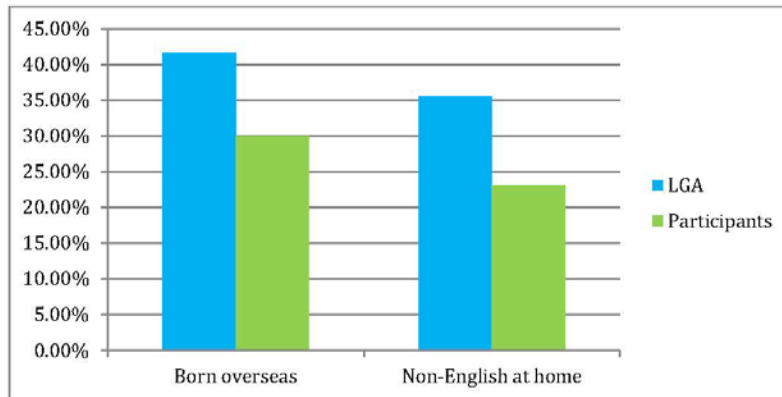
Age



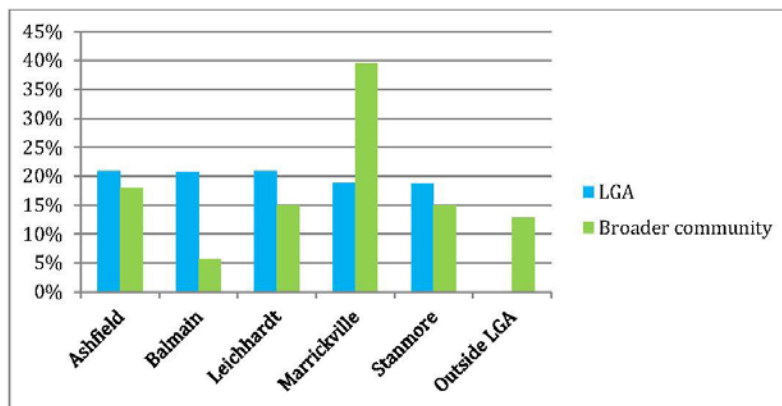
Gender



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Born overseas / language at home



Wards

Appendix 1 Promotion for Statement of Vision and Priorities engagement

Method		Audience	Date
Email	Invitation to Forum 1 - Statement of Vision and Priorities	Former committee members	16/8/16
Event	Committees thank you event - verbal invitation to forum 1	Former committee members	18/8/16
Online	Invitation to community forum opens at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au (YSIW)	General community	24/8/16
Print media	News feature in Inner West Courier council column re forum 1	General community	30/8/16
Event	Community Forum 1 – Statement of Vision and Priorities	LRAC, former committee members and general community members 81 attendees	5/9/16
Event	Focus group	Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee members	12/9/16
Event	Focus group	Former Access Committee members	13/9/16
Event	Focus group	Former youth Committee members	15/9/16
Flyer	<i>Get Involved</i> flyer - information and link for online engagement and face to face engagement at Forum 2, Marrickville Festival and Norton St Festa	Distributed to all households and businesses in LGA	Started 5/10/16 - Completed 18/10/16
Event	Ashfield Taste of Asia – face to face survey	General community	7/10/16
Flyer	<i>Get Involved</i> flyer - information and link for online engagement and face to face engagement at Forum 2, Marrickville Festival and Norton Street Festa	Distributed to all libraries, aquatic centres, childcare centres	Completed by 7/10/16
Online	Online engagement project pages opened at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au	General community	7/10/16 – 30/10/16
E-news	Your Say Inner West e-newsletter – information and links	YSIW members - 2485	7/10/16
Event	Summer Hill Neighbourhood Feast - face to face survey	General community	9/10/16

Online	IPads with online engagement at YSIW placed at council aquatic centres	Aquatic Centre customers	9/10/16
E-news	Council e-newsletter – info and links to YSIW project pages	Subscribers	13/10/16 27/10/16
Online	Website home pages, IWC plus legacy sites for Ashfield, Marrickville, Leichhardt – info and links to YSIW project pages	General community	13/10/16 – 30/10/16
Print media	News Feature in Inner West Courier council column re engagements on YSIW	General community	18/10/16
Poster	<i>Get Involved</i> poster distributed with information and link for online engagements	Community noticeboards, community facilities, libraries, customer service centres	19/10/16
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former council committee members – approx. 450	Mid Oct
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Marrickville based CALD Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural interagency members – 122 predominately service providers (Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Turkish, Sierra Leonie) • Inner West Multicultural Youth Alliance – 313 recipients • Children and families Interagency – approx. 260 (a number of CALD workers to forward to community members). • Tom Foster – a number of CALD senior groups. 	Mid Oct
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Ashfield based CALD groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Region Chinese Association • Australian Chinese Happy Choir • Yoppy's Dance (Indonesian) 	Mid October

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesian Welfare Association • Ashfield Japanese Playgroup • Ekushe Academy Australia (Bangladeshi) • CASS Care (Chinese/Korean) • Resourceful Australian Indian Network (RAIN) 	
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Leichhardt –based CALD groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-cultural Coordinators Forum (Human Rights Commission) • Inner West Youth Alliance 	Mid October
Social media	IWC Twitter post – <i>Help us develop a statement of vision and priorities</i>	General community – 509 impressions	18/10/16
Event	Marrickville Festival – face to face survey	General community - 180 completed	23/10/16
Email	Emailed information and link for staff survey – Statement of Vision and Priorities	Council staff	24/10/16
E-news	Council arts e-newsletter – Artpost	Artists and creative community and workers	26/10/16
E-news	Council e-newsletter – info and links to YSIW project pages	General community	27/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post - <i>Still time to help us develop a statement of vision and priorities</i>	General community – 319 impressions	27/10/16
E-news	Staff e-newsletter - link for staff survey re Statement of Vision and Priorities	Council staff	28/10/16
Event	Norton Street Festa - face to face survey	General community	30/10/16

Media coverage examples

Inner West Courier - 11 Oct



Statement of Vision and Priorities

Help Council develop a Statement of Vision and Priorities. Tell us what you would like to see in the future Inner West local government area and how Council should prioritise its work.

Visit www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au no later than 30 October 2016.

**Council Column
Inner West Courier
18 and 25 October**

Council Column - Inner West Courier
30 August



Public Engagement Forum

Contribute to the development of Inner West Council's Statement of Vision and Priorities. Monday 5 September, 6.15pm at Ashfield Town Hall Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Road Ashfield. RSVP at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au by Thursday 1 September. For enquiries contact 9335 2022.

Review of alcohol restrictions (former Ashfield LGA only)



Council is auditing alcohol restrictions in public places in the former Ashfield Council area. The restrictions prohibit alcohol consumption in streets, parks and other public places. See the proposed locations and provide feedback at yoursayinnerwest.com.au no later than 23 September.

Draft Parking Strategy for the Riverside Precinct

Promotional material examples - Flyer



How to have your say

your say Inner West

Get involved!

At a community event

- Marrickville Festival, Marrickville and Illawara Roads on Sunday 23 October 10am – 5pm
- Norton Street Festa, Norton Street, Leichhardt on Sunday 30 October 10am – 5pm

At the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program FORUM

Learn more about the parks, facilities and assets that will benefit from the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program and then let Council know your priorities.

Wednesday 12 October from 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Centurion Lounge, Leichhardt Oval Stadium, Mary Street, Lilyfield. Register to attend at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au

Online

At www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au
Feedback opens for both projects on Friday 7 October and closes on Sunday 30 October

INNER WEST COUNCIL



Project 1

Help Council to develop a Statement of Vision and Priorities for the Inner West Council

- The Vision will guide Council's direction over the next couple of years and will feed into the development of a new longer term Community Strategic Plan in 2017
- The Priorities will determine what Council focuses on in the next 12-18 months

Project 2

The Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program - let Council know your funding priorities

The NSW Government has allocated a \$15M Stronger Communities Fund to Inner West Council. With one million dollars set aside for the Inner West Stronger Communities Grants Program, \$14M is earmarked for major projects such as parks, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities that will be delivered over the next three years.

Should Council focus on Transport Infrastructure, Community Facilities or Recreation and Sustainability?

INNER WEST COUNCIL
**Help Council develop a
 Statement of Vision and Priorities**

The **Vision** will guide Council's direction over the next couple of years and will feed into the development of a new longer term Community Strategic plan in 2017

The **Priorities** will determine what Council focuses on in the next 12 – 18 months

Council will adopt a Statement of Vision and Priorities by 31 December 2016. This will be developed with input from the community.

Council has begun gathering the community's input through:

- A community engagement forum held on 5 September 2016 at Ashfield Town Hall
- Focus groups with members of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Youth and Access communities
- Festivals and events held throughout October at Ashfield, Summer Hill, Leichhardt and Manickville

Council would like to hear from the broader community about what they would like to see in the future Inner West local government area and how Council should prioritise its work.

Your contribution is valuable to this work.



Have your say

- Fill in a hardcopy feedback form here today
 - Online at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au
- Closing date is Sunday October 30**

What happens next?

Your input, along with information gathered from forum attendees and focus groups will be used to develop a Statement of Vision and Priorities. This will be considered by the Local Representation Advisory Committee and then Council at forthcoming meetings.

Keep informed at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au

Posters

INNER WEST COUNCIL
Get involved!

Project 1

Help Council to develop a Statement of Vision and Priorities for the Inner West Council

- The **Vision** will guide Council's direction over the next couple of years and will feed into the development of a new longer term Community Strategic Plan in 2017
- The **Priorities** will determine what Council focuses on in the next 12 - 18 months



Project 2

The Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program - let Council know your funding priorities

The NSW Government has allocated a **\$15M** Stronger Communities Fund to Inner West Council. With **\$1 million** set aside for the Inner West Stronger Communities Grants Program, **\$14M** is earmarked for major projects such as parks, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities that will be delivered over the next three years.

Should Council focus on -

- Transport Infrastructure,
- Community Facilities or
- Recreation and Sustainability?



Have your say

Online at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au
Closing date is Sunday October 30

Item No: Item 8

Subject: Draft Inclusion Action Plan

Prepared by: Erla Ronan, Group Manager, Community Services and Culture

SUMMARY

A draft Inclusion Action Plan (IAP) has been prepared to meet state government requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the strategic reference group note the report, provide feedback on the IAP during the public exhibition period and refer to it in addressing their work

Background

The draft Inner West Council Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (IAP) outlines Council's commitment to respecting the rights and improving opportunities for people with a disability of all ages, to participate fully in community life.

Council has a legislative requirement under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (DIA) to complete a disability inclusion planning process and have an Inclusion Action Plan (IAP) in place by 1 July 2017.

The draft IAP is based on extensive review and merging of actions of existing plans; the former Marrickville Inclusion Access Plan and the former Leichhardt Access Plan, acknowledging Ashfield's Access Committee actions. The LGNSW guidelines for merged Councils developing access plans have been followed.

Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage) can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

The IAP is a whole of Council plan with actions across the range of activities of Council, community and partners: it is core business. It requires going the next step beyond a removal of the barriers. Previous action planning focussed on addressing discrimination based on disability and responding to systemic disadvantage as a consequence of a disability. Current legislation and practice recognises that this, while still necessary, is only a foundation part of the wider issues people face. Inclusion planning means that agencies need to be proactive in creating the opportunities that facilitate inclusion, while ensuring their business considers and accommodates everyone.

How the strategic reference group can be involved:

- Be aware of and promote the plan and its principles
- Note that it is underpinned by the Social model of disability and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which are the rights based benchmarks for any activity that may involve a person with a disability

- Refer to the plan on any matters they address that may have a relationship with or impact on people with a disability and families
- Engage in the consultation process through the avenues below.

There will be several ways in which you can provide feedback:

- Feedback through Your Say during the exhibition (you'll be notified of the dates)
- Attend a staffed display at either Ashfield, Leichhardt or Petersham
- Attend the community workshop.

Section 4 will be of particular relevance to this strategic reference group. Actions include:

- 1.2.3— Work with SSROC, local government sector and community transport to address strategic transport needs in face of the NDIS, state and federal funding models
- 4.2.1 – Develop planning controls to advance universal design principles and their application within capital works, relevant private and public developments including need for independent access consultants at both the design and implementation phases
- 4.3.3 – Develop Council policy on encouraging affordable and universal designed housing including best practice ratio requirements for liveable housing provision in new developments.

Financial Implications

The vast majority of actions outlined in the IAP will be accommodated in operational budgets. The leadership team have been advised of areas where additional resources are required.

Conclusion

The IAP positions Council well to respond to state, federal and international obligations and provides direction to all Council undertakings and initiatives.

Attachments

Draft Inclusion Action Plan Summary

ATTACHMENT:



Draft Inclusion Action Plan for
People with a Disability
2017-2021
Summary

Draft Inclusion Action Plan for People with a Disability 2017-2121

The Inner West Council Inclusion Action Plan (for People with a Disability) 2017-2121 (IAP) outlines Council's commitment to respecting the rights and improving opportunities for people with a disability of all ages, to participate fully in community life.

The IAP also meets Council's obligations under the Disability Inclusion Act, 2014 (NSW) and other similar instruments that identify its role in reducing discrimination and improving participation opportunities for people with a disability. Council has a legislative requirement under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (DIA) to complete a disability inclusion planning process and have an Inclusion Action Plan (IAP) in place by 1 July 2017. Following Council merges, staff from each of the former Council areas (Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville) merged actions from existing Council access plans into this plan. The opportunity was also taken to revise actions that needed updating or that could be extended to facilitate best practice access and inclusion outcomes.

Definition of Inclusion

Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage) can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

Dimensions of inclusion include:¹

- being heard and valued
- meaningful participation
- connection and belonging
- opportunity to access supports
- choice and control in your life

Inclusion is not about helping others to access the society we have. It's about changing the society we have. Inclusion is about making society mean *everyone*.

Barriers to Inclusion

Barriers to inclusion happen when we fail to think of the *universal* as meaning *everyone*, and this results in...

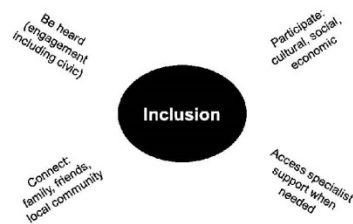


Sometimes, barriers are created by the way we work. We need to change how we work.

Beyond Removing Barriers — Towards Building Inclusion

Inclusion is about going the next step beyond a removal of the barriers. Previous action planning focussed on addressing discrimination based on disability and responding to systemic disadvantage as a consequence of a disability. Current legislation and practice recognises that this, while still necessary, is only a foundation part of the wider issues people face. Inclusion planning means that agencies need to be proactive in creating the opportunities that facilitate inclusion, while ensuring their business considers and accommodates everyone.

Figure 1. Dimensions of Inclusion



IAP Action Area 1: Educational, Recreational and Social Inclusion

Issues identified

- 
- Parks, programs and recreation are important to the wellbeing and health of adults and children with disabilities
 - Youth with disabilities need more opportunities to be included in youth activities
 - Specialist disability support services are keen to partner with Council to make education, recreation and sport more inclusive
 - Parents of children with disabilities have ideas to offer for how children's services could be more inclusive
 - The community needs more inclusively designed recreation options and programs (including Council Aquatic Centres and Pool programs)
 - Affordable and universal / accessible housing is a core need for many people with a disability
 - People with a disability need information about the accessibility of parks, community facilities, services and programs

Strategies:

1. Improve inclusion and access to Council's educational, recreational and social services and programs for people with a disability.
(see page 24 of the plan)
2. Work with service providers to increase access and inclusion for people with a disability.
(see page 26 of the plan)
3. Undertake activities to advocate and raise awareness of the rights of people with a disability to support their increased inclusion and participation in community life.
(see page 28 of the plan)
4. Develop a range of inclusive and accessible programs and activities at Council's aquatic and recreation centres for people with a disability.
(see page 29 of the plan)
5. Improve information availability about the accessibility of parks, community facilities and social, recreational and educational services and programs.
(see page 30 of the plan)

Actions include to:

- Ensure there is a process for ongoing and regular input by a specialised and informed group of people with a lived experience of disability to meet regularly and to provide feedback and advice to Council on access and inclusion.
- Work with the Young Leaders Reference Group to encourage the inclusion of young people with disabilities in activities for young people
- Partner with Sydney Local Health District and other specialist mental health services, and disability and carer support organisations, to promote and provide programs supporting mental health and wellbeing
- In collaboration with relevant partners, implement accessible activities or events involving local people with disability. For example: events focussed on: raising awareness, developing positive attitudes towards people with disability, celebrating disability culture.

Outcome: Everyone in the Inner West has access to education, recreation and is socially included

IAP Action Area 2: Cultural Inclusion

Issues identified

- 
- People with disability enjoy festivals and events but need assistance to do so
 - People with disability are not aware of all of the artistic and cultural opportunities available in the area
 - People with disability are under-represented in art works and visual depictions of community
 - To enable choices, people with a disability need information to be available on access features of cultural venues, events, and programs
 - Inner West needs more inclusively designed events and cultural program opportunities
 - Inclusion must involve greater reflection and presence of 'disability' within the cultural diversity landscape

Strategies:

1. Provide more opportunities for people with disability to participate in cultural events and activities
(see page 33 of the plan)
2. Improve information availability about the accessibility of events, and cultural services, facilities and programs
(see page 34 of the plan)
3. Provide a range of inclusive activities at the Library and cultural facilities for people with disability
(see page 34 of the plan)
4. Increase the representation and opportunities available for people with a disability and artists to engage in local arts practice
(see page 35 of the plan)

Actions include to:

- Conduct an audit of current cultural venues and programs for accessibility and inclusion
- Explore the potential of "Gig buddies" as a model/resource to support people to attend events
- Produce and centralise information on access and inclusion provisions of events / cultural activities and make consistent and reliable inclusion information available on all events
- Work with interested disability services to provide practical strategies to address inclusion in community facilities, in cultural venues and programs
- Increase the representation of people with a disability in local art through provision of grants, community arts program, artist-in-residency and studio program and/or through public art and street art programs

Outcome: A creative and cultural Inner West includes and reflects everyone

IAP Action Area 3: Economic Inclusion

Issues identified

-  Employment is a significant goal for many people with a disability
-  Local employers both large and small are employing people with disability
-  Some businesses are interested in being more inclusive but would appreciate support to make it happen
-  Access issues can restrict the ability of people with a disability to shop and dine locally

Strategies:

1. Improve employment opportunities locally in partnership with business and disability agencies
(see page 38 of the plan)
2. Increase the available information about local accessible businesses, entertainment venues and urban centre activities
(see page 38 of the plan)
3. Increase the business community's awareness of and readiness to be access friendly and inclusive
(see page 38 of the plan)

Actions include to:

- Facilitate links with local businesses to promote opportunities for employment, mentoring and skills development, with a focus on social enterprise
- Update the 'Missed Business' initiative to cover the IWC LGA and encourage accessible tourism opportunities in the inner west, including entertainment venues
- To encourage accessible tourism, consider a 'Headline' Project aiming to make all the shops in a major shopping precinct/s accessible and consider matching grants and partnerships for access improvements

Outcome: The local economy is inclusive

**IAP Action Area 4: Inclusive Planning (Infrastructure & Environment)
Issues identified**



Strategies:

1. Embed access and inclusion principles into all Council frameworks, criteria and studies relating to infrastructure and asset planning (see page 42 of the plan)
2. Embed universal design principles into planning controls to provide, encourage and deliver improved accessibility and inclusion across the urban environment (see page 43 of the plan)
3. Continue to advocate for universal design principles for housing developments in Inner West LGA (see page 45 of the plan)
4. Continue to advocate for increased provision and improved local accessible public transport and mobility parking (see page 46 of the plan)
5. Ensure local emergency management plans include people with disability (see page 48 of the plan)

Actions include to:

- Seek input from people with a disability to review and update relevant Public Domain codes to improve accessibility and connections to centres, transport and open spaces
- Undertake strategic review of location and appropriateness of accessible public toilets and develop recommendations to increase provision and investigate opportunity to provide 'changing places' facilities
- Develop Council policy on encouraging affordable and universal designed housing including best practice ratio requirements for liveable housing provision in new developments
- Review the location of and number of spaces around council, public buildings and facilities for accessible parking space to address need at each location
- Liaise with State Emergency Service to broaden community engagement and education to ensure people with a broad range of disability are included

Outcome: An accessible and liveable community where everyone is considered when planning a sustainable urban environment and infrastructure

IAP Action Area 5: Civic Inclusion, Engagement and Information
Issues identified



Strategies:

1. Provide specific information targeted to people with a disability about inclusion related features of Council services and processes (see page 52 of the plan)
2. Ensure Council's community engagement is inclusive (see page 53 of the plan)
3. Encourage and support people with a disability to exercise their right to participate at Council meetings (see page 55 of the plan)

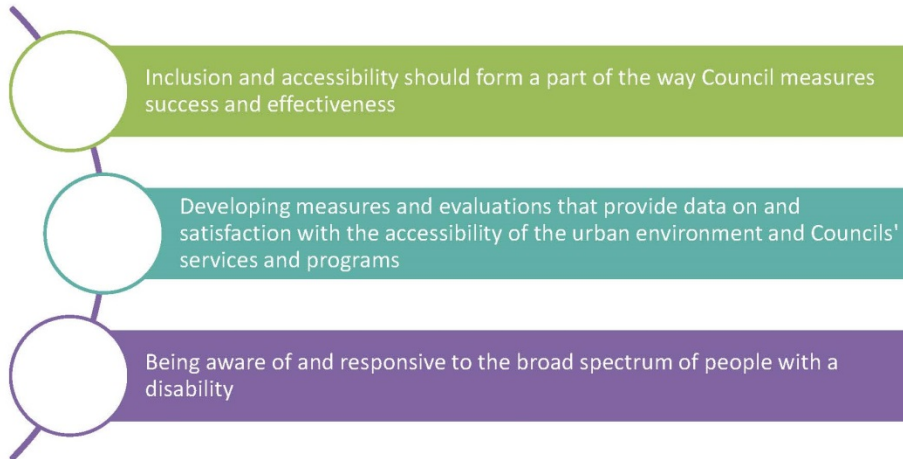
Actions include to:

- Consult with accessible communication experts to address communication needs through best practice technologies and methods
- Ensure there is a link on the home page of Council's website to information relating to access which maintains a profile of the issues and resources available from Council Develop and source tools to support the introduction and delivery of Plain English and Easy Read versions of Council documents
- Promote Council's willingness to include people with a disability in Council meetings and processes through website, business papers and other avenues where Council meetings are advertised

Outcome: Everyone is represented and consulted by Council in equitable ways that address their rights and participation needs

IAP Action Area 6: Access and Inclusion are embedded in our systems and processes

Issues identified



Strategies:

1. Ensure progress on IAP is monitored as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework (see page 58 of the plan)
2. Build systems and processes to ensure access and inclusion is developed across Council in a coordinated and consistent manner (see page 59 of the plan)
3. Ensure Council staff and relevant reference groups have the required knowledge and skills they need to apply access and inclusion principles in their key job responsibilities and to implement the IAP (see page 60 of the plan)
4. Ensure Council employment systems and processes are inclusive (see page 61 of the plan)

Actions include to:

- Establish an IAP Coordination Working Group (CWG) with representatives from across Council, responsible for ensuring access and inclusion developments and initiatives are occurring consistently, and in line with existing and newly developed policies and strategies Incorporate IAP actions and measures into IPR Framework, and delivery program
- Provide performance data on IAP achievements to the Public, external IAP working group and Council
- Develop benchmarks and targets to work towards Councils workforce mirroring the demographics of the Inner West community in relation to persons with disability

Outcome: Access and inclusion are embedded in our systems and processes