



Imtac Work Programme 2017/18

(March 2017)

Imtac is committed to make information about our work accessible. Details of how we can do this and how to contact us are included on the next page.

Making our information accessible

As an organisation of and for disabled people and older people Imtac recognises that the way information is provided can be a barrier to accessing services and participation in public life. We are committed to providing information about our work in formats that best suit the needs of individuals.

All our documents are available in hard copy in 14pt type size as standard. We also provide word and pdf versions of our documents on our website – www.imtac.org.uk. In addition we will provide information in a range of other formats. These formats include:

- Large print
- Audio cassette or CD
- Daisy disc
- Braille
- Electronic copies on disc or via email in PDF or word
- Easy read

We will also provide information about our work in other languages if you require this.

If you would like this publication in any of the formats listed above or if you have any other information requirements please contact:

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About us

The Inclusive Mobility And Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac) is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. Our role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

Our aim is to ensure that disabled people and older people have the same opportunities as everyone else to travel when and where they want.

Imtac receives support from the Department for Infrastructure (herein after referred to as the Department).

About our Work Programme

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS 2015) published by the Department in 2005. The ATS requires Imtac to publish a work programme each year “detailing such transport matters that affect older people and people with disabilities [disabled people] as the committee thinks appropriate.”

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of key tasks as requirements of the Accessible Transport Strategy as well as assisting Government deliver key actions arising out of the Strategy. These routine tasks include:

- Responding to consultations
- Responding to requests for advice and information from our stakeholders
- Raising issues relevant to older people and disabled people with our stakeholders
- Distributing information about services and policies to our stakeholders

- Holding an open and accessible recruitment process for members of Imtac each year
- Consulting on our work programme each year
- Providing training and support to members
- Holding at least 4 meetings each year
- Submitting a report in June each year to the Minister for Infrastructure outlining its achievements and advice to the Minister on transport matters that affect older people and disabled people as the committee think appropriate
- Other measures to involve a wide range of older people and disabled people in the work areas of Imtac

Work Programme 2017/18 priorities

Imtac has three priorities this year.

1 The Accessible Transport Strategy

During the past year Imtac has continued to support and advise the Department in developing a successor strategy to the current Accessible Transport Strategy. The major priority for Imtac in the coming year is to assist the Department to finalise the new Accessible Transport Strategy and the associated Delivery Plan.

2 The Programme for Government

Over the past twelve months Imtac has made a significant contribution to the development of the Programme for Government (PfG). However at the time of writing there is uncertainty about the future of the PfG in Northern Ireland. A PfG that promotes the interests of older people and disabled people remains a priority for Imtac.

3 The United Nation Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

As the UK is a signatory, Government in Northern Ireland has obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to ensure equality for disabled people. Raising awareness of the UNCRPD and assisting Government to meet their obligations under the Convention is a priority for Imtac. Although each Article of the Convention is important the Committee will prioritise the following Articles through its work:

Article 9 Accessibility – ensure barriers that disabled people face in buildings, the outdoors, transport, information, communications and services are eliminated and that these apply to people living in both urban and rural areas.

Article 20 Personal mobility – ensure disabled people can move around with the greatest possible independence.

Article 21 Freedom of expression and opinion and access to information – ensure disabled people have the same right as other people to give and receive information.

Article 29 Participation in political and public life – encourage disabled people to be involved in the work of Government and to participate in public affairs.

Article 31 Statistics and data collection – collect and look at statistics and other information that puts the UNCRPD into practice.

Work Programme 2017/18 tasks

Supporting the development and implementation of the new Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) 2025

Task 1

Imtac will advise and assist the Department in finalising the draft ATS 2025 and associated delivery plan for approval by the Minister.

Task 2

The Department will agree with Imtac tasks to be taken forward by the Committee in 2017/18 associated with the ATS 2025 delivery plan following its approval by the Minister.

The Department has identified the following actions in the draft ATS Delivery Plan under the theme of “Customer Experience” that could be delivered by Imtac:

- Following engagement with Coalition on Deafness NI produce a report setting out recommendations to improve access to public transport services for people who are deaf, Deafblind, have a hearing loss or tinnitus.
- Research and develop proposals which will include a report for a Mystery Shopper project involving disabled people and older people in the evaluation of transport services.

Improving accessibility

Task 3

Imtac is a key stakeholder in the development of major infrastructure projects including the development of Belfast Rapid Transport, the Belfast Hub, North West Hub. In the coming year the Committee will continue to provide detailed advice to the

Department and to Translink to ensure accessibility is maximised through each project. In doing this Imtac will involve disabled people, older people and their organisations.

Task 4

Imtac is a key stakeholder in other projects including the Taxi Forum, the Integrated Passenger Transport Project, the Integrated Ticketing Project and the review of the current Bus Stop Design Guide. In the coming year the Committee will provide detailed advice to ensure accessibility is maximised through each project. In doing this Imtac will involve older people, disabled people and their organisations.

Task 5

Building on planned site visits organised by the Consumer Council, Imtac will develop an agreed template that will be used to measure the accessibility of current bus and train stations and halts in Northern Ireland.

Improving personal mobility

Task 6

Imtac will assist and advise the Department with regard to the Department's review of the renewal process for Blue Badge holders for people with lifelong mobility issues. In doing this Imtac will involve disabled people, older people and their organisations

Task 7

Building on previous surveys of on-street parking, Imtac will undertake a survey of off-street accessible parking in Belfast City Centre and publish a report on its findings. A report on the findings of this work will be published by September 2017.

Task 8

Imtac will continue to work with the Department for Communities and local councils and provide advice around the development of inclusive public realm. This year the Committee will prioritise its input in this area on schemes planned for Portrush and Belfast City Centre (Streets Ahead Phase 3).

Task 9

Imtac continue to work with the Department's Cycling Unit providing detailed advice on the implementation of the Bicycle Strategy and the proposed Belfast Bicycle Network. In doing this Imtac will involve disabled people, older people and their organisations.

Task 10

Pavement Café Licensing came into effect in October 2016. Working with local councils, Imtac will develop a report assessing the impact of licensing in its first year of operation. The report will be published by March 2018.

Access to information

Task 11

Imtac will develop and submit a funding application to the Big Lottery Small Grants Programme proposing a redesign of its website to provide a comprehensive resource for older people and disabled people on issues around travel and transport. In doing this Imtac will involve disabled people, older people and their organisations. It is planned to submit the application by the end of June 2017.

Task 12

Imtac will undertake an assessment of the information provided for older people and disabled people around transport and travel on the NI Direct website. A report on the Committees findings will be published by September 2017.

Task 13

As part of Translink's work to redesign it's website, Imtac will work with Translink to improve the information on travel and accessibility provided on their website.

Encouraging participation in public life

Task 14

Imtac will develop proposals for a project to involve disabled people and older people through a range of outreach activities. In doing this Imtac will involve older people, disabled people and their organisations and submit proposals to the Department for consideration.

Task 15

Imtac will work with Translink to establish a working group of disabled people and older people. It is proposed that the working group will develop proposals for improvements in the areas of information provision, training and changing attitudes, playing a key role in assisting the organisation meet its statutory Disability Duties.

Statistics and data collection

Task 16

To inform its work on the Taxis Forum Imtac will undertake a survey of older people and disabled people about their use and experiences of taxi services. It is planned that this work which will include the publication of a report will be completed before March 2018 to facilitate Vehicle Policy Branch's Taxi Review.

Developing as an organisation

Task 17

In line with current agreements Imtac and the Department will undertake a review of its current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Delivery and Monitoring Progress

Imtac will undertake these tasks and monitor progress of each in the next year. To ensure that it complies with its work programme Imtac will submit quarterly updates to the Department for review. . These will be published in July, October, January and April and will provide details of progress made under each task and plans for the future. As Imtac relies on working with others and has limited resources sometimes it cannot progress some tasks as quickly as the Committee would want. The Committee will highlight where and why tasks may be delayed in its updates.