

Minutes of the 141st Imtac Meeting

Date and time: 29th June 2022 at 2pm

Place: Hybrid meeting held at the Mount Business & Conference Centre, Belfast and via ZOOM.

Present: Bert Bailie [BB] (Chairperson), Aaron McKane [AMc], Terry McCorry [TMc], Paul McCloskey [PMc], Andy Boal [ABo], Dave Morton [DMo] Jackson Minford [JM], June Best [JB], Eileen Drumm [ED], Sam Bell [SB], Jean Dunlop [JD], Christine McClements [CMc], Dermot Devlin [DD], Alison Lockhart [AL]

Observers: Attracta Tremers [AT] (Department for Infrastructure), Michelle Kelly [MK] (Consumer Council), Brian Drury [BD] (Equality Commission), Andrea Brown [ABr] (Disability Action) Simon Corrigan [SC] (Translink).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer [ML]

Apologies: Diane Marks [DMA], Vivien Blakely [VB], Sean Murphy [SM], Brian Murray [BM].

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 BB updated members about the outcome of the recruitment process. As well as welcoming new and returning members he thanked PMc for his service over the past 6 years.

2. Chairperson's Updates

2.1 BB briefed members about the work of the Bus Design Working Group and positive progress being made to ensure future procurement prioritises access and inclusion. He indicated that the next procurement period will not include high floor vehicles.

2.2 BB highlighted a presentation made to the Dfl / Utility Companies Working Group around minimising the impact of street works. He

indicated that developing a webinar on the issues has been included in this year's Work Programme.

- 2.3 BB updated members on his virtual attendance at a recent DPTAC away day in Leeds. He explained the A4N meeting planned for this Spring had not taken place but is to be rescheduled for later this year.
- 2.4 BB briefed members about meetings with Minister Mallon in March and more recent meetings with the DfI Sponsor Team and David Cowan from Translink. He informed members that a date has been set to meet with Minister O'Dowd at the end of July and his intention to meet with Chris Conway before the next Imtac meeting.

3. Observer updates

- 3.1 MK updated members on the now completed accessibility audits of the three local airports. She reported on positive developments at both Belfast City Airport and City of Derry Airport and thanked Imtac members for their assistance.
- 3.2 MK briefed members on the role of the Consumer Council on the DfI Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Sub Group including a paper prepared by a Consumer Sub Group including Imtac. She thanked ML for his input.
- 3.3 MK informed members that the Consumer Council is updating its travel publications in time for the holiday periods.
- 3.4 BD informed members about plans by IMNI to undertake engagement events with stakeholders on developing a list of issues for the next examination by the UN in the implementation of CRPD by the UK Government. He informed members about a very recent announcement of a delay to the examination.
Action: ML to circulate details of the UNCRPD events to members.

- 3.5 ABr thanked members for their participation in recent election hustings events and explained plans for engagement with MLAs. She encouraged members to forward constituency issues. BB reminded members they should not present themselves as representing Imtac at such events
Action: ML to circulate contact details for the Disability Action Policy Team to members.
- 3.6 AT highlighted existing exemptions from PSVAR for private operators under the Department's permit scheme will expire in September 2022.
- 3.7 Members suggested that in the absence of a functioning Assembly, MLA engagement could highlight changes that could be made by local councils to deliver on access and inclusion. Members also expressed concerns about the delay to the UK examination and also the recent experiences of disabled people using assistance services at UK airports.
- 3.8 Members raised issues created in rural and other areas for pedestrians because of infrequent grass cutting.
Action: ML and AT to discuss how best to raise concerns about grass cutting within Dfl.
- 4. Update on the New Approach Paper**
- 4.1 ML briefed members about the amendments to the final draft of the new approach paper following workshops in March.
- 4.2 Members suggested that the third principle should include vehicle design for other transport providers including health and education.
Action: Subject to the inclusion of this addition members agreed the New Approach paper should be published.
- 4.3 Members discussed the promotion and distribution of the paper.
Action: It was agreed to develop a paper on promoting the New Approach paper and circulate to members for further comment and suggestions.

5. Work Programme 2022 / 23

5.1 ML outlined the background to the Work Programme, highlighting the need for flexibility given issue created by the political situation.

5.2 Members agreed to prioritise tasks lead by Imtac including:

- Publication of the Taxis Position Paper
- The paper looking at the impact of public realm schemes
- The paper looking at the role of Demand Responsive Transport
- The paper looking at barriers to cycling
- The proposed webinar on street works
- User testing of new Translink vehicles

Action: ML to organise relevant working group meetings to progress work programme tasks

5.3 BB asked members to consider how to rejuvenate engagement activities. Several suggestions were made including:

- Looking at regional access panels including for testing of infrastructure and services
- Utilising online surveys
- Greater utilisation of social media including online groups
- The need to ensure we retain traditional meetings

Action: ML to co-ordinate the development of an engagement plan and circulate to members for comments / further suggestion.

6. Other updates

6.1 ML updated members on other issues including the development of the Disability Strategy, Foyle Metro vehicle design, public realm schemes, plans for cycling infrastructure, pavement parking, the

proposed extension of Concessionary Fares Scheme and the response to the draft Infrastructure Strategy. He highlighted issues created by the current political situation.

6.2 JB updated members on recent discussions with DfC about the next steps in developing the Disability Strategy.

6.3 Members highlighted the importance of raising key issues, particularly the cost of living crisis, regardless of the current situation.

7. Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising

7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Proposed: Aaron McKane Seconded: Dave Morton

7.2 Actions relating to the statement on colourful crossings will be progressed once the political situation becomes clearer.

8 Any other business

8.1 JB highlighted issues with taxis highlighted at a recent Disability Action Policy Group meeting.

8.2 JD highlighted changes to pavement café licensing made by Causeway Coast and Glens Council including a reduced input from Planning Services.

8.3 ML highlighted the consultation launched by Belfast City Council about the Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance including transport.

Action: ML to circulate the BCC consultation details and seek input from members with an interest. All members to submit comments where appropriate.

8.4 ML briefed members on a request for support from the Disabled Drivers Association from Imtac in recruiting members / Trustees.

Action: Members agreed in principle to the request from DDA. ML to circulate more information.

Simon Corrigan [SC] joined the meeting.

8.5 SC apologised for his late arrival. He informed members that Terry Butler will be leaving Translink and a new Access Manager will be appointed shortly. He reaffirmed the importance for Translink of engagement with Imtac, outlining key future areas of work.

8.6 BB and other members asked that the Committee's thanks and best wishes be passed on to Terry. SC indicated that members would have the opportunity to thank Terry before his departure.

9. Dates and arrangements for future meetings

Action: ML to circulate options for future meetings including days, timings and venues.

Actions carried forward from the previous minutes

Action 1 Members agreed to defer sending the colourful crossing statement to Ministers until the new mandate.

Action 2 ML to ensure the colourful crossing statement is sent to all councils.

List of actions

Action 1 ML to circulate details of the UNCRPD events to members.

Action 2 ML to circulate contact details for the Disability Action Policy Team to members.

Action 3 ML and AT to discuss how best to raise concerns about grass cutting within Dfl.

- Action 4** Subject to the inclusion of this addition members agreed the New Approach paper should be published.
- Action 5** It was agreed to develop a paper on promoting the New Approach paper and circulate to members for further comment and suggestions.
- Action 6** ML to organise relevant working group meetings to progress work programme tasks
- Action 7** ML to co-ordinate the development of an engagement plan and circulate to members for comments / further suggestion.
- Action 8:** ML to circulate the BCC consultation details and seek input from members with an interest. All members to submit comments where appropriate.
- Action 9** Members agreed in principle to the request from DDA. ML to circulate more information.
- Action 10** ML to circulate options for future meetings including days, timings and venues.