



Intac Work Programme 2025 / 2026

(July 2025)

Intac is committed to making information about our work accessible. Details of how to obtain information in your preferred format are included on the next page.

Making our information accessible

As an organisation of and for Deaf people, 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 versions
- Braille
- Electronic copies in PDF or word
- Easy read
- Information about our work in other languages

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 Imtac

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

The aim of Imtac is to ensure that Deaf people, 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 this Work Programme

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) 2015 published in 2005. The ATS required 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.”

Our approach

Our advice, including the delivery of our Work Programme, will reflect two fundamental principles which underpin the ethos of the Committee. The first is the importance of understanding and promoting the **social model of disability**, recognising that it is the decisions taken by society that disable people not their impairment. The second is promoting the right of Deaf people, disabled people, and others to access travel, our streets, and places on an equal basis to others. In doing so we will highlight where existing legal requirements are not being met as well as highlighting wider Government obligations under the Articles of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**. Appendix A contains reference to the most relevant UNCRPD articles.

Our 2025 / 2026 Priorities

The Committee welcomes the recent publication by the Executive of a Programme for Government (PfG). Our work will seek to align and support the priorities identified in the PfG, recognising the limitations of a shortened mandate and the continuing pressures on Departmental budgets.

Within these limitations, making progress on three key policy areas are a particular priority for Imtac members: tackling the negative impact of pavement parking, improving access to taxi services and removing disparity and inequality in travel concessions available to older people and disabled people in Northern Ireland.

The work and the advice of the Committee reflected and are prioritised by the four key principles, set out in our New Approach paper published in 2022¹. These principles are:

¹ <https://www.imtac.org.uk/new-approach-travel-our-streets-and-our-places>

1. Putting Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers at the centre of every stage of decision making
2. Ensuring a shift in our cultures
3. Ensuring public and private investment contributes to an accessible and inclusive society
4. Ensuring end to end journeys are straightforward and accessible

Our priorities also reflect some specific issues and priorities which impact on Deaf people, disabled people and older people including:

- Ongoing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ongoing impacts from the cost-of-living crisis
- Ongoing impacts from climate breakdown and the impact of a transition to Net Zero
- Proposals to introduce changes to the social security system

How our work programme is structured

Our work programme is divided into two parts covering firstly routine, core tasks and secondly, specific tasks and priorities.

The majority of tasks and priorities in the second part of the work programme are grouped under each of the 4 key principles of the Imtac New Approach paper published in 2023. The exception is the first task in the work programme which involves the completion of a task around transport to health services. This task cuts across all of the key principles.

Core Work Programme Tasks

Imtac routinely undertakes core tasks including:

- Responding to consultations
- Responding to requests for advice and information from our stakeholders
- Raising issues relevant to Deaf people, disabled people and older 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 annually in June to the Minister for Infrastructure outlining the Committee's achievements and advice to the Minister on transport matters that affect Deaf people, disabled people and older people as the committee think appropriate
- Other measures to involve a wide range of Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers in the work areas of Imtac

2025 / 26 Work Programme Tasks & Priorities

Cross cutting tasks & priorities

Task one

The Committee will complete and publish a report with recommendations to improve access to transport and health services, based on a survey and wider engagement undertaken during 2024 / 2025.

Priority 1 Putting Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers at the centre of every stage of decision making

Task two

Involving broader groups of Deaf people, disabled people and older people in the development of projects as well as evaluating the impact of recent investment is a priority. This year we want to include:

- Further engagement with Deaf, disabled people and older people in finalising our Transport and Health Report
- Site visits to further evaluate the benefits of investment in Grand Central Station including assessing the impact of wayfinding provision and bus stand accessibility
- Site visits to evaluate the benefits of investment in new buses and coaches

Task three

The Committee will continue to promote the active participation Deaf people, disabled people, and older people in groups and fora. These include:

- Review and reconstitute Imtac's Translink Accessibility and People, Streets and Places Working Groups
- The UNCRPD Independent Monitoring Mechanism Disability Forum
- The Accessibility 4 Nations Group (A4N)

Priority 2 Ensuring a shift in our cultures

Task four

The Committee will seek to ensure that the development of key Strategies and legislation reflect the changes in culture outlined in New Approach. These include:

- The development of a Disability Strategy
- Proposed legislation relating to due regard duties and UNCRPD
- The implementation of the Programme for Government
- The implementation of the Climate Change Act

Task five

The Committee will seek to ensure that the new suite of Transport Plans reflect the changes in culture outlined in New Approach. These include:

- The new Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland
- The Eastern and North West Transport Plans
- The Sub Regional Transport Plans

Task six

The Committee will seek to ensure that the emerging proposals for Belfast City Centre through the Eastern Transport Plan, reflect the changes in culture outlined in New Approach.

Task seven

The Committee will build on recent progress, encouraging the wider adoption of Disability Equality Training amongst service providers and policy makers.

Task eight

The Committee will engage with DfI Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) to improve the collection of evidence and data about barriers to travel for Deaf, disabled and older people.

Priority 3 Ensuring public and private investment contributes to an accessible and inclusive society

Task nine

The Committee will provide advice to local councils and the Department for Communities to ensure that public realm schemes meet the highest Standards, undertaking before and after street audits as appropriate.

Task ten

The Committee will work with Translink and the Department for Infrastructure to ensure that new and upgraded bus and train stations meet the highest design standards. Key projects include:

- The continued construction of Grand Central Station
- The proposed accessibility audit of railway stations and halts

Task eleven

The Committee will work with Translink and the Department for Infrastructure to ensure that investment in buses and rolling stock meet the highest design standards including the continued roll out of buses with two spaces for wheelchair users.

Task twelve

The Committee will input into the ongoing review of bus stop design guidelines.

Task thirteen

The Committee will work with the Department for Infrastructure to ensure that Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2 is designed to the highest standards.

Task fourteen

The Committee will work with the Department for Infrastructure to ensure that the Belfast Cycling network and Active Travel Delivery plan is implemented to ensure the highest possible standards for people walking, wheeling or cycling. This includes input into proposed design standards for active travel.

Task fifteen

The Committee will work with the Consumer Council to ensure that the Department, Electric Vehicle Task Force and others delivers charging infrastructure that is inclusive and accessible.

Priority 4 Ensuring end to end journeys are straightforward and accessible

Task sixteen

The Committee will work with the Department for Infrastructure and others to identify and implement ways to tackle the negative impacts of pavement parking.

Task seventeen

The Committee will work with the Department for Infrastructure and others to identify and implement ways to improve access to taxi services in Northern Ireland.

Task eighteen

The Committee will input into the ongoing review Community Transport services in Northern Ireland.

Task nineteen

The Committee will continue to input into research into automation including the pilot of an autonomous vehicle in Belfast.

Task twenty

The Committee will continue to input into research into micromobility.

Review and revision of this Work Programme

Our Work Programme is currently in interim format, awaiting final input and agreement from the Department. The Work Programme also covers a very wide range of issues, some of which may only proceed slowly while additional tasks and priorities may arise requiring our input more urgently. It will be reviewed by Imtac and the Department at the end of each quarter, with revisions made subject to the agreement of both parties.

Appendix A – Key Articles of UNCRPD

Although each Article of the UNCRPD² is important the Committee will prioritise the following Articles through its work:

Article 8 Awareness raising – adopt measures that raise awareness and respect for the rights of disabled people, combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices and promotes awareness of the capabilities and contributions of disabled people.

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 19 Independent living – the equal right of all disabled people to live in the community, with choices equal to others.

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.

² <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-articles>