

**Minutes of the
113th Imtac Meeting**

Date: 25th June 2015, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

June Best, Peter Livingstone, Sam Bell, Vivien Blakely,
Joe Kenny, Ursula Marshall, Sheelagh McRandal,
David McDonald, Samantha Browne, Henry Mayne.

Observers: Keith Walsh (DRD), Terry Butler (Translink), Naomi
Roberts (Equality Commission), Orla McCann
(Disability Action).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Ann Gamble, Scott Kennerley, Eimear McCracken, Moira Heap, Joan Harbison, Bert Bailie, Paul McCloskey, Nan Carville.

1.2 Max welcomed new members.

2. Updates from Chairperson, Treasurer and Convenors

2.1 Max updated members on the outcome of the recent recruitment process.

2.2 Max informed members that the Work Programme and funding for 2015/16 has now been agreed with the DRD. The reduction of grant by £10,000 will create challenges for the Committee this year.

- 2.3 Max briefed members on the open meeting held by Imtac in Derry on the 13th March. Max thanked members for taking the time to travel to the meeting.
- 2.4 June briefed members about the Training Workshop held in the Ramada hotel. June highlighted the presentation of Christiana Link, explaining the work of Transport for All in London.
- 2.5 Michael updated members on the recent briefing given by Imtac to the Environment Committee around Taxi Accessibility Regulations. Orla explained the concerns of Disability Action. Michael explained that the accessibility requirements of the regulations remain unchanged but that grandfather rights for drivers of existing wheelchair accessible taxis have been extended from 5 to 6 years.
- 2.6 Max, June and Michael updated members on recent meetings with the Social Development Minister and Committee to discuss concerns with proposed guidelines about pavement café licensing. Both meetings involved representatives from Guide Dogs and stressed the need to maintain a minimum of 2m of unobstructed pavement width and to enclose pavement cafes.
- 2.7 Michael updated members on the launch and roll out of audio visual information on buses. Terry informed members that it is planned to complete the roll out by the end of September.

3. Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) 2025 – update and discussion

- 3.1 Keith informed members the consultation on the ATS 2025 was likely to be issued after the July holidays. The Department is planning to use an online tool, Citizen Space, and potentially public meetings to maximise responses. Following the consultation it is planned to develop an Action Plan to coincide with the bidding process for the new spending rounds. June and Michael offered to help the Department test Citizen Space prior to the launch of the consultation.

- 3.2 Michael updated members on the redrafted Imtac paper looking at the vision, strategic priorities and how to measure success for the new ATS. During discussions members asked that repeating the recent survey be reinstated to the paper as one way of measuring progress.

Action: Due to tight deadlines Max asked members to submit final comments on the draft paper in the next 7 days.

4. Observers Updates

- 4.1 Orla briefed members on a recent restructure within Disability Action. As the newly created Assistant Director (Physical) Orla would now lead on transport issues.
- 4.2 Orla briefed members on the impact of budget reduction on Disability Action Transport Services, Group Hire services and the Mobility Centre. Members expressed concerns about the impact of fare rises and reductions in operational hours on users of the schemes. Orla was asked if these changes would be reversed if the Department was successful in securing additional resources in the June Monitoring Round.
- 4.3 Terry briefed members on the purchase of new double deck coaches and progress with the Enterprise refurbishment. Terry also updated members on progress in developing the new Translink website, a real time information App and display screens at bus stations. Terry explained restructuring and reorganisation in response to funding reductions is ongoing. In response to members questions Terry explained that some reductions in service levels are inevitable. Terry also explained that the Enterprise refurbishment would not involve major access improvements other than a new audio visual information system.
- 4.4 Naomi briefed members on research being undertaken by the Equality Commission into key inequalities.

- 4.5 Michael briefed members on an update provided by Scott Kennerley of the Consumer Council about work being undertaken with City of Derry airport.

5. Work Programme tasks

- 5.1 Michael briefed members to the changes made to the 3rd draft of the paper looking at Blue Badge misuse and fraud.
Action: Max asked members to submit final comments on the draft paper in the next 7 to 10 days.

6. Draft Imtac Annual Report 2015

- 6.1 Michael apologised to members for distributing the draft Annual Report the day before the meeting. Michael briefed members on the content and outlined feedback received from the Belfast Rapid Transit team in relation to the “Our Advice to Government” section. Members discussed the issue and agreed that the need for step-free transport should be highlighted in the report.
Action: Max asked members to submit comments on the draft report in the next 7 to 10 days.

7. Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

- 7.1 Subject to an amendment to attendees the minutes were agreed.
- 7.2 There were no matters arising.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Max briefed members about a proposal for Ann Gamble and Francis Hughes to share the Observer role on behalf of Age Sector Platform. Members agreed with the proposal.
- 8.2 Max informed members that Michael will be developing proposals for changes to the way Imtac works including future meetings in time for the next meeting in September. Terry offered Imtac the

use of the Boardroom at Chamber of Commerce House. Max welcomed the offer and asked Michael to discuss with Terry.

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September 2015 at 1.30pm at the Mount.