

**Minutes of the
117th Imtac Meeting**

Date: 18th October 2016, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

Sam Bell, Sheelagh McRandal, Jim Nash, Moira Heap, Paul McCloskey, David McDonald, Henry Mayne, Bert Bailie, Vivien Blakely, Joan Harbison, Nan Carville, June Best.

Observers: Ciaran Crilly & Ciaran Crosbie (DfI), Terry Butler (Translink), Scott Kennerley (Consumer Council), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Orla McCann (Disability Action), Francis Hughes & Ann Gamble (Age Sector Platform).

In attendance: Martina Hanna & Rosalind Dempsey (DfC)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Joe Kenny, Ursula Marshall and Eimear McCracken. Members were informed that Samantha Browne has resigned from the Committee.

2. Chairpersons and other updates

2.1 Max updated members on meetings and events including a visit to City of Derry Airport, an event in Lisburn on the draft Programme for Government and a further meeting with Chris Conway (CEO Translink).

- 2.2 Max informed members that the recent recruitment process has recently been concluded. Members will receive further details shortly.
- 2.3 Michael updated members on developments around the Blue Badge, the Integrated Passenger Transport Project, the Review of the Taxis Act, changes to driver licensing and testing, Belfast Rapid Transport and Derry public realm proposals. Members noted concerns in relation to the Integrated Passenger Transport Project. Members also asked to be kept informed about any developments around the proposed transport hub for Derry.
- 2.4 Michael briefed members about proposals for cycling infrastructure in High Street, Belfast which includes the use of “floating bus stops”. Following discussion members agreed Imtac should support the use of “floating bus stops” as part of a formal pilot study. Members agreed that the findings of the pilot should be used to inform future use and design of such infrastructure.
- 2.5 Michael briefed members on recent developments around the licensing of pavement cafes and in particular the approach taken by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). Following discussion members agreed the following:
- The Committee write to NMDDC requesting that guidance be amended requiring 2m unobstructed pavement and for all cafes to be screened
 - The Committee write to NMDDC highlighting deficiencies in the screening of their Pavement Cafes Designation Policy and request that a full EQIA be undertaken.
 - The Committee write to the remaining 10 councils asking for copies of policies, guidance and screening forms in relation to pavement café licensing

3. Programme for Government (PfG) – Indicator 42 update

- 3.1 Max welcomed Martina Hanna, Head of Disability Policy at the Department for Communities, to the meeting. Martina provided members with an update in relation developing a delivery plan around Indicator 42 (Increase quality of life for people with disabilities) of the PfG. Consultation is planned shortly
- 3.2 Members raised a number of issues including the role of disabled people in the oversight of the Delivery Plan and the lack of prominence given in the PfG to older people.

Max, Martina and Rosalind left the meeting. Bert took the chair.

4. ATS and observer updates

- 4.1 Ciaran Crosbie update members on the latest timeframes for publication of the ATS 2025 and further consultation on the PfG.
- 4.2 Terry updated members on plans for bus purchases, the consultation on the Nithco Disability Action Plan, and Translinks Policy around faulty smartpasses and ticketing machines. Members were updated around issues raised by Imtac about Translinks Scooter Policy, particularly the requirement for passenger to move out of their scooter. Terry informed members this aspect of the policy would not be enforced.
- 4.3 Orla updated members about the publication of an Action Plan designed to encourage participation by disabled people in sport in which transport is a key issue.
- 4.4 Francis updated members on research undertaken by Age Sector Platform into transport and hospital appointments.
Action: Michael agreed to distribute the report.
- 4.5 Naomi informed members that the NI Assembly has signed up to the Commissions Every Customer Counts initiative. The

Independent Monitoring Mechanism has continued to engage with the United Nations around UNCRPD.

- 4.6 Scott updated members about the recent visit to City of Derry Airport and the upcoming launch of the report from the visit. Scott also briefed members about access issues around international arrivals at Belfast City Airport. Members expressed concerns about these issues.

Max re-joined the meeting and took the chair.

5. Current lmtac papers

- 5.1 Michael briefed members on the redrafting of the paper around engagement.
Actions: Members to comment on the redrafted paper in the next 7-10 days. Michael agreed to arrange an opportunity to obtain feedback from DfI.
- 5.2 Michael briefed members on the results of the latest Belfast City Centre parking survey undertaken by lmtac. Michael explained that a Saturday survey is still to be undertaken. Once this complete members will be asked to comment on the draft report.
- 5.3 Michael briefed members on the recent meeting with Translink around the bus paper. Members agreed that decisions about the future format and publication of the report be delayed until the position of Translink becomes clear.

6. Current consultations

- 6.1 Michael briefed members on the draft Belfast City Council Parking Strategy and a proposed approach to a response. The Committee endorsed the proposed approach.
Action: Michael to draft response and circulate to members for comments.

- 6.2 Michael briefed members on the current consultation on Nithco Disability Action Plan and a proposed approach to a response. The Committee endorsed the proposed approach.
Action: Michael to draft response and circulate to members for comments.

7. Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

- 7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
- 7.2 Max informed members that the meeting with the Minister to discuss the Annual Report will take place on the 14th December 2016. It was agreed that the current members of the Business Group will attend the meeting.

8 Any other business

- 8.1 Jim updated members on the launch of a Smartpass Equality Campaign in the Derry. The campaign seeks to extend free concessions on public transport to people who have been refused a driving licence on medical grounds.
- 8.2 Max expressed his thanks to Bert Bailie, June Best and Eimaer McCracken who are standing down this year. Max asked the Committee approve a proposal for Bert and June to remain as co-opted members of the Business Group to take forward projects around the website and outreach. Both will report progress at future lmtac meetings. This was agreed.

9. Dates of future meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 12.30pm at the Mount.