

Minutes of the 118th Imtac Meeting

Date: 13th December 2016, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

Joe Kenny, Moira Heap, Sheelagh McRandal, Jean Dunlop, Paul McCloskey, Jim Nash, Henry Mayne, Dave Morton, Brian Murray, Diane Marks, Anne Scott, Bert Bailie.

Observers: Ciaran Crosbie(Dfl), Terry Butler (Translink), Jenny Robinson (Consumer Council), Brian Drury (Equality Commission)

In attendance: Helen McVitty-O'Hara (Mencap)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

- 1.1 Max welcomed new members and thanked Bert Bailie, June Best, Eimear McCracken and Peter Livingstone who are stepping down from Imtac. Max took the opportunity to wish members and observers a happy holiday and prosperous New Year.
- 1.2 Apologies were given and accepted from Ursula Marshall, Joan Harbison, Nan Carville, Sam Bell, David McDonald, June Best, Naomi Roberts, Francis Hughes, Ann Gamble and Orla McCann.

2. Appointment of officers

- 2.1 Nominations for Vice-Chair were received for Sheelagh McRandal and Jim Nash. Following a vote Sheelagh was elected.
- 2.2 One nomination for Treasurer was received for David McDonald. David was appointed.

- 2.3 Nominations for 3 Working Group Convenors were received for Joe Kenny, Jim Nash, Diane Marks and Paul McCloskey. Following voting Joe, Jim and Paul were elected.

3. Belfast Transport Hub

- 3.1 Due to unforeseen circumstances the representatives from Translink were unable to attend. Michael briefed members about concerns around the use of shared space and the distance of the proposed Hub from the city centre.
- 3.2 Following discussion members agreed to write to Chris Conway and the Department to raise concerns. Terry agreed to arrange a meeting with Translink officials in early January 2017.
Actions: Ciaran to identify the most appropriate contact in the Department. Michael to draft and send correspondence. Terry to arrange a meeting.
- 3.3 Members from the North West agreed to report back any developments from the public meetings about the development of the North West Transport Hub.

4. Chairpersons and other updates

- 4.1 Max updated members on recent meetings around the Programme for Government.
- 4.2 Michael updated members on developments around the Integrated Passenger Transport Project, changes to driver licensing and testing, Belfast Rapid Transport, Derry public realm proposals, Pavement Café Licensing and the Strategic Plan for Greenways. Members raised concerns about the lack of engagement around the plan for Greenways.
- 4.3 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.

4.4 Michael briefed members on proposals to review procedures for renewal of the Blue Badge. Following discussion members agreed that Imtac would support making renewals easier but would not support ending the requirement for the Badge to be renewed every three years.

4.5 Michael updated members on the work of the new Taxi Forum. Members discussed and agreed the following priorities to be raised at the Forum:

- A review of availability of wheelchair accessible taxis
- Refusal of drivers to carry assistance dogs
- A review of training requirements

Action: Michael to feedback issues to officials.

4.6 Michael briefed members on the development of a new ticketing system by Translink. Concerns were raised about the impact of the new system on Half-Fare Smartpass holders. It was agreed to seek a meeting with Translink officials and to write to the Department to raise concerns about Half-Fare Smartpass holders.
Action: Terry to arrange a meeting. Ciaran to identify the most appropriate person in the Department to contact. Michael to draft correspondence.

5. Programme for Government (PfG) consultation

5.1 Michael briefed members on the current consultation on the development of the Programme for Government. It was agreed that Imtac should respond to the Department for Infrastructure Delivery Plan for Indicators 23 and 25 and the Department for Communities Delivery Plan for Indicator 42. Members expressed

disappointment about the approach taken by the Department for Communities.

Action: Michael to draft a response and circulate to members for comment.

6. ATS and observer updates

- 6.1 Ciaran Crosbie updated members on the latest timeframes for publication of the ATS 2025.
- 6.2 Jenny updated members on provision made at Belfast City Airport to address access issues for international arrivals. Jenny updated members on new guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority around passengers with hidden disabilities. Jenny informed the Committee that the report on the visit to City of Derry airport will be published shortly.
- 6.3 Terry updated members on the purchase of 85 new buses. All buses will be low-floor. Buses purchased for airport services will have audio visual information systems. Members welcomed these developments.

7. Current lmtac papers

- 7.1 Michael briefed members the draft report about Blue Badge parking surveys in Belfast City Centre
Actions: Members to comment on the redrafted paper by early January.

8. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- 8.2 Max informed members that the proposed meeting with Minister Hazzard (7.2) has been postponed until February.

9. Dates of future meetings

9.1 Michael agreed to forward dates for future meetings in January