

**MINUTES OF THE
109th Imtac MEETING**

Date: 5th June 2014, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

June Best, Peter Livingstone, Joe Kenny, Henry Mayne, Eimear McCracken, Sam Bell, Sheelagh McRandal, Nan Carville, Bert Bailie, Ann Gamble.

Observers: Keith Walsh (DRD), Andy McClenaghan (Consumer Council), Terry Butler (Translink), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Dermot McCluskey (Disability Action), Pauline Quigg (DRD).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from David Mann, Joan Harbsion, David McDonald, Jim Nash, Vivien Blakely.

1.2 Max welcomed new members. He reminded all members to claim for any expenses.

1.3 Max informed members that Michael will be contacting members in the next few weeks to refresh the register of interests and working groups' membership. Members will also be sent an updated list of meeting dates.

2. Appointment of officers and working group convenors

2.1 The election of the following officers and convenors took place:

Vice-chairperson – Bert Bailie (proposed Joe, seconded Eimear)

Honorary Treasurer – David McDonald (proposed June, seconded Ann)

Convenor Information & Training – June Best (proposed Peter, seconded Joe)

Convenor Personal Mobility – Ann Gamble (proposed Joe, seconded Sam)

Convenor Public Transport – Joe Kenny (proposed Sheelagh, seconded Henry)

3. Chairpersons, Treasurer and Convenors updates

- 3.1 Max informed members that the process of reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DRD and Intac has been concluded and the revised document signed by both parties.
- 3.2 In the absence of David McDonald Michael informed members that a budget had been agreed and offer of funding received from DRD for 2014/15.
- 3.3 Michael updated members on discussions at the recent Information & Training Group around a response to the Active Ageing Strategy and a recent meeting with Translink to discuss the website and improvements to audio and visual information systems at bus stations.
- 3.4 Michael updated members on issues following from the last Personal Mobility Group meeting concerning pavement café legislation, the Belfast Bike Hire Scheme and the use of 30mm height kerbs in a number of public realm schemes. Members expressed continued concerns about the use of 30mm kerbs.

4. Work programme tasks

- 4.1 Members received a briefing on the recent study visit to London from Michael. Both Translink (Terry) and DRD (Keith) gave

members their impressions of the visit. The consensus was the trip had been useful.

- 4.2 Michael updated members on changes to the draft PTE paper arising from the study visit including a recommendation that Translink introduce a “turn up and go” service from all mainline bus and train stations. Terry stated that a system of this type could not currently be introduced in all bus stations. Translink would be happy to promote this policy on Metro and from train stations. Terry also stated that he felt TfL promoted some of its infrastructure as accessible when in the same circumstances Translink would assist people with a disability to find an alternative. A lengthy discussion took place about the report and visit which highlighted a number of ongoing issues with the current public transport network.

Action: Max asked members to submit final comments on draft report in the next 7 to 10 days.

Action: Michael to follow up with Terry with regard to Translink reservations.

- 4.3 Michael briefed members on the draft report looking at the impact of the ATS on the provision of information. Broadly the report highlighted some progress but stressed the need for more detailed information and better promotion of services. During discussions members highlighted that staff at stations play a key role in giving information. It was agreed this was an omission from the report and should be included in the final draft.

Action: Max asked members to submit comments on draft report in the next 7 to 10 days.

5. Observers updates

- 5.1 Keith updated members on the latest report in the implementation of the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) Action Plan, the bid for additional resources to fund Audio Visual information on buses, the launch of Travel Wallets, the revised Travel Safe Guide, progress

with changes to the Blue Badge and the proposals to develop a Bicycle Strategy. Keith also updated members on plans for reviewing the ATS.

- 5.2 Dermot updated members on a reduction of resources to a number of Disability Action services. Dermot informed members that User Forums have been established for Disability Action Transport services and have met. Feedback has been both positive and negative.
- 5.3 Terry informed members that the launch of 43 new double-deck buses will take place on the 11th July. Imtac has been invited to the launch. Translink are also looking at the market for low-floor double-deck coaches. Terry indicated that Translink will consult Imtac about this purchase.
- 5.4 Andy informed members that the research into Translink timetables will be published following planned meetings with Translink. A focus group has also been held with disabled people around how easy it is to request assistance from airlines using their websites.
- 5.5 In response members asked whether older people were involved in the focus group on airlines websites. Members also suggested social media could be used to promote the DRD Travel Wallets.

6. Draft Annual Report

- 6.1 Michael briefed members on the content of draft Annual Report. Max indicated that Imtac would be seeking a meeting to present the report to the Minister.
Action: Max asked members to submit comments on draft report in the next 7 to 10 days.
Action: Michael to liaise with Keith regarding dates for meeting with the Minister.

- 6.2 Michael highlighted to members the importance of the survey looking at disabled and older people's attitudes to public transport. Michael stressed member's contribution to ensuring the survey was widely promoted. Members expressed some concerns about seeking responses to the survey in July.

7. Consultations

- 7.1 Michael briefed members on the issues paper around the proposed Bicycle Strategy. Members discussed a range of issues including the status of pedestrians in a road user's hierarchy and the need for more effective training programmes for cyclists.
Action: Max asked members to submit comments for inclusion in the Imtac response to the issues paper in the next 3-4 days. Michael to draft and submit the response

8. Minutes of last meeting/Matters arising

- 8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
- 8.2 Max updated members on the outcome of the recent recruitment process.
- 8.3 Michael updated members on minor changes proposed by DoE to regulations around taxi accessibility.
- 8.4 Michael updated members on the DRD response to Imtac comments on the recent consultation around proposed regulations for service contracts and permits. It was agreed to invite officials to the next public transport group for further discussion.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 Michael raised an issue sent in by David McDonald. David has highlighted the current review being undertaken around assessment for wheelchairs. David has suggested Imtac contact the review team to highlight the importance of travel and transport

around any assessment. It was agreed to do this and to refer the issue to the appropriate working group to progress.

9.2 Sam asked about the use of low-floor vehicles by health trusts. Michael agreed to send Sam information.

9.3 Ann asked about the current situation regarding resources and staffing levels. Max informed members a meeting will take place shortly with DRD to discuss the matter.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11th September 2014 starting at 1.30pm in the Mount.