

**MINUTES OF THE  
110<sup>th</sup> Imtac MEETING**

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, The Mount, Belfast

**Present:** G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

June Best, Peter Livingstone, Eimear McCracken, Sam Bell, Sheelagh McRandal, Nan Carville, Bert Bailie, Moira Heap, David McDonald, David Mann, Vivien Blakely, Jim Nash.

**Observers:** Keith Walsh (DRD), Scott Kennerly (Consumer Council), Terry Butler (Translink), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Dermot McCluskey (Disability Action).

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer

**1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences**

- 1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Joan Harbison, Henry Mayne, Ann Gamble and Joe Kenny.
- 1.2 Max reminded all members to claim for any expenses.
- 1.3 Max asked that any member who had not already done so to complete the register of interests after the meeting.

**2. Chairpersons, Treasurer and Convenors updates**

- 2.1 Max updated members on the recent meeting with Minister Kennedy. Max also updated members on a meeting with DRD to discuss additional staff for the Secretariat. A follow up meeting will be held once options have been fully explored.

- 2.2 June updated members on plans to involve Transport for All from London in a proposed workshop / seminar around training.
- 2.3 Michael updated members on delays to the public transport survey due to data protection issues. Keith explained the rationale for requiring a full postcode from respondents. The proposed Public Transport Group meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September has been postponed.
- 2.4 Michael updated members on issues following from the last Personal Mobility Group meeting concerning the proposed Blue Badge Fraud paper, pavement café legislation and the Belfast Bike Hire Scheme.

### **3. Work programme tasks**

- 3.1 Members received a briefing on the latest draft of the Information Assessment paper. A discussion took place around standards including the need for a minimum of 14pt text size.  
**Action: Max asked members to submit final comments on draft paper in the next 7 to 10 days.**
- 3.2 Michael briefed members on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the paper summarising the findings of seven walking audits undertaken by Imtac. During discussion it was suggested that the language used in the document should be more direct and that the report would benefit from a snappy title. Members also raised a number of other obstacles not raised by the report including deliveries in pedestrian zones. Keith suggested raising issues in the report through the Vision Strategy.  
**Action: Max asked members to submit comments on draft report in the next 7 to 10 days. Michael to prepare draft for the next Personal Mobility Group.**

## 4. Observers updates

- 4.1 Keith updated members on developments since the launch of the revised Travel Safe Guide and the Travel Wallets. Keith updated members on the timescale for a decision around changes to the Blue Badge Scheme and the Department's thinking around developing successor arrangements to the Accessible Transport Strategy. Keith informed members that OFMDFM had not responded to a bid for money under the Delivering Social Change Fund – capital in year funding for audio visual on buses is being explored.
- 4.2 Scott informed members about the publication of a follow report looking at DATs and Rural Community Transport Services. The report identifies issues with the current services but acknowledges they are valued. In the longer term the Consumer Council has recommended encouraging mainstream transport solutions. Scott briefed members on a report to be published shortly on people's views about passenger information provided by Translink. The report includes the findings of a focus group of disabled people. Scott updated members on work to promote awareness of passengers rights and plans to repeat a survey looking at awareness of rights.
- 4.3 Naomi updated members on plans to publish research in relation to public policy and the UNCRPD. Naomi briefed members on a proposed campaign called "Every Customer Counts" which will be piloted in Newtownards.
- 4.4 Terry updated members on plans to introduce accessibility options on journey planner and new timetables which contain information on the type of vehicles used on routes. Terry briefed members on the purchase of new double and single deck buses. A new design of rural bus will be decided following consultation with the Public Transport Group. Terry informed members about work with RNIB Staff and bus drivers in Derry and the soft launch of the new scooter policy.

- 4.5 Dermot updated members about cuts to current budgets. The 6 DATS Forums have now met. It is planned to follow up these meetings in October / November.
- 4.6 Keith was asked about the evaluation of the Travel Training Scheme and a follow up to the event organised by DRD in January involving stakeholders including health and education. Keith informed members that the evaluation was currently being considered by senior management.
- 4.7 A number of issues were raised about the design of buses including the location of handrails on Translink buses. Terry informed members that work was being undertaken with Wrightbus to see if this could be resolved. Issues were also raised about the suitability of vehicles used on DATS.  
**Action: Michael agreed to send Dermot more information about Belfast Trust vehicles.**
- 4.8 Members asked if disabled people had not raised issues around text size when looking at passenger information. Scott explained that participants received this information in large print.
- 4.9 Keith and Terry were asked why AV could not be included new buses. Terry suggested it was because Translink have not been asked to provide the system. Keith suggested the team leading on the project could brief members on difficulties. Members also raised issues about real time information boards at bus stops.
- 4.10 A number of operational issues were raised about DATs in Bangor. Dermot was not aware of any change in operations in the area and suggested that members contact the Transport Manager or use the complaints policy.

## **5. Draft Bicycle Strategy**

- 5.1 Michael briefed members the content of the draft Bicycle Strategy and informed members that representatives from the Cycling Unit will be attending the Personal Mobility Group meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed to defer discussion until the meeting.

## **6. Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising**

- 6.1 Subject to a spelling correction the minutes were approved as accurate.
- 6.2 Max informed members of the reasons why “Turn up and go” was removed from the Annual Report and PTE paper. Terry stated that Translink had no issues with Turn up and go on Metro and Northern Ireland Railways but this could not be achieved on Ulsterbus. Max stated that it was still the position of Imtac that disabled people should not have to give 24 hour’s notice to travel by public transport.

## **7. Any other business**

- 7.1 Max updated members on changes to the Imtac Contingency Policy and the drafting of a new Data Protection / Privacy Policy.  
**Action: Michael to circulate both policies.**
- 7.2 Michael updated members on the timetable for introducing regulations to implement the Taxis Act and discussions with officials about concerns expressed by members about the impact of delays. Michael explained that implementation could be delayed if MLA’s vote against the regulations.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

**8.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 starting at 1.30pm in the Mount.**