

MINUTES OF THE



91st Imtac MEETING

Date: 3rd December 2009 at The Mount, Belfast

Present: Frank Caddy (Chair)
William Stewart
Elizabeth Black
David McDonald
Ann Collins
Ann Gamble
Dessie Ferguson
Terry Butler
Max O'Brien
Anita Gracey
Barbara Fleming
Francis Hughes
Neil Gillan
Ronnie Patterson

Apologies: Andrew Murdock
Henry Mayne
Norma Moore
Laura Slater
Philip Blair
Francis Hughes
Kevin Doherty
Etta Mann

Observers: Janet Watson (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Alan Preston (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Paula Hughes (Equality Commission)
Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission)
Olaf Hvattum (Age Sector Platform)
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1 **Minutes of the last meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2 **Matters arising**

2.1 AV on Buses

Terry informed members that a revised business case has been submitted to DRD and meeting held with officials around progressing the pilot.

2.2 DRD Disability Action Plan

Michael updated members on a positive meeting with the DRD Equality Unit.

2.3 Vehicle specification/door2door

Frank updated members on correspondence with DRD around vehicle specification and the re-tendering for door2door services. Members expressed frustration at the Departments position around small vehicle standards but welcomed the invitation to meet with the Department around the door2door re-tender. It was agreed that David, Elizabeth, Olaf, Ann Gamble and Norma should form the Group.

2.4 Concessionary Fares

Frank updated members on correspondence with the DRD regarding the Concessionary Fares Scheme. A final letter has been sent to DRD outlining the Committees advise on the legality of the current administrative arrangements for the Concessionary Fares Scheme.

2.5 Shared surfaces statement

Frank read members a response from DSD Minister Ritchie to Imtac's Shared Surfaces statement. Members expressed disappointment at the minister's response. It was agreed to write to ask for a meeting with the Minister and copy the correspondence to Minister Murphy.

2.6 Streets Ahead

Frank informed members a letter has been sent requesting a meeting with DSD to discuss progress with Belfast City Centre Access & Mobility Study.

Michael

3 **Draft Report on the impact of the ATS on people with a learning disability**

3.1 Michael explained the background and content of the paper. In discussion members welcomed the findings of the paper.

3.2 Alan asked that some areas of the paper be looked at again and strengthened to help the Department bid for resources. In particular Alan identified the need more evidence around what attitudes are that making using transport difficult, what the specific information requirements are for people with a learning disability and more information on the need for travel training. It was agreed to look at these areas.

3.3 Max highlighted the complexity of many of the issues raised by the paper. He asked for expectations of what Imtac could research to remain realistic.

Michael

3.4 A general discussion took place around training. During this discussion members expressed disappointment at the recent award of the Translink contract. Frank stated that while he shared frustrations Imtac could not get involved in what was a commercial tender.

4 **Assembly Research Paper**

4.1 Michael explained the background to the paper. The Regional Development Committee has requested comments from Imtac.

4.2 Members welcomed the paper. It was agreed that many of the issues raised were issues that members had raised with the Committee and with the Department.

4.3 It was agreed that in responding to the paper Imtac would

highlight areas where progress is being made and make constructive proposals for a way forward.

5 Regional Transportation Strategy Review

- 5.1 Michael explained the background to the consultation. He explained that this would be the first of several consultations on the RTS.
- 5.2 After discussion it was agreed by members to base the Imtac response on the previous submission to the Regional Development Committee inquiry on sustainable transport.
- 5.3 Members also asked that the importance of transport chains be highlighted as well as the importance of air and cross border transport links

Michael

6 Working Group updates

- 6.1 Ann updated members on the work of the Personal Mobility Group.
- 6.2 David updated members on the work of the Information and Training Group. He informed members that the Group planned to hold a seminar on training for transport providers in the New Year.
- 6.3 As Barbara had had to leave Michael updated members on the work of the Public Transport Group. The Group asked the main Committee discuss the ending of funding for Easibus services. The Committee expressed disappointment at this development. It was agreed to write to DRD asking for clarification bearing in mind Imtac had submitted a paper to the DRD last year on Easibus.

Michael

7 ATS Update

- 7.1 Alan updated the Committee on progress towards the publication of the revised action plan of the ATS.

8 Imtac Review update

8.1 Frank updated members on a further meeting with KPMG. As yet no word on the findings of the Review. Alan stated that KPMG have asked for further time to complete the review and as yet the Department has no indications of its findings. Frank stressed the need for some urgency.

9 Any other business

9.1 Naomi explained the plans from the Equality Commission to promote the new transport regulations. Michael highlighted that during discussions some difficulties had arisen for the Commission around practical guides for transport operators. It was suggested that Imtac could develop such guidance. This was agreed.

9.2 Michael distributed copies of the Public Transport Reform consultation. The Committee agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss and to invite wider representation from the disability and older peoples sectors.

9.3 Michael distributed dates for the next years meetings. Terry distributed diaries.

9.4 Members asked about re-arranging the Christmas lunch planned for today's meeting.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th March 2010 at 12.30pm at the Mount, Belfast.