

MINUTES OF THE



93rd Imtac MEETING

Date: 10th June 2010, The Mount Belfast

Present: Frank Caddy (Chair)
William Stewart
Elizabeth Black
David McDonald
Ann Collins
Ann Gamble
Kellie Armstrong
Bert Baillie
Terry Butler
Max O'Brien
Norma Moore
Barbara Fleming
Houston Marshall
Billy McFall
Ronnie Patterson
Andrew Murdock

Apologies: Francis Hughes
Laura Slater
June Best
Philip Blair
Etta Mann
Kevin Doherty
Olaf Hvattum
Gavin Hamilton

Observers: Jenny Pyper (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Alan Preston (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Andrew Adams (Ports & Public Transport Division)
Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission)
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

Prior to the meeting Frank welcomed new members to their first meeting.

1 Appointment of Vice-Chair & Working Group Convenors

1.1 Frank informed members that other than the current office holders no nominations have been received for the committee posts. William was elected Vice-Chair. Barbara, Ann and David were elected Convenor of the Public Transport, Personal Mobility and Information & Training group respectively.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 AV on Buses

Andrew confirmed that work was progressing identifying a system and potential Metro routes to pilot AV. Andrew Adams indicated he would look to Imtac members for assistance in identifying participants in the pilot. Andrew Murdock indicated his desire to be involved.

3.2 Door2door

Michael informed members that the revised paper had been submitted to DRD. Ann Gamble asked for clarification around recent letters received by door2door members. Andrew Adams explained developments including a legal challenge from Chambers which had prevented DRD from making intended changes. It is likely future services will be tendered for towards the end of the year. Frank offered the assistance of Imtac in the retendering process.

3.3 Concessionary Fares information

Frank informed members that as yet no clarification has been received from DRD around legal advice on accessible information. Andrew Adams explained staff had been exceptionally busy. After discussion the Committee agreed to contact the Equality Commission for clarification.

Michael

3.4 Shared Surfaces

After discussion the Group agreed to contact the Department for Transport and ask to be kept informed of the progress of research into shared space.

Michael

3.5 Learning disability report

Frank informed members that the Report has been agreed with the Department. Copies of the report were circulated. Frank asked that members make Michael aware of any changes by Friday 18th June after which the report will be published.

All/Michael

3.6 Streets Ahead

Frank updated members on further delays to the publication of the Access & Mobility Study. Alan explained that Belfast City Council has raised some concerns. Ann Collins expressed her frustration over the seemingly endless delays.

3.7 Easibus

Michael briefed the Committee on a reply from Department to Imtac previous letter about the withdrawal of Easibus services. The Business Group have indicated that this is as far as Imtac can take the issue as we have already advised the Department in a previous paper.

3.8 David gave members an overview of the effect of withdrawal of services in Bangor and the actions of users in response to the withdrawal. Andrew Adams reiterated the position of the Department. During a lively exchange Andrew Adams made reference to his unhappiness that David had accused him of lying on three occasions. David categorically denied he had ever said Andrew had lied and asked this be recorded in the minutes. Andrew confirmed that 42,000 people not 23286 people had used Easibus in Bangor in 2008/9 in response to David's query.

3.9 Access Permits EQIA

Members were informed the final EQIA on access permits will be published shortly.

3.10 Work Programme

Frank informed members agreement has been reached with the Department on the 2010/11 Work Programme. Copies were distributed and members approved the Programme for publication.

4 **Review update**

4.1 Frank welcomed Jenny Pyper to her first Imtac meeting and asked the Department for an update on the Review of Imtac. Jenny briefed the Committee on progress getting the report ready for distribution and indicated this would happen in the next few weeks.

4.2 Frank informed the Committee that he had met with Jenny to discuss a process. He informed members that the report would initially be released to the Business Group and then the full committee. Bert asked if the report had been revised following feedback from officials. Jenny stated the report had not been revised.

5 **ATS Update**

5.1 Alan updated members on the work of the British Irish Council and indicated that the Department will want Imtac's input into a number of initiatives including a proposed website for the regions.

5.2 Alan indicated the Department was planning to review and revise Travel Safe. Again Alan indicated the Department would seek input from Imtac in any review.

6 **Working Group updates**

6.1 Ann updated members on the work of the Personal Mobility Group.

6.2	Barbara gave an update on the work of the Public Transport Group. Barbara requested that a member of the Ports & Public Transport team attend these meetings in future. Andrew Adams explained there had been a mix up with papers but he would ensure someone attended in future.	Andrew
7	Consultation on Roads (Functions of District Councils) Bill	
7.1	Michael explained the provisions of the Bill and its potential impact on disabled people and older people. After discussion it was agreed that Blue Badge holders in particular could be affected by the changes and that changes could lead to inconsistencies and inequalities in provision.	Michael/All
7.2	Frank asked Michael to draft a response and circulate it to members for comments.	Michael/All
8	Any other business	
8.1	Michael updated the Committee on the publication of the consultation report on Public Transport Reform. Members agreed to ask for a meeting with the Public Transport Reform Team to discuss the next steps.	Michael
8.2	Michael informed members that he has received a consultation from DoE on bus operator licensing. Members are asked to feed in comments. Unfortunately the consultation is during the summer months.	Michael/all
8.3	Frank raised his concerns over Blue Badge misuse and asked that the Personal Mobility Group look at what is being done elsewhere to tackle the issue.	Michael
9	Consultation on DRD Disability Action Plan	
9.1	DRD officials left the meeting. Frank welcomed Tony O'Reilly from the Equality Commission. Tony gave a brief overview of the duties and what is required of Public bodies when drafting a disability action plan.	
9.2	After discussion members agreed:	

- The action plan bore little relevance to priorities for disabled people
- That many of the actions are vague no tangible outcomes
- That some actions are simply rehashing existing measures

9.3 Frank asked Michael to draft a response along these issues and distribute it to members for comment. Frank asked that comment not be made on each action. It was suggested that two new actions be included by way of example of what could be included in a revised action Plan. This was agreed. It was also agreed to ask to meet with DRD officials to discuss the response.

Michael/All

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th September 2010 at 12.30pm at the Mount, Belfast.