



Imtac Work Programme 2011/2012

April 2011

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Introduction

- 1 Imtac is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. Our role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.
- 2 Our aim is to ensure that older people and disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else to travel when and where they want.
- 3 Imtac receives support from the Department for Regional Development.

About our Work Programme

- 4 The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) published by the Department for Regional Development in 2005. The ATS requires Imtac to publish a work programme each year “detailing such transport matters that affect older people and people with disabilities [disabled people] as the committee think appropriate.”
- 5 Our work programme 2010/2011 reflects this requirement and is based on key issues identified through consultation with our stakeholders including disabled people, older people and their organisations, policy makers, transport providers and other key stakeholders including the Consumer Council and Equality Commission.
- 6 Imtac routinely undertakes a number of key tasks as requirements of the Accessible Transport Strategy. These routine tasks include:
 - Responding to consultations
 - Responding to requests for advice and information from our stakeholders

- Raising issues relevant to older people and disabled people with our stakeholders
- Distributing information about services and policies to our stakeholders
- Holding a open and accessible recruitment process for members of Imtac each year
- Consulting on our work programme each year
- Providing training and support to members
- Holding at least 4 meetings of Imtac each year
- Submitting a report in June each year to the Minister for Regional Development outlining our achievements and advice to the Minister on transport matters that affect older people and disabled people as the committee think appropriate
- Other measures to involve a wide range of older people and disabled people in the work areas of imtac

Work Programme Tasks 2011/2012

- 7 Imtac will continue to have significant ongoing input into a number of current key policy areas during 2011/12. These issues will be dealt with as required by the appropriate working group or main committee. These policy areas include:
- Changes to Belfast City Centre public realm and traffic management
 - Shared space including the provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities
 - The implementation of the Taxis Act 2008

- Parking enforcement issues including misuse of the Blue Badge
- 8 The following are tasks to be undertaken by Imtac in the next year. Each task will be undertaken by one of Imtac's three working groups. Each working group will identify and agree the best way to achieve each task.

Personal Mobility Group

Task 1 – Highlighting barriers to the pedestrian environment

Why: People tell us that barriers in the pedestrian environment make everyday journeys very difficult

What: We will talk to a range of older people and disabled people about the difficulties they experience and produce a report highlighting the main barriers with recommendations for improvements

When: We plan to have the report finished by March 2012.

Task 2 – Promote the use of wayfinding technologies

Why: Finding a way round the pedestrian and built environment can be difficult for some disabled people – new technology such as GPS can assist people to do this more easily

What: We will look at what technology is available and produce a paper highlighting how technology can be used to make the pedestrian and built environment more accessible

When: We plan to have the report finished by March 2012

Task 3 – Highlight the support required to enable disabled people and older people to drive

- Why:** Being able to drive means many older people and disabled people can live independent lives – disabled people and older people tell us that it is sometimes difficult to access support that enables people to learn or to continue to drive
- What:** We will examine what support is available and what happens elsewhere and produce a report with recommendations for improvements
- When:** We plan to have the report finished by December 2011

Task 4 – Assess the impact of Access to Air Travel Regulations

- Why:** Many disabled people and older people tell us they encounter difficulty when flying despite rights under European Regulation introduced in 2008
- What:** We will talk to older people and disabled people about their rights and experiences when travelling by air and produce a report on the findings
- When:** We plan to have the report finished by March 2012

Public Transport Group

Task 5 – Recommend to Government an amendment to the Public Service Accessibility Regulations (NI) to include the provision of audio and visual information systems on buses and coaches

- Why:** A pilot of audio-visual information on buses is to take place in the coming year and if successful the

facility could be included on all buses resources permitting. However accessibility regulations for buses and coaches do not currently require any new buses to have this facility.

What: We will develop a paper highlighting the case for amending PSVAR (NI) to include audio and visual information and submit the paper to relevant Government Department

When: We plan to have the report finished by September 2011

Task 6 – Highlight alternative approaches to flexible transport services

Why: Flexible forms of public transport are vital to enable disabled people and older people to travel more – there are many different ways that flexible transport can be provided

What: We will develop a report with case studies highlighting different approaches to providing flexible transport. The report will highlight options for using existing resources in different ways. We will use this report to feed into the review of the Regional Transportation Strategy and Public Transport Reform.

When: We plan to have the report finished by September 2011.

Task 7 – Assess the attitudes of disabled people and older people to public transport in Northern Ireland

Why: The accessibility of public transport has improved greatly in recent years but we do not know enough

about what disabled people and older people think of the changes

What: We will talk to older people and disabled people about their perceptions and experiences of public transport and produce a report detailing our findings. We will use this report to feed into the future review of the Accessible Transport Strategy.

When: We plan to have the report finished by March 2012

Information, Education and Training Group

Task 8 – Assess the provision of travel information

Why: People tell us that getting accurate and accessible information about transport services is often difficult and that this can make using services difficult

What: We will look at what information is available about services (such as timetables, leaflets and websites) and assess how accessible that information is – we will publish a report with recommendations for improvement

When: We plan to have the report finished by December 2011

Task 9 – Identify key transport issues for younger disabled people

Why: We would like to find out what transport issues matter to younger disabled people in Northern Ireland

What: We will talk to disabled people under the age of 25 to find out what issues matter to them and produce a report on our findings

When: We plan to have the report finished by March 2012

Task 10 – Highlight the importance of Travel Training/Mentoring programmes in making transport accessible

Why: We have already identified the importance of travel training programmes for people with a learning disability but we know that other disabled people and older people would benefit from support to use public transport

What: We will examine research and good practice from elsewhere and produce a report, with case studies, highlighting options for improving provision in Northern Ireland. The report will highlight how best to use existing resources.

When: We plan to have the report finished by January 2012

Task 11 – Launch Imtac Good Practice Guidelines for Disability Training

Why: People tell us that the attitudes of staff can make a big difference to journeys

What: We will hold an event to highlight the benefits of providing Disability Equality Training and awareness training to people involved in the provision of transport services

When: We plan to hold the event by September 2011

Monitoring Progress

- 9 To ensure that we monitor progress on each of tasks in our work programme Imtac will publish a quarterly update. These will be published in July, October, January and April. The quarterly update will provide details of progress made under each task and plans for the future. Because we work with others and have limited resources sometimes we cannot progress some tasks as quickly as we would want. We will highlight where and why tasks may be delayed in our updates. We will publish updates on our website and distribute to our key stakeholders.

Contacting us

- 10 If you have any queries about this work programme or would like it in an alternative formats including please contact Michael Lorimer at:

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The work programme is also available to download from our website in word and pdf format