

Minutes of the 126th Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 16th January 2019, The Mount.

Present: Bert Bailie (Chairperson)

Paul McCloskey, Vivien Blakely, Sheelagh McRandal, Dave Morton, Andy Boal, Brian Murray, Diane Marks, Sam Bell, Aaron McKane, June Best, Alison Lockhart

Observers: Ciaran Crilly (Department for Infrastructure), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Orla McCann (Disability Action), Francis Hughes (Age Sector Platform), Jenny Redman (Consumer Council), Terry Butler (Translink).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Bert welcomed everyone to his first meeting as Chairperson and paid tribute to previous Chairperson, Max O'Brien. After welcoming new members Aaron McKane and June Best, Bert asked the members and observers to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Bert informed members he had received correspondence from Moira Doherty informing him she would be moving on from her current position of Director of Public Transport Services following a promotion.
Action: Members agreed that the Chairperson write formally to Moira congratulating her on her promotion and record the Committees gratitude for the contribution she has made to the work of Imtac during her time with the Department.
- 1.3 Apologies were given and accepted from Joe Kenny, Anne Scott, Jean Dunlop, Moira Heap and Nuala Crilly.

1.4 Michael informed members that Anne Straghan has resigned from the Committee.

Action: It was agreed to write to Anne and thank her for her contribution to the work of Imtac.

2. Observers updates

2.1 Orla informed members that Disability Action continue to monitor the impact of recent DATS service reductions and work with other community transport operators to highlight the impact of funding reductions. Orla also highlighted a new Department for Communities grants programme that provides capital funding to improve access to arts and culture

Action: Orla to share information about the grants programme with members.

2.2 Francis asked for clarification on the issue of potential misuse of Smartpass information contained on bus and train tickets, raised at the last Imtac meeting as well as raising concerns about access at Lambeg rail halt.

Action: Ciaran agreed to provide clarification on the Smartpass ticketing issue.

2.3 Naomi provided an update on two events hosted by the Equality Commission in December. The first was for public bodies about developing Disability Action Plans. The second was about the participation of disabled people in public life. Naomi indicated that following the second event the Commissioner for Public Appointments is looking to run a workshop for disabled people. Members asked about progress forming the proposed advisory group for the work of IMNI.

Action: Naomi agreed to check progress with the advisory group.

2.4 Ciaran congratulated Bert on his appointment as Chairperson. Ciaran explained to members that the successor to Moira Doherty is still to be appointed and that this may impact on how quickly

some issues can be taken forward. Ciaran also informed members that the Permanent Secretary intended to respond to issues raised by the Business Group at the meeting in November.

- 2.5 Ciaran provided updates on the launch of Access to Glide, the Translink ticketing project, issues with audio visual information on Glider vehicles and proposals to provide audio information at some Glider halts.
- 2.6 Jenny updated members on the recent Glider site visit – a report will be published in due course. Jenny also provided an update to members on plans for local airports to establish Access Forums and for site visits in January and February. Jenny briefed members on a number of passenger rights sessions undertaken by the Consumer Council. Finally Jenny informed members of a consultation by the UK Government around an Aviation Strategy.
- 2.7 Members expressed an interest in taking part in the visits and raised a number of issues related to air travel for wheelchair users and people travelling with assistance dogs. Members stressed the importance of disabled people being involved in forums and visits.

3. Updates on developments since the last meeting

- 3.1 Michael updated members on developments associated with Translink including the launch of Access to Glide, proposals to improve the provision of audio and visual information on the Glider network and work undertaken to improve slip resistance at Glider halts. He also updated members on the progress with delivering Disability Equality Training to senior management in Translink, station developments including the meeting with the Belfast Hub Team in November, the installation of a Changing Places facility in Lanyon and the decision to refurbish Lambeg footbridge. Finally Michael reported on a meeting between Max and Chris Conway where vehicle procurement was discussed.

- 3.2 In response members raised issues with the quality of audio information on other Metro buses, on trains and at railway stations and halts. Members also asked about how to influence the vehicle standard used by other commercial, community and statutory providers. The Committee agreed to look at future work programme tasks to promote good practice in vehicle design.
- 3.3 Michael updated members on meetings and events held recently including the meeting with the DfI Permanent Secretary, the Equality Commission to discuss pavement cafes, a meeting with the Older Persons Commissioner to discuss taxis and DATS services and presentations to local branch of CIHT, the Local Government Staff Commission and the Equality Commission Disability Action Planning event. Sheelagh commended Michael on the excellent paper which he had presented to CIHT.
- 3.4 In response members raised the continuing problems people are having accessing taxis. Finding suitable vehicles continues to be a problem for wheelchair users and people travelling with assistance dogs.
- 3.5 Michael reported on comments submitted by Imtac on planned public realm schemes in Belfast and Newry. He highlighted the lack of early engagement in the development of the draft Accessibility and Public Realm Design Guide for the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown area.
- 3.6 Michael updated members on current and upcoming issues including the draft report on the proposed public realm scheme in Enniskillen, the proposed workshop on Belfast public realm works in February, the review of the Alfred Street cycle route, the draft EQIA published for consultation by Lisburn and Castlereagh Council and the plans for user testing of the new Translink website. He also briefed members on the plans to hold 4 to 5 public meetings before the end of March and reasons for not proceeding with engagement with Deaf people and people with hearing impairments.

Action: Members to submit comments on the draft Enniskillen public realm paper in the next 7 to 10 days.

Terry Butler joined the meeting.

- 3.7 Terry provided a response to issues raised by members during the meeting including acknowledging the issues with audio and visual information systems across the bus and rail networks and the measures being explored to resolve these issues. He also indicated that the order for new Goldline coaches has not yet been submitted and that the decision to refurbish Lambeg footbridge was taken because of the resources available. Terry provided an update on station developments and indicated that the Changing Places facility in Portrush is likely to open first.
- 3.8 In response members raised issues with the location of bus stops following the introduction of Glider. It was suggested that Ulsterbus services should be allowed to let passengers off at Glider halts.

4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 4.1 Subject to the addition of Moira Heap to those present the minutes were agreed.
Proposed: Vivien Blakely Seconded: Alison Lockhart
- 4.2 With reference to paragraph 7.1 Ciaran indicated the Department has received and accepted the Committee's amendments to the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

5. Any other business

- 5.1 Bert indicated that the Committee would need to take decisions on cheque mandates following the completion of the appointments process.

6. Dates of future meetings

- 6.1 The next Imtac meeting will be held on the 13th March 2019 at the Mount starting at 12.30pm.

The meeting stopped for a short break.

Orla McCann, Francis Hughes, Naomi Roberts, Ciaran Crilly and Jenny Redman left the meeting.

7. Appointment of officers and Business Group members

- 7.1 Prior to the appointment process Bert asked that the minutes record the thanks of the Committee to David McDonald for the commitment and contribution he made as a member and Treasurer of Imtac
Action: Members agreed that the Chairperson should write and formally thank David.
- 7.2 Bert formally declared vacant all officer roles on the Committee and on Business Group
- 7.2 Nominations were sought for the position of Vice Chairperson. June Best was the only nomination and was appointed.
Proposed: Brian Murray Seconded: Dave Morton
- 7.3 Nominations were sought for the position of Treasurer. Sheelagh McRandal was the only nomination and was appointed.
Proposed: Vivien Blakely Seconded: Sam Bell
- 7.4 Nominations were sought for the Convenor of the Translink Accessibility Working Group. Joe Kenny was the only nomination and was appointed.
Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal Seconded: June Best
- 7.5 Nominations were sought for Business Group members. Nominations were received for Sam Bell, Vivien Blakely and Paul McCloskey. All nominated were appointed.
Proposed: Andy Boal Seconded: Sheelagh McRandal

8. Appointment of members of the Translink Accessibility Working Group

8.1 Nominations were sought for members of the Translink Accessibility Working Group. Nominations were received from Alison Lockhart, Diane Marks, Dave Morton and Brian Murray. All nominated were appointed.

Proposed: June Best

Seconded: Vivien Blakely

9. Banking mandate

9.1 Following discussion it was agreed that Bert Bailie and Sam Bell should join Sheelagh McRandal and Michael Lorimer as cheque signatories.

Proposed: Dave Morton

Seconded: Alison Lockhart

Bert thanked everyone for their contribution. The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

Note: the next meeting will be 13 March 2019 at 12.30pm