

## **Minutes of the 134<sup>th</sup> Imtac Meeting**

**Date and place:** 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, ZOOM meeting.

**Present:** Bert Bailie (Chairperson), Sheelagh McRandal, June Best, Daryl Cupples, Jean Dunlop, Aaron McKane, Christine McClements, Brian Murray, John McErlane, Eileen Drumm, Paul McCloskey, Dave Morton, Andy Boal, Terry McCorry, Sam Bell.

**Observers:** Richard Williams & Brónach Graham (Consumer Council), Scott McClenaghan (Department for Infrastructure), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Terry Butler (Translink).

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer

**Apologies:** Diane Marks, Alison Lockhart.

### **1. Introductions and updates**

1.1 Bert welcomed everyone and asked participants to introduce themselves.

### **2. Chairperson's Updates**

2.1 Bert updated members on meetings with David Cowan (Translink) and Orla Campbell (DfI Sponsor Team) and his attendance at the COP21 roundtable hosted by Minister Mallon in July. It was noted that Michael is representing Imtac on the Minister's Walking and Cycling Advisory Group and expects to be involved in finalising the Alfred Street Review.

2.2 Bert highlighted the next meeting of A4N which will be hosted remotely by DPTAC on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Members agreed the focus from an Imtac perspective should be emergence from COVID.

Members also agreed that Working Group Convenors should attend alongside the Chairperson and Secretariat.

2.3 Bert informed members that that the Annual Report has been submitted to Minister Mallon and a request for a meeting approved with date to be confirmed. Michael explained that a request to the Minister to adopt “walk, wheel and cycle” terminology has also been made. Members agreed the members of the Business Group should attend the meeting.

2.4 Bert briefed members on proposal approved by the Business Group to hold future recruitment processes during February to May each year to align with proposals to hold an AGM in June. Members agreed the proposal.

**Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal    Seconded: John McErlane**

### **3. Observers updates**

3.1 Naomi updated members about Equality Commission work including:

- Working with the Assembly to ensure that Assembly Committee meetings are accessible to people with hearing impairment
- Seeking consultation on best endeavours SEN requirements introduced under emergency COVID legislation – following pressure best endeavours was removed in August
- Looking a charging issues in hospital car parks
- The process for progressing the IMNI Advisory Group
- The development of a policy position on assistive technology

3.2 Scott highlighted how responding to COVID continues to impact on the work of the Department and budgets. Scott did highlight the restart of some day to day work including looking at improvements to concessionary fares application and renewal processes.

3.3 Richard briefed members on Consumer Council work including:

- On going work around air travel including cancellations arising from COVID
- The proposed publication of the joint Consumer Council / Imtac report on the site visit to the North West Transport Hub
- Current consultations from DfI around commercial bus licensing and renewals including Airporter
- An upcoming meeting with Chris Conway

3.4 Terry acknowledged the positive recent meeting discussing low-floor bus design and briefed members on the plans to start to role out audio visual information on services outside Belfast.

#### **4. Working groups and other updates**

4.1 Michael briefed members on the work of the Translink Accessibility Working Group including work around raising awareness of face covering exemptions, discussions on future bus design, proposals for redevelopment of Lurgan Railway Station and progress in improving information on the Translink website.

4.2 Members asked about proposals to improve Coleraine station. Terry explained that making changes in relation COVID have delayed some planned improvements.

4.3 June briefed members on the positive first meeting of the People, Streets and Places Working Group and its emerging priorities including tackling pavement parking, A Boards and regulation of pavement cafes. Michael briefed members on current work around encouraging people to walk, wheel and cycle.

4.4 Members asked that rural access, including routes to bus stops, be considered as part of walk, wheel and cycle measures and highlighted the importance of maintaining access for disabled people and older people who have no option but to travel by car.

4.5 Michael briefed members on proposals to undertake remote engagement in light of COVID restrictions. During a detailed discussion members highlighted the limitations of remote meetings and potential for large numbers of people to be excluded. Suggestions were made for using alternative engagement methods to ensure greater participation.

**Action: Michael agreed to revise proposals to ensure more inclusive engagement and discuss accessibility for people with hearing impairment with Naomi.**

4.6 Sheelagh updated members on the submission of audited accounts to the Department and how COVID is impacting on a growing underspend in the Imtac budget.

## **5. Revision of Imtac policy statement about taxis**

5.1 Michael briefed members on the background to the 2008 paper, developments since publication and the impact of COVID on the taxi trade and travel.

5.2 During detailed discussions members highlighted that many of the issues highlighted in the original paper are still relevant and stressed the importance of not overly focusing on the COVID situation in redrafting the paper.

**Action: Members were asked to submit comments / issues to Michael in the next 7 to 10 days.**

**Action: Michael to draft proposals and circulate to members for comments.**

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

6.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Proposed: John McErlane Seconded: Aaron McKane**

6.2 Members received an update on the situation around travel with assistance dogs post Brexit. Members expressed concerns about the continuing uncertainty.

6.3 Michael explained why the proposed DfC roundtable did not take place.

**6.2 Actions pending include:**

- **A draft report into urban and rural DRT**
- **The crash testing of wheelchairs / scooters.**

**7. Any other business**

7.1 There was no further business.

**8. Date of next meeting**

8.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Michael will consult members about timings.