

## **Minutes of the 139<sup>th</sup> Imtac Meeting**

**Date and place:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, ZOOM meeting.

**Present:** Bert Bailie [BB] (Chairperson), Aaron McKane [AMc], Brian Murray [BM], Paul McCloskey [PMc], Andy Boal [AB], Dave Morton [DM] Jackson Minford [JM], June Best [JB], Dermot Devlin [DD], Eileen Drumm [ED], Jean Dunlop [JD], Christine McClements [CMc], Vivien Blakely [VB].

**Observers:** Attracta Tremers [AT] (Department for Infrastructure), Terry Butler [TB] (Translink), Michelle Kelly [MK] (Consumer Council).

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer [ML]

**Apologies:** Alison Lockhart [AL], Diane Marks [DM], Terry McCorry [TMc], Richard Williams [RW] & Hannah Brown [HB] (Consumer Council), Andrea Brown [AB] (Disability Action).

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

1.1 BB welcomed and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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

2.1 BB updated members on the development and launch of the "Think Before You Park Campaign". He thanked JB for her input into messaging and DM and DD for undertaking a media interview on Radio Ulster.

2.2 BB briefed members on the biannual meeting with the Departmental sponsor team. Topics covered including Imtac briefing the Senior Civil Service Group, briefing for Minister around the Disability Strategy, proposed reviews of the MoU and the Imtac Articles of Association and growing workload on the secretariat.

2.3 BB updated members on a recent introductory meeting with Motability. Topics covered included local representation on the Motability Consumer Panel and the impact of the transition to electric vehicles. Members asked whether future flexibility would allow for help with the costs of accessible cycles. ML highlighted that changes to scope of Motability services would have to be mandated by Government.

2.4 BB highlighted ongoing discussions with Translink and the Department about vehicle procurement through TAWG and a related catch up meeting with David Cowan planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **3. Observer updates**

3.1 TB highlighted the need to replace school coaches in the next year, potential disruption with lift replacement and Lanyon Place and plans to refurbish Botanic station. Members asked questions about recent changes at Coleraine station and access issues at Omagh station.

**Action: TB agreed to follow up on issues at both stations.**

3.2 MK briefed members on the recent access audit of City of Derry airport and plans to carry similar visits to the Belfast airports in 2022. MK updated members on a review of the Translink app and websites and local airport website. She thanked members for their input to both projects. Members asked about changes since the last audit of the airport and whether the installation of a Changing Places Toilet was a recommendation. MK offered the opportunity for members unable to attend the audit to comment on the draft report.

**Action: ML to circulate City of Derry airport audit report to members.**

3.3 AT confirmed the Imtac briefing for the Senior Civil Service Group has been scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. She also confirmed that the consultation on options for pavement parking is almost

ready to be published but may be delayed until after the Christmas period, informed members about ongoing discussions with Translink around future vehicle procurement and updated on the Ministerial Steering Group and the Disability Strategy. BB expressed disappointment about the delay to the pavement parking consultation, acknowledging Christmas is not an ideal time to launch. ML stressed the need to access test the online consultation before launch.

**Action: AT and ML to discuss testing online pavement parking consultation before launch.**

#### **4. Task 2 – The future of mobility - paper for discussion**

4.1 ML briefed members about the draft paper explaining the rationale for focusing on four key principles rather than separate papers of a series of modes / subjects. He provided a quick overview of the proposed content, stressing there was a need to expand certain areas of the working draft. ML indicated that once members agree a draft paper, wider engagement will take place with Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers.

4.2 During discussions members asked for the paper to be amended to highlight the importance of engagement with carers, to place a greater emphasis on planning policy to influence private development and to ensure that inclusive was used in conjunction with accessible throughout the paper. The importance of accessible information and communication needed to be increased, with a clearer recognition of widespread digital exclusion and poor infrastructure in rural areas in particular limiting the potential benefits of new technology.

**Action: BB asked members to feedback further comments on the working draft in the next 7 to 10 days.**

#### **5. Disability Strategy and other updates**

5.1 JB and ML updated members on developments with the Disability Strategy including workshops with Government Departments in

October and the joint request to meet with Minister following the receipt of a disappointing workshop report in November. Notification has now been received about a meeting of the Co-Design Group with Minister Hargey on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and a meeting with the Ministerial Steering Group in the New Year. ML thanked both JB and DD for their work on the Strategy. Members asked whether a new Strategy would be delivered within the current mandate. JB made clear another strategy which will do nothing to deliver change is unacceptable.

**Action: ML to circulate feedback on the EY Report collated by DPOs including Imtac.**

5.2 ML updated members on recent meetings of the Translink Accessibility Working Group and the People, Streets and Places Working Group, as well as engagement with DfC around Belfast Public Realm schemes.

**Action: ML to circulate minutes and papers from recent working group meetings for members information.**

5.3 ML confirmed consultation responses were submitted on the BRT2 routes, building regulations, changing places toilets and proposed rise of taxi fares consultations.

## **6. Bolder Vision for Belfast consultation – discussion of Imtac Priorities**

6.1 Prior to discussing the consultation ML explained the reason for the postponement of the proposed webinar and confirmed a new date has been agreed. He highlighted issues around access to the online consultation room for people who use screen readers which the Council are trying to resolve. Members expressed disappointment about the accessibility issues.

**Action: ML to ask Bolder Belfast partners to consider extending the consultation and learn lessons from the accessibility issues around the consultation.**

- 6.2 ML briefed members on the Bolder Belfast vision and the four key moves currently being consulted on including a civic spine between the two university campuses, reducing car dependency in the inner ring, promoting city centre living and connecting the city centre to the river.
- 6.3 Members highlighted the need to ensure that city centre living was made an option for everyone including Deaf people, disabled people and older people with access for key services considered. The consensus was that a completely car free city centre would make both city centre access and living impossible for many Deaf, disabled and older people. Retaining some accessible parking must be a priority as is access for key services including care. Members also highlighted the need to ensure easy access to public transport services was a priority with links for people to access the heart of the city centre and good links to services elsewhere for people living in the city centre. Members stressed the need for generous, uncluttered pedestrian routes and separate cycling infrastructure, with pedestrian priority where interaction was unavoidable.

**Action: ML to draft a response the Bolder Belfast consultation and circulate to members for comments.**

## **7. Proposed statement on the installation of colourful crossings**

- 7.1 ML briefed members on the rationale and content of the statement. DD confirmed he has been contacted by his local council for advice around colour crossings. BB highlighted proposals for an experimental zebra crossing in Portsmouth.
- 7.2 Members confirmed broad support for the need for statement highlighting potential legal issues and safety concerns for all pedestrians including children and potential distractions for drivers.  
**Action: BB asked members to provide additional comments on the draft statement in the next 7 to 10 days.**

## **8 Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising**

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**Proposed: Dave Morton**

**Seconded: Andy Boal**

8.2 ML indicated that a joint letter to the TEO regarding the COVID Recovery Plan is currently being drafted and will be sent shortly.

8.3 TB confirmed an update on Park & Ride will be given at the next TAWG meeting.

## **8. Any other business**

8.1 BB updated members on plans to launch the next recruitment for both members and chairperson at the end of January 2022.

8.2 JB highlighted the first Disabled People's Parliament due to take place in Parliament Buildings on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Action: ML to circulate details of the Disabled People's Parliament.**

## **9. Dates of future meetings**

9.1 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 2pm  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 2pm

## **List of actions**

- Action 1** Action: TB agreed to follow up on issues at both stations.
- Action 2** Action: ML to circulate City of Derry airport audit report to members.
- Action 3** Action: AT and ML to discuss testing online pavement parking consultation before launch.
- Action 4** Action: BB asked members to feedback further comments on the working draft in the next 7 to 10 days.
- Action 5** Action: ML to circulate feedback on the EY Report collated by DPOs including Imtac.
- Action 6** Action: ML to circulate minutes and papers from recent working group meetings for members information.
- Action 7** Action: ML to ask Bolder Belfast partners to consider extending the consultation and learn lessons from the accessibility issues around the consultation.
- Action 8:** Action: ML to draft a response the Bolder Belfast consultation and circulate to members for comments.
- Action 9** Action: BB asked members to provide additional comments on the draft statement in the next 7 to 10 days.
- Action 10** Action: ML to circulate details of the Disabled People's Parliament.