

Minutes of the 140th Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 23rd February 2022, ZOOM meeting.

Present: Bert Bailie [BB] (Chairperson), Aaron McKane [AMc], Paul McCloskey [PMc], Andy Boal [ABo], Dave Morton [DMo] Jackson Minford [JM], June Best [JB], Dermot Devlin [DD], Eileen Drumm [ED], Jean Dunlop [JD], Christine McClements [CMc],

Observers: Attracta Tremers [AT] (Department for Infrastructure), Terry Butler [TB] (Translink), Hannah Brown [HB] (Consumer Council), Brian Drury [BD] (Equality Commission, Andrea Brown [ABr] (Disability Action).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer [ML]

Apologies: Alison Lockhart [AL], Diane Marks [DMa], Terry McCorry [TMc], Vivien Blakely [VB] .

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 BB welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. He explained that due to unforeseen circumstances he would have to leave the meeting early and proposed that JB take over chairing the meeting after his update.

2. Chairperson's Updates

2.1 BB updated members on a recent meeting with the Sponsor Team to discuss the review of the Memorandum of Understanding. He indicated that plans to review Imtac's Articles of Association have been postponed.

2.2 BB briefed members on his attendance at Bolder Vision workshops in December and January.

2.3 BB updated members on a recent briefing given by JB, ML and himself to the DfI Senior Civil Servant Group about the work and

role of Imtac. He indicated that several directorates which don't currently work with the Committee had indicated policy areas where engagement would be valuable.

2.4 BB updated members on the first meetings of the Bus Design Working Group. He indicated that discussions have been positive with real potential that high floor coaches will not be included in the next procurement round.

2.5 BB informed members that a meeting with the Minister has been confirmed for the 9th March at 2pm. He asked members to note the date and time as a request has been made to open the meeting to all members of Imtac.

Action: ML to confirm final arrangements for the meeting with Minister Mallon.

JB took the chair.

3. Observer updates

3.1 BD updated members on the launch of research into the implementation of the UNCRPD by Government in Northern Ireland. He explained the research was undertaken by Disability Action on behalf of the Commission.

Action: ML to circulate details of the launch and a link to the final report and summary.

3.2 BD briefed members on a Commission consultation on a draft monitoring Framework for measuring equality in Northern Ireland.

Action: ML to circulate details of the Commission consultation.

3.3 BD informed members that former Commission Imtac representative, Naomi Roberts, has recently taken up a new post with the Department for Health. JB asked that the minute record the thanks of the Committee for Naomi's contribution over the years.

- 3.4 HB briefed members on the airport accessibility audits including a positive recent visit to City of Derry and plans for a visit to the International on the 15th March. DD confirmed he had positive further discussions with City of Derry about Changing Places toilets.
- 3.5 HB updated members about positive engagement with Translink and the airports about the recent review of websites.

TB left the meeting.

- 3.6 JB informed members she had been contacted by Orla McCann of Disability Action looking for disabled people who travel regularly by air and sea.

Action: Members to contact ML to be put in touch with Orla.

- 3.7 ABr briefed members on key highlights from the research into the implementation of the UNCRPD by Government in Northern Ireland. She highlighted the overall finding that Northern Ireland is non-compliant. AB explained the plans for Disability Action to lead in developing a shadow report.
- 3.8 AB highlighted a number of election specials with political parties currently being organised led by Disability Action.
- 3.9 In response members highlighted how things had gone backwards not progressed during the pandemic. Members also highlighted concerns about the impact of potential cuts on key services such as public transport in rural areas.
- 3.10 AT highlighted on-going work between Imtac and the Department covered elsewhere on the agenda.

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

- 4.1 ML briefed members about the amendments to the draft new approach paper. He also outlined plans to hold workshops in March to get feedback on the key principles.
- 4.2 Members asked that the principle on engagement be strengthened to include carers and that reference to land use planning policy should also mention guidance. DD suggested briefing the Fermagh and Omagh Disability Advisory Group as part of engagement.

Action: ML to amend the New Approach paper.

Action: ML to follow up with FODC officials about briefing.

Action: Members to feedback further comments on the New Approach paper with the end of March likely to be the deadline.

5. Disability Strategy and other updates

- 5.1 JB updated members on developments with the Disability Strategy including a positive meeting with Minister Hargey in December. She explained the uncertainty over the next steps due to recent political developments.

Action: ML to keep members updated on any progress with the Disability Strategy.

- 5.2 ML updated members on the publication of the colourful crossings statement and engagement with DfI, DfC and council officials. Members were asked about forwarding the statement to Ministers.

Action: Members agreed to defer sending the statement to Ministers until the new mandate.

Action: ML to ensure statement sent to all councils.

- 5.3 ML briefed members on developments with Streets Ahead Phase 5 and the recent Bolder Vision for Belfast consultation.

- 5.4 ML updated members on the response from Imtac to the All Ireland Rail Review.

5.5 ML briefed members on recent site visits to view digital timetables and a draft report with feedback.

Action: ML to circulate final report on digital timetables.

5.6 ML briefed members on updated guidance from the Department for Transport around Inclusive Mobility and the Use of Tactile Paving.

Action: ML to circulate links to updated guidance to members.

6. Pavement parking consultation

6.1 ML apologised for the late distribution of the discussion paper. He briefed members on the three options and the suggested Imtac approach of supporting option 2, legislating for an outright ban which includes parking across dropped kerbs.

6.2 There was a lengthy discussion with contributions from a number of members. A key theme was the complexity of the issues involved and the likely difficulties in implementing any of the solutions. The Imtac response should acknowledge these challenges and be pragmatic in terms of what can be achieved in the short, medium and long term. Ensuring public support was seen as essential.

Action: ML to draft a response to the pavement parking consultation and circulate to members for comment.

7. Current consultations

7.1 ML updated members on current consultations on proposals and an EQIA from the Department on a 3 year budget and route options for a walking, wheeling and cycling route between Sydenham and Holywood.

Action: Members to raise any issues for inclusion in responses in the next 7-10 days.

TB re-joined the meeting.

8 Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Proposed: Andy Boal Seconded: Dermot Devlin

8.2 ML indicated that due to issues with confidentiality it would not be appropriate to share the strategic priorities adopted by the Disability Strategy Co-Design Group.

8.3 TB agreed to follow up on issues raised around stations (3.1).

8.4 ML updated members on the next steps to build on the success of the first Disabled People's Parliament.

9. Any other business

9.1 TB gave members a brief update on station developments including Yorkgate, Cullybackey and Coleraine. Members asked about Changing Places facilities at Coleraine and access improvements required at Omagh bus station

9.2 ML highlighted a consultation event around the Review of Age Friendly Belfast Plan on the 15th March (10.15am to 1.30pm) at Belfast City Hall.

Action: Any members interested in attending the Age Friendly Belfast event to let ML know before 7th March.

9.3 ML proposed holding a short ZOOM session in March to confirm and agree Work Programme priorities for 2022 / 23.

Action: ML to confirm arrangements for Work Programme meeting

10. Dates of future meetings

10.1 Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 2pm

List of actions

- Action 1 ML to confirm final arrangements for the meeting with Minister Mallon.**
- Action 2 ML to circulate details of the launch and a link to the final research report and summary.**
- Action 3 ML to circulate details of the Commission consultation.**
- Action 4 Members to contact ML to be put in touch with Orla McCann.**
- Action 5 ML to amend the New Approach paper.**
- Action 6 ML to follow up with FODC officials about briefing.**
- Action 7 Members to feedback further comments on the New Approach paper with the end of March likely to be the deadline.**
- Action 8: ML to keep members updated on any progress with the Disability Strategy.**
- Action 9 Members agreed to defer sending the statement to Ministers until the new mandate.**
- Action 10 ML to ensure statement sent to all councils.**
- Action 11 ML to circulate final report on digital timetables.**
- Action 12 ML to circulate links to updated guidance to members.**

Action 13 ML to draft a response to the pavement parking consultation and circulate to members for comment.

Action 14 Members to raise any issues for inclusion in responses in the next 7-10 days.

Action 15 Any members interested in attending the Age Friendly Belfast event to let ML know before 7th March.

Action 16 ML to confirm arrangements for Work Programme meeting