



## **Imtac Work Programme 2022 / 2023**

**(May 2022)**

Imtac is committed to making information about our work accessible. Details of how to obtain information in your preferred format are included on the next page.

## **Making our information accessible**

As an organisation of and for Deaf people, disabled people and older people Imtac recognises that the way information is provided can be a barrier to accessing services and participation in public life. We are committed to providing information about our work in formats that best suit the needs of individuals.

All our documents are available in hard copy in 14pt type size as standard. We also provide word and pdf versions of our documents on our website – [www.imtac.org.uk](http://www.imtac.org.uk). In addition, we will provide information in a range of other formats. These formats include:

- Large print
- Audio versions
- Braille
- Electronic copies in PDF or word
- Easy read
- Information about our work in other languages

If you would like this publication in any of the formats listed above or if you have any other information requirements, please contact:

Michael Lorimer  
Imtac  
Titanic Suites  
55-59 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8FE

Telephone/Textphone: 028 9072 6020

Email: [info@imtac.org.uk](mailto:info@imtac.org.uk)

Website: [www.imtac.org.uk](http://www.imtac.org.uk)

Twitter: @ImtacNI

## **About Imtac**

The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac) is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including carers and key transport professionals. Its role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of Deaf people, disabled people and older people.

The aim of Imtac is to ensure that Deaf people, disabled people and older people have the same opportunities as everyone else to travel when and where they want.

Imtac receives support from the Department for Infrastructure (herein after referred to as the Department).

## **About this Work Programme**

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) 2015 published in 2005. The ATS required 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 thinks appropriate.”

## **Work Programme priorities 2022 / 23**

For the past two years the priority for our work has been supporting Deaf people, disabled people, older people and our partners in Government and the transport sector in responding to the issues created by COVID-19. Everyone hopes that the worst impacts of the pandemic are now behind us and with this in mind the focus of our work programme for the coming year centre on three key priorities:

- Ensuring we have a recovery plan from the pandemic that benefits everyone in society
- Ensuring the response to climate change means a just transition to Net Zero
- Ensuring we prioritise Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers when responding to the cost-of-living crisis

Over the past year we have developed a paper setting out our vision of a new approach to travel, our streets and places. The paper sets out four

key principles which will inform the advice we give to Government and others to ensure any potential measures to address our priorities are inclusive and accessible, benefiting everyone in society. These principles are:

1. Putting Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers at the centre of every stage of decision making
2. Ensuring a shift in our cultures
3. Ensuring public and private investment contributes to an accessible and inclusive society
4. Ensuring end to end journeys are straightforward and accessible

Our advice will also reflect two fundamental principles which inform the ethos of the Committee. The first is the importance of understanding the social model, illustrating it is the decisions taken by society that disable people not their impairment. The second is the rights of Deaf people, disabled people, and others to access travel, our streets and places on an equal basis to others. In doing so we will highlight where existing legal requirements are not being met as well as highlighting wider Government obligations under the Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Appendix A contains reference to the most relevant articles.

## **Core Work Programme Tasks**

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of core tasks including:

- 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 an 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 each year
- Submitting a report annually in June to the Minister for Infrastructure outlining its 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 Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers in the work areas of Imtac

## **2022 / 23 Work Programme Tasks**

### **1 *Influencing strategy, plans, policies and projects***

#### Task one

The Committee will seek to ensure that our priorities on accessibility and inclusion are embedded in the design and implementation of major strategies. This year key strategies include:

- The formulation of a new Programme for Government
- The finalisation of the proposed Disability Strategy
- The development of the proposed Infrastructure Strategy for Northern Ireland 2050

#### Task two

The Committee will seek to ensure that our priorities on accessibility and inclusion are embedded into the design and implementation of major plans and policies. This year key plans and policies include:

- The new Belfast Metropolitan, North West, Sub Regional Transport and Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plans
- The further development of the Bolder Vision for Belfast proposals
- The development of a new Road Safety Strategy
- Proposed changes to the Concessionary Fares Scheme
- Policy in relation to tackling pavement parking
- Potential changes to the regulation of taxis
- Policy relating to post Brexit arrangements for people travelling with assistance dogs
- The ongoing review of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) by the UK Government

#### Task three

The Committee will seek to ensure that our priorities in accessibility and inclusion are embedded into the design and implementation of major projects. This year key projects include:

- Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase 2
- Implementation of the Belfast Cycling Network

- Implementation of the Blue Green Infrastructure Fund
- Development of the Living with Water Programme
- Public realm schemes including Belfast Streets Ahead Phases 3 & 5
- The Belfast Transport Hub, other station improvements and Park & Ride provision
- Translink Ticketing Project
- Translink Transforming Travel and Social Inclusion Project

## **2 *Supporting innovation in policy and service developments***

### Task four

The Committee will continue to encourage and support innovation in policy and service developments which enhance accessibility and inclusion consistent with our priorities. This year the following key tasks will include:

- Engaging with Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) around potential improvements to the collection of data around transport and accessibility
- Building on progress to date we will encourage innovation in bus design through engagement with Translink on future procurement exercises
- Gathering user feedback on the operation of a trial of low-floor coaches and produce a report
- Updating and refreshing the Imtac paper, Flexible Future, highlighting the potential benefits of Demand Responsive Transport services
- Develop and publish a paper on lessons learned from investment in public realm schemes across Northern Ireland
- Develop and publish a paper highlighting barriers to cycling for Deaf people, disabled people and older people

## **3 *Promoting engagement***

Wider engagement with Deaf people, disabled people, older people, carers and organisations responsible for travel, streets and places is a core focus for the work of Imtac. This work has been necessarily curtailed over the past two years. We hope to re-establish and rejuvenate this work in the coming year through implementing the following tasks.

### Task five

We will develop and implement proposals to restart and rejuvenate engagement to involve more Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers in our work. This will include involving people in specific projects and tasks as well as holding more general public meetings.

### Task six

We plan to undertake specific engagement with organisations responsible for travel, streets and places including:

- Developing and hosting a webinar targeted at the Department for Infrastructure, utility companies and others around maintaining accessibility during after undertaking streets works
- Develop an engagement event which showcases the benefits of Disability Equality Training to key stakeholders
- Host an engagement event targeted at the 11 local councils to discuss key issues and encourage further engagement

### Task seven

We will continue active participation in existing fora to promote accessibility and inclusion and to share expertise. These include:

- The Accessibility 4 Nations Group (A4N)
- The Disability Strategy Co-Design Group
- The Walking and Cycling Advisory Group
- The Strategic Design Group
- The UNCRPD Independent Monitoring Mechanism Disability Forum

## **4 *Developing as a Committee***

### Task nine

The Committee has identified the following training it will provide to assist members:

- Governance training

## **Review and revision of this Work Programme**

Our Work Programme covers a very wide range of issues, some of which may only proceed slowly while additional projects and tasks may arise requiring our input more urgently. It will be reviewed by Imtac and the Department at the end of each quarter, with revisions made subject to the agreement of both parties