

## **Draft Minutes of the 151<sup>st</sup> Imtac Meeting**

**Date and time:** Wednesday 27th November 2024 1:00 - 3:30 pm

**Place:** Hybrid meeting held at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast and via ZOOM.

**Present:** Bert Bailie [BB] (Chairperson), Dave Morton [DMo], Jackson Minford [JM], Eileen Drumm [ED], June Best [JB], Paula Meenan [PM], Rebecca Bamford [RB], Sam Bell [SB], Christine McClements [CMc], Hayley Smallwood [HS], Barbara Fleming [BF].

**Observers:** Brian Drury [BD] ( Equality Commission), Sean Coulter [Sc] (Department for Infrastructure), Hannah Brown [HB] (Consumer Council), Danielle Campbell [DC] (Translink), Andrea Brown [ABr] (Disability Action), Conor Tinnelly [CT] (Commissioner for Older People).

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer [ML]. Angela Reid [AR].

**Apologies:** Terry McCorry [IMTAC), Dermot Devlin [DD], Nigel Flynn [NF], Lynsey Burrows [LB], Vivien Blakely [VB].

### **1 Welcome, introductions and apologies**

1.1 BB welcomed new business support Officer Angela Reid to IMTAC and also Conor Tinnelly, a representative from the Commission for Older People, to their first meeting.

**Action 1: BB asked minutes record thanks to Eddie Lynch who is leaving as Commissioner for Older People.**

## **2 Chairpersons updates**

- 2.1 BB updated members on a positive meeting with Minister O'Dowd in October, the key message being that the Minister can drive a lot of change
- 2.2 A meeting with DFi Permanent Secretary was held on Monday 25 November attended by IMTAC staff and members and various delegates from Dfl.
- 2.3 BB briefed members about meetings of the A4N liaison and with the transport planning team in the Department. He concluded by updating members on recent changes to the Sponsor Team in the Department.

## **3 Observers Updates**

- 3.1 BD updated members about a conference on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December with Belfast City Council to mark International Day of Disabled People. He also updated members on the consultation on the Commission's Corporate Plan. Members asked for hard copies of the consultation.  
**Action 2: BD to send out a hard copy of the consultation on the corporate plan to members.**
- 3.2 AB updated members about Disability Actions involvement in events to mark International Day of Disabled People.
- 3.3 HB updated members about Accessibility Forum visits to the city of Derry, Belfast City and Belfast International Airports, as well as The Consumer Council participation in the UK Government Aviation Task and Finish Group.
- 3.4 Members highlighted the inaccessibility of buses used to transfer people from offsite car parks at the International Airport.
- 3.5 CT informed members that Eddie Lynch's term of office ends in December. He also updated members about research projects into Age Friendly Networks and domestic abuse and older people.
- 3.6 DC updated members about progress with a video highlighting the importance of priority seating. She also updated on the latest disability equality training session undertaken by Translink staff.

Members asked about progress in involving disabled young people in the Translink Youth Forum. DM thanked DC for support with his work with Orchardville.

**Action 3: DC to provide an update on the involvement of young people in the Translink Youth Forum.**

- 3.7 SC provided an update to members on the meeting between the Permanent Secretary, officials and IMTAC.

#### **4 Draft Feedback on Phase One of Grand Central Station**

- 4.1 ML briefed members on the draft report compiled after a site visit and feedback received since the opening of Grand Central in September. Members raised a number of issues including the accessibility of walking routes and crossings around the station, and access to the mezzanine level including evacuation procedures.

**Action 4: ML to update feedback paper to include comments on the mezzanine level at Grand Central which is now fully open.**

- 4.2 BB stressed the need to finalize the paper over the coming weeks.

**Action 5: Members to submit comments on the draft feedback paper in the next 7 days.**

#### **5 Update on work programme tasks**

- 5.1 ML and RB gave members an overview of the recent Health and Transport survey results. They briefed members on the next steps with the project including engagement events planned for February 2025.

- 5.2 ML and JB updated members about correspondence from Minister Lyon's about the disability strategy. Although it is positive a new strategy will be published there is uncertainty about how disabled people will be involved in finalising the strategy. A letter will be sent from Imtac requesting a meeting with the minister to discuss our concerns.

5.3 ML updated members about a request from DSCDC for feedback from Imtac about a Public Realm Scheme.

5.4 ML highlighted a task in the work programme committing to develop a policy position on pavement parking.

**Action 6: Members to feedback issues for inclusion in the draft pavement parking paper. ML to draft paper and circulate with a view to agreeing a final draft at the February Imtac meeting.**

## **6 Current consultations**

6.1 ML briefed members on a DAERA consultation around establishing a just transition commission in N.I. He highlighted the absence of the mention of older and disabled people in the consultation. Members raised concerns about the short consultation period particularly given the Christmas holidays.

6.2 ML updated members on the launch of the Active Travel Delivery Plan covering proposals for 10 of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. He thanked DD for his contribution at the launch of the strategy.

**Action 7: ML / AR to organise a meeting between members and the active travel team to discuss the consultation.**

## **7 Other updates**

7.1 ML updated members about a meeting with DVA and the department to discuss access to taxis as well as other meetings including meetings with officials to talk about charging options for households without a driveway, a meeting with BCC Disability Forum and participation in a round table forum organised by the National Centre for Accessible Transport and chaired by Sorcha Eastwood MP.

## **8 Minutes of the last meeting**

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**Proposed: Sam Bell**

**Seconded: Rebecca Bamford**

8.2 Following issues for online participants at the September meeting it was agreed that an online follow up meeting should be sought with Chris Conway.

**Action 8: ML / AR to work with DC to make arrangements for an online meeting with Chris Conway.**

## **9 Any other Business**

9.1 JB mentioned a motion passed in the Assembly regarding the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the rights of disabled people into law in Northern Ireland. A private members bill will be brought forward by Danny Donnelly (MLA) to put this into effect.

9.2 Members raised issues around parents with prams accessing buses and ongoing problems with competition for space on buses between different passengers.

## **10 Date, Time and Venues of Next meeting**

- Wednesday 26th February 2025, 1pm, venue to be confirmed
- Wednesday 25th June 2025, 1pm, Committee & AGM, venue to be confirmed.

## **List of Actions**

**Action 1: BB asked minutes record thanks to Eddie Lynch who is leaving as Commissioner for Older People.**

**Action 2: BD to send out a hard copy of the consultation on the corporate plan to members.**

**Action 3: DC to provide an update on the involvement of young people in the Translink Youth Forum.**

**Action 4: ML to update feedback paper to include comments on the mezzanine level at Grand Central which is now fully open.**

- Action 5: Members to submit comments on the draft feedback paper in the next 7 days.**
- Action 6: Members to feedback issues for inclusion in the draft pavement parking paper. ML to draft paper and circulate with a view to agreeing a final draft at the February Imtac meeting.**
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