

MINUTES OF THE

88th Imtac MEETING



Date: 19 March 2009 at The Mount, Belfast

Present: Frank Caddy (Chair)
Tom Hoey
Elizabeth Black
David McDonald
Ann Collins
Andrew Murdock
Ann Gamble
Norma Moore
Terry Butler
Max O'Brien
Barbara Fleming
Henry Mayne
Neil Gillan
Philip Blair

Apologies: William Stewart
Geraldine Mulherne
Etta Mann
Joe McCusker
Ronnie Patterson
Anita Gracey

Observers: Alan Preston (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Gavin Hamilton (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)
Frank Fleming (Equality Commission)
Teresa Moley (Equality Commission)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Streets Ahead

Michael updated members on proposals to trial the React System in Belfast City Centre. Henry raised his reservations about the system as a wayfinding tool. Ann raised concerns about the failure to publish the Mobility & Access Study for the city centre. Michael also raised concerns about Traffic Regulations published by Roads Service around Queen Street and Castle Street. After discussion it was agreed to raise these concerns with DRD, DSD and Roads Service and to seek an update urgently.

Michael

2.2 Door2Door

Ryan updated members on meetings held with DRD regarding door2door. Some of the issues discussed were changes to services in Ards and Comber, the door2door television advert, concessionary fares for rural services and the idea of a central booking service for transport. David and Barbara both raised reservations about the need for this type of service.

2.3 Ryan highlighted an early proposal from the Consumer Council to undertake research into accessible transport issues. This measure was broadly welcomed by the Committee. Ryan agreed to involve Imtac in the planning of any research.

2.4 AV on buses

Michael informed the Committee that the proposed pilot on AV would not go ahead this year. Gavin informed the Committee that steps were being taken to identify funding for a pilot next financial year. Terry made clear that he did not view a pilot on Easibus service as useful. Other members stressed the need to pilot AV on a standard bus

route. Gavin agreed to feedback these comments.

Gavin

2.5 Mobility Centre

Michael informed the Committee that he had met with Disability Action. Assurances have been given that Disability Action will work with Imtac to revise the letter sent to clients. Disability Action also highlighted the pressure on funding on the Centre and has asked Imtac for assistance in making a strategic case for future funding. The Committee agreed to do this.

Michael

3 **ATS Action Plan**

3.1 Gavin updated members on the plan for publication and consultation on the next draft ATS Action Plan. A 14 week consultation period is planned with 7 public meetings as well focus groups meetings including young people. Gavin informed members he would like assistance from the Committee to facilitate meetings.

Gavin

4 **DRD Disability Action Plan**

4.1 Michael explained the background to the disability duties and introduced measures contained in the DRD Action Plan. David expressed concerns that the training did not involve disabled people. Members felt there was an absence of clear targets. Overall the members felt that the plan would do little to involve disabled people in the work of the Department – the comment was made that it reinforced the view that disabled people are done to and are not doers!

4.2 Members asked Michael to draft a response reflecting these comments and distribute to members for comments.

Michael

5 Consultation on Access to Taxis

5.1 Michael gave members an overview of the proposals from DfT around improving access to taxis. Generally members were disappointed by the likely direction of policy. It was agreed to arrange a separate meeting to discuss the Committee response.

Michael

6 Work programme 2009/10

6.1 Michael provided the Committee with feedback from DRD on the draft Work Programme. After discussion the Committee agreed the following:

- Actions around research should be worded to reflect that proposals will be developed and resources sought for each project
- That research into issues for young people was a good proposal
- That action on travel training be retained
- That an action on AV on buses must be retained in the programme
- That the suggested research project into concessionary fares be retained
- That action on Mobility Centre be retained but reworded

6.2 Michael agreed to redraft the work programme and distribute to members and the DRD.

Michael

7 Working Group updates

- 7.1 Ann updated members on issues around use of shared pedestrian and cycle paths. The Committee supported the proposal to work directly with Roads Service Cycling officers.
- 7.2 Ann informed members the Baywatch survey would now take place week beginning 11 May 2009.
- 7.3 Tom highlighted concerns raised by the PT Group around the Rural Transport Voucher schemes. Michael confirmed that he had received information from DRD that vehicle accessibility and staff training were not major considerations around the scheme. The Committee asked that advice be sent to DRD highlighting this is not Departmental policy.
- 7.4 David updated the Committee on work with the disability sector around training.

Michael

8 Any other business

- 8.1 Frank and Alan gave an update on the recent meeting of the various advisory bodies.
- 8.2 Frank Fleming gave members background to the role of the Equality Commission in promoting the changes to transport regulations.
- 8.3 Michael reminded members to submit any outstanding expenses claims by the end of the month.

9 Date of next meeting

Frank asked that the proposed dates for future meetings be changed. Michael agreed to rearrange and let members know. It was agreed to hold future meetings in the Mount.

Michael