Imtac Work Programme 2013/2014

June 2013

Imtac is committed to make information about our work accessible. Details of how we can do this and how to contact us are included on the next page.

Making our information accessible

As an organisation of and for 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. In addition we will provide information in a range of other formats. These formats include:

- Large print
- Audio cassette or CD
- Daisy disc
- Braille
- Electronic copies on disc or via email in PDF or word
- Easy read

We will also provide information about our work in other languages if you require this.

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

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Introduction

Imtac is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. Our role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

Our aim is to ensure that older people and disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else to travel when and where they want.

Imtac receives support from the Department for Regional Development.

About our Work Programme

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) published by the Department for Regional Development in 2005. The ATS requires 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 think appropriate."

Our work programme 2013/2014 reflects this requirement and is based on key issues identified through consultation with our stakeholders including disabled people, older people and their organisations, policy makers, transport providers and other key stakeholders including the Consumer Council and Equality Commission.

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of key tasks as requirements of the Accessible Transport Strategy as well as assisting Government deliver key actions arising out of the Strategy. These routine tasks include:

- o Responding to consultations
- o 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 a 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 of Imtac each year including this year a meeting outside Belfast

- Submitting a report in June each year to the Minister for Regional Development outlining our 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 older people and disabled people in the work areas of imtac

Work Programme 2013/2014 – key themes

Government in Northern Ireland has recognised the key role transport and mobility plays in enabling us all to participate fully in society. The importance of transport to disabled people and older people was specifically recognised in the publication of the Accessible Transport Strategy in 2005 and subsequent Action Plans. Most recently transport was recognised by the Executive in Northern Ireland in its "Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012-2015." Transport and personal mobility is also enshrined in the articles of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to which the UK Government is a signatory.

As a Committee of disabled people and older people Imtac is a significant resource to Government in Northern Ireland in delivering the type of changes envisaged by both the Accessible Transport Strategy and the Disability Strategy but also in meeting wider obligations under UNCRPD. Through our Work Programme Imtac wants to ensure that we assist Government in Northern Ireland meet its key strategic priorities and actions around disabled people and older people. We have therefore developed our tasks around four key themes:

1. We will ensure our work provides opportunities for disabled people and older people **to participate** in development of Government policies and programmes and more broadly in public life. We will do this by not only ensuring our membership is representative but by involving other older people and disabled people and their organisations in our work programme tasks.

2. We recognise that transport is an issue that cuts across the work of many Government Departments. In order to achieve the full inclusion of older people and disabled people **interaction and cooperation** between all sectors is essential. Our work programme tasks will reflect the cross-cutting nature of transport as an issue and will seek to

identify and maximise opportunities for interaction and cooperation.

3. As a Committee of disabled people and older people Imtac recognises the need for **awareness raising** amongst disabled people and older people in relation to their rights and opportunities and amongst the general public to challenge perceptions and stereotypes around older people and disabled people. We will seek to ensure that our work programme tasks maximise opportunities for awareness raising.

4. We recognise the current challenges facing disabled people, older people and Government. Imtac will ensure that **value for money** is a key consideration in all aspects of our work. As part of this process we will proactively work with others to share resources where possible and seek to secure additional resources for our work from outside the public purse.

Work Programme 2013/2014 tasks

The following are tasks to be undertaken by Imtac in the next year. Each task will be undertaken by one of Imtac's three working groups. Each working group will identify and agree the best way to achieve each task.

Task 1 – Assist Government deliver key actions arising from the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS)

Why: **Imtac is a key stakeholder in the delivery of the ATS. As part of our work we have committed to deliver and assist with the delivery of number of actions relating to the ATS Action Plan 2012-2015[1].**

What: **Complete research looking at the attitudes of disabled people and older people to public transport (ATS 1.10)**

Complete research into transport issues for younger disabled people (ATS 1.4)

Co-ordinate a programme of research to inform the development of travel training programmes in Northern Ireland (ATS 5.8)

Assist DRD and others to improve information about transport services for people with a learning disability (ATS 1.6) and older people (ATS 6.4)

When: **We plan complete all the elements of this task by March 2014.**

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[1] Provide link to action plan – not on DRD website

Task 2 – Working to remove barriers in the pedestrian environment

Why: **People tell us that many journeys are ruined by unnecessary barriers in the pedestrian environment**

What: **Building on work undertaken to date we will complete audits of pedestrian routes in a further three towns across Northern Ireland. We will seek to work with local disabled and older people in these locations. We will publish a report on each audit and seek to work with local people and agencies such as Roads Service to address issues identified.**

We will produce an advisory paper to inform the development of legislation and subsequent licensing arrangements for pavement cafes.

When: **We plan to have the three audits complete by March 2014. We plan to finish the paper on pavement cafes by June 2013.**

Task 3 – Highlight opportunities to improve the accessibility of public transport for disabled people and older people

Why: **Public transport services have improved remarkably over the past decade. However usage by disabled people remains low despite this investment.**

What: **We plan to examine the approach of Passenger Transport Executives (PTE's) in Great Britain to access and inclusion and identify lessons to inform the development of and future work of Transport Northern Ireland.**

When: **We plan to publish a report on PTE's by December 2013.**

Task 4 – Develop awareness raising projects

Why: **The Executive Disability Strategy clearly recognises that many disabled people are unaware of their rights or available services and that there is a need to challenge perceptions and stereotypes amongst the general public.**

What: **Working with our Baywatch partners we will identify tasks aimed challenging the perceptions of the public to abuse and misuse of the Blue Badge and accessible parking.**

We work with a range of stakeholders to develop a project that promotes the use of public transport by disabled people and older people. We plan to involve disabled people and older people in the development of inclusive video.

When: **Subject to agreement and resources we plan to implement Baywatch tasks by March 2014.**

Subject to obtaining additional funding we plan to progress the video project by the end of March 2014

Task 5 – Explore opportunities for cooperation and interaction between Government Departments

Why: **People tell us that travel and transport is not always fully considered by Government when developing programmes, policies and services. This significantly reduces the benefits of these services to disabled people and older people.**

What: **Working through existing partners in DCAL and our role on the Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG) we will seek to ensure travel opportunities**

for disabled people and older people to the three regional stadia redevelopments are maximised

Working with existing partners in DHSSPS we would like to examine how the current provision of wheelchairs to older people and disabled people could be improved to make travel easier.

When: **We plan to have this work finished by March 2014**

Task 6 – Provide on-going advice around key policy areas

Imtac will also continue to have significant on-going input into a number of current key policy areas during 2013/14. These issues will be dealt with as required by the appropriate working group or main committee. Imtac members will also attend a range of external groups including Assembly sittings, scrutiny Committees and all assembly groups where this is relevant. These policy areas include:

- **The new approach to Regional Transportation in Northern Ireland**

- **Changes to public realm and traffic management in Belfast City Centre and other centres of population**

- **The provision of pedestrian facilities including shared space, cycling facilities and active travel**

- **The implementation of the Taxis Act 2008**

- **Changes connected to Public Transport Reform, Transport Northern Ireland and bus licensing**

- **Roads safety and driver licensing**

- **Parking enforcement**

- **The development of Belfast Rapid Transport**

- **Changes to the Blue Badge scheme**

- **Audio visual information on buses**

- **Flexible transport solutions including door2door transport and rural dial-a-lift**

- **The transport and mobility implications of Welfare reform**

- **Concessionary fares policy**

- **Shopmobility services**

- **European aviation and maritime regulations**

- **Extending current rights legislation**

Monitoring Progress

To ensure that we monitor progress on each of tasks in our work programme Imtac will publish a quarterly update. These will be published in July, October, January and April. The quarterly update will provide details of progress made under each task and plans for the future. Because we work with others and have limited resources sometimes we cannot progress some tasks as quickly as we would want. We will highlight where and why tasks may be delayed in our updates. We will publish updates on our website and distribute to our key stakeholders.