

## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

### Bus Vannin Accessibility Steering Group Meeting Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 2pm The Boardroom, Sea Terminal Building

#### Present:

Mrs K Sharpe, MLC (Chair), (KS)  
[REDACTED] (KW)

#### In attendance:

[REDACTED] Director of Transport Services (IJL)  
[REDACTED] Deputy CEO, Department of Infrastructure (EC)  
[REDACTED] Project Officer (SC)  
[REDACTED] (Notetaker))

<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>  Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>  (i) <u>Consultation Accessibility</u>  SC confirmed that the consultation document had been accessible.  (ii) <u>Current Legislative Position</u>  It was noted that the Committee was unaware as to whether Mrs Poole-Wilson had raised the issues reported at the last meeting with the Cabinet Office, which included a standardised language approach for protected characteristics.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Update Report</b>  EC provided an update to the meeting regarding the historic position, and the engagement activities requested by the previous political members of the Committee.  She also reported that it had been agreed that a limited trial be progressed, and that the issues are not constrained to the bus journey  IJL summarised the accessibility problems, reporting that the Isle of Man is 40 years behind the UK in terms of accessibility, with less than 87 accessible bus stops, from a total of over 900.  IJL further reported that no one route is accessible; that buses are not designed nor certified to carry mobility scooters; and that the voluntary CPT Code is in operation in urban areas.  IJL reported that he would be seeking an indemnity against prosecution for the carriage of mobility scooters on Bus Vannin. The content of the Update Report dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021 was noted.	

4.	<p><b>Findings from the Public Consultation on Accessibility &amp; Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter Users Forum</b></p> <p>Mrs Sharpe reported that the findings were extremely interested.</p> <p>IJL suggested the alternative solution of dial a ride for people with mobility issues be considered to address the problem. He advised that this would provide a cheaper solution to implement, rather than spending £8-10m to audit and amend all the bus stops.</p> <p>EC advised that this would need to be explored with the wheelchair/mobility scooter user group.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Agreement of Methodology to appoint additional Members to the Steering Group.</b></p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the contents of the Appointment Information Pack, and amendments were agreed regarding the criteria "demonstrating sound judgement" and "good standard of education".</p> <p>It was agreed that the application process involve answering a few simple questions.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be preferable if one of the appointees should be someone who uses a mobility scooter.</p> <p>It was noted that there is the potential for the Steering Group to be consulted by other Divisions, eg Highways and PEH, on a wider-range of disability access issues.</p>	<p><b>SC</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Bus Vannin Accessibility Page</b></p> <p>It was agreed that a cut-away diagram of a bus, showing the accessibility features, would be very helpful and be provided on the Bus Vannin Accessibility Page.</p> <p>It was agreed that ██████████ could assist with this.</p>	<p><b>IJL/HLB</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Terms of Reference be updated, to reflect the changes in Membership, and then approved by the Minister.</p>	<p><b>SC</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Progress on making the Bus Network Accessible</b></p> <p>SC reported on the bus stop audit currently being undertaken by the Highways interns, and advised that completion is likely to take approximately 2 months.</p> <p>Mrs Sharpe requested an update on the number of stops audited, at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that a bus trip be arranged to enable Members of the Steering Group to obtain a better understanding of accessible bus stops.</p>	<p><b>SC</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	

	It was agreed that the wheelchair/mobility scooter user group be updated regarding progress.	<b>SC</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Future Meetings</b> It was agreed that future meetings take place every 2 months.	<b>SC</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Close</b> The meeting closed at 3.35 pm	