DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Bus Vannin Accessibility Steering Group Meeting Monday 16th October at 10pm The Boardroom, Sea Terminal Building

Present:

Mrs D Kinnish, MHK (DK) (Chair) (via Teams)
(SU)
(DC) (Via Teams)
Mr K Watterson (KW)

In attendance:

Mr I Bates, Head of Operations, Bus Vannin (IB) (Via Teams) Mrs S Christian, Project Officer (SC) (Notetaker)

Apologies:

Mr R Webster

Mrs E Curphey, Deputy CEO, Department of Infrastructure (EC)

1.	Electoral Commission	
	Mrs K Ramsay attended the first hour of the meeting, to discuss the work of the Electoral Commission, and to seek the views of the Steering Group regarding accessibility for voters.	
	SU advised that he wrote a short report regarding issues he encountered following the last election, which he had given to the Clerk of Tynwald's office. Mrs Ramsay requested that this be forwarded to the Commission, via SC and the secretary to the Commission, Alana Arculus.	SU/SC
	Discussion took place regarding a number of issues, including future physical accessibility audits, the role of the former certifying officers, and requisition meetings.	
	It was agreed that if any of the Steering Group wished to make any further comments to the Commission, to advise SC, who could forward the information.	ALL
	Mrs Ramsay left the meeting at 10.55.	
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting	
	The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed for publication on the DOI website.	SC
3.	Actions arising from the Minutes of the last meeting	
(i)	Wheelchair maintenance tools SU reported that he had been advised that his current set of wheelchair maintenance tools were acceptable for carriage on a flight.	

(ii) <u>E-Scooters</u>

Mrs Kinnish reported that she had not received a response from DHA, and that she had sent an email reminder.

It was noted that Richard Webster had provided an update regarding proposed Regulations.

(iii) Revised Terms of Reference: GDPR Issues

SC reported that this issue had been addressed and that the Terms of Reference and the minutes had been published on the Department's website.

(iv) Street Furniture

SC reported that Matthew Gardner had attended the informal discussion last month, and that the tender process for the Town Centre Audit closed early October, and that the successful applicants were likely to be in the process of being appointed.

4. Mobility Scooter Trial Implementation Date

IB updated the Steering Group regarding the mobility scooter trial, reporting that he had attended a very positive meeting with CPT members in Manchester. He further reported that he was currently drafting an Accessibility Statement, and confirmed that he would circulate the draft statement to the Group for comments when complete.

IB further reported that subject to receiving approval from the Minister, BV would be looking to operate a trial for the carriage of mobility scooters on the number 21 route. IB confirmed that the trial would need to be for a minimum period of 3 months.

IB advised that he was currently working with the team at the Welcome Centre, to deliver the mobility scooter certification process at the Sea Terminal. This would provide a more appropriate and accessible location than Banks Circus.

IB reported that preparing the draft documentation was fairly labour-intensive, but confirmed that he has access to a number of documents which he could use to inform the development of the Isle of Man-specific documentation.

IB reported on the need to provide disability awareness training for bus drivers, as part of an annual training programme.

SU reported that he had recently been travelling by bus more frequently than usual in order to attend appointments. He had noted the polite and friendly service by drivers when addressing issues such as ensuring that the wheelchair space was available. This positive feedback was welcomed by IB.

It was questioned whether the introduction of "toolbox talks" could provide a useful mechanism for delivering messages regarding accessibility training – but noted that this was method was unsuitable due to the nature of driving buses.

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	IB reported that as part of the wellbeing initiative, regular walkabouts took place, and issues were recorded on action logs and shared with the staff.		
	DK enquired whether organisations such as Sight Matters could set up a roadshow at the Bus Station, and IB advised that a guest speaker attends every 3 months.		
5.	Airport Sub-Committee		
	The minutes of the airport sub-committee meeting that took place on 28 th June 2023 were noted.		
	Discussion took place regarding whether the minutes should be published on the website, and it was agreed that this would be discussed with the airport representative attendees.	SC	
6.	Five Year Action Plan		
	Mrs Kinnish outlined proposals to develop a five year action plan, to develop a pro-active approach to the work of the Steering Group.		
	It was agreed that a brain-storming session, to identify actions for the plan, be held on Thursday 9 th November.		
	Mrs Kinnish suggested that public sector accessibility training could be one aspect included in the action plan.		
7.	Highways Services Report		
	The Steering Group considered the Highways Services report prepared by Richard Webster, and discussed the following items:		
(i)	Pulrose Bridge Discussion took place regarding the floating bus stop and the cyclops crossing planned for Pulrose Bridge, and it was agreed that further information from Highways was required.	RW	
(ii)	Crossing next to Savoy Hotel Concern continued to be expressed regarding the Health & Safety risks. Mrs Kinnish reported her intention to speak to Sight Matters regarding their discussion with Highway Services on this issue.	DK	
	It was agreed that there is a need to ensure that accessibility is appropriately included and that engagement with appropriate representatives is included at the project design stage.		
(iii)	Windsor Road/Westmoreland Road/Rosemount It was noted that these streets would be included for pedestrian improvements, including dropped kerbs and tactile paving, in a programme of active travel works for Douglas centre, and that the Department was currently applying to Treasury for funding to design and build for these improvements.		

(iv)	<u>Disabled Parking outside Barbary Coast</u>	
	Mrs Kinnish reported her intention to raise comms with Douglas City Council when she meets with them.	
	It was noted that there was no information about the parking suspension on the DOI social media page.	
(v)	Parking Restrictions for Large Vehicles	
	It was noted that there had been a lot of public objection to proposals regarding parking restrictions for large vehicles.	
(vi)	Manual for Manx Roads	
	It was agreed that this would need to be discussed with Richard at the next meeting/brainstorming session.	ALL
	Chester Street Car Park	
	The contents of the facebook post regarding closure of Chester Street Car Park after 6pm each evening was noted, and that people with a disability were being treated less favourably than a person without a disability in that they are unable to access the same service.	
	SC reported that she had asked Public Estates about this issue, and was currently awaiting a response.	SC
	Discussion took place regarding fire safety in car parks in relation to the potential for EVs to catch fire.	
9.	Close	
	The meeting closed at 12.00	

Signed	Date
(Chair)	