

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Bus Vannin Accessibility Steering Group Meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 2pm The Boardroom, Sea Terminal Building

Present:

Mr S Peters, MHK (SP)
Mrs D Kinnish, MHK (DK)
[REDACTED] (SU)

In attendance:

Mr I Bates, Head of Operations, Bus Vannin (IB)
Mr Cobb, Airport Director (GC)
Mr B Acheson, Design Engineer, Highways Division (BA)
Mrs S Christian, Project Officer (SC) (Notetaker)

Apologies:

[REDACTED] (DC)
Mr K Watterson (KW)
Mrs E Curphey, Deputy CEO, Department of Infrastructure (EC)

1.	Introductions Attendees at the meeting introduced themselves.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were noted from EC, KW and DC (who had to leave prior to the start of the meeting).	
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes of the last meeting were agreed, with the following amendment: 8 (i) <u>Highway Code</u> <i>"Also discussed mandatory safety, equipment for cyclists, ie helmet, lights, bell, fluorescent clothes and chipping for safety/theft, number plate"</i> to be added after: <i>"Discussion took place regarding consideration of a £10 licence for cyclists"</i> . Discussion also took place regarding shared spaces, and Mrs Kinnish reported that education is important in this regard.	
4.	Actions from the Last Meeting	
(i)	<u>Airport Issues</u>	

<p>(ii)</p> <p>(iii)</p>	<p>SC reported that following the previous meeting it had been agreed with the Chief Officer that a plan regarding the establishment of an Airport Passenger Accessibility Group was not required, but that agreement of the Agenda items would be sufficient.</p> <p>It was noted that the Passenger Accessibility Group meeting planned for 2nd May had been rescheduled.</p> <p>SU confirmed that he had yet to send pictures of wheelchair maintenance tools to the Airport Director, Gary Cobb, but that he would do so.</p> <p><u>Highway Code</u></p> <p>BA confirmed that changes to the Isle of Man Highway Code would be the same as those made in the UK, 2023 would be spent making sure that the Manx update matches the UK version, and that they would be implemented in 2024.</p> <p><u>E-Scooters</u></p> <p>BA reported that research was underway for e-scooters legislation, he did not know the exact details but stated that e-scooter speeds would be limited and that they would not be permitted to drive on footways.</p> <p>It was noted that DHA had possibly done some research on e-scooters, and DK reported that she would raise this with the DHA Minister.</p> <p>BA confirmed that he would also make enquiries with the Highways Director regarding any proposed Regulations.</p>	<p>SU</p> <p>DK</p> <p>BA</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>(i)</p>	<p>Revised Terms of Reference</p> <p><u>GDPR Issues</u></p> <p>It was noted that the revised Terms of Reference, incorporating the wider remit of the Group had been approved. SC reported on the advice received from the Data Protection Officer (DPO) regarding GDPR and publication of the Terms of Reference and copies of the minutes of meeting.</p> <p>The DPO had advised that consent to having their names published in the minutes from SU and DC would comply with GDPR requirements. Alternatively, the minutes could be redacted to remove their names.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Terms of Reference, Minutes and Agendas be published, and that SC would seek guidance from SU and DC as to their preference was to publish their names in the minutes or for the minutes to be redacted.</p>	<p>SC/SU/DC</p> <p>SC</p>

(ii)	<p><u>Broadening Membership</u></p> <p>Discussion took place regarding broadening the Membership of the Committee, to represent a wider range of disabilities.</p> <p>It was noted that it would be acceptable for an advert for membership to include reference that "<i>applications would be welcomed from people with a visual impairment, elderly person, hearing impairment</i>".</p> <p>It was agreed that the Accessibility Information Pack be updated accordingly, and brought back to the Committee for discussion.</p>	SC
6.	<p>Mobility Scooter Update</p> <p>(i) <u>CPT Visit</u></p> <p>IB referred to the risk assessment for the carriage of mobility scooters on Bus Vannin, asking the Committee for any feedback.</p> <p>He further advised that feedback from the CPT and Album (the Association of Local Bus Company Managers), would probably result in minor changes.</p> <p>IB reported that he was still trying to arrange a visit from a CPT representative, but that was now unlikely to be before TT. He further reported that Accessibility Champion Ms Victoria Garcia had committed to visiting the Isle of Man on a social basis, and will be offered the opportunity to travel on the Island's public transport services.</p> <p>It was suggested that arrangements would be made to enable members of the Steering Group to meet with Ms Garcia. IB reported that Ms Garcia would be travelling with Claire, a member of the Bus Users Group, and that both ladies have been briefed regarding the differences in the Isle of Man.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Bus Driver Training</u></p> <p>IB reported that he hoped to make progress regarding driver training, which was necessary for trial implementation. It was noted that progress was slow, not helped by the fact that Hannah lo Bao, the Communications Manager at Public Transport, had now moved on to a different role. IB advised that whilst Bus Vannin would be unlikely to move forward with the training this side of TT, the training package was almost ready.</p> <p>SU reported that the new drivers are displaying excellent attitudes and behaviours.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Miscellaneous</u></p> <p>DK advised that progress is evident since 2019, when she was last involved in this accessibility issue.</p>	ALL IB

	<p>Discussion took place regarding hearing loops, which will be mandated in the UK.</p> <p>It was noted that mobility scooter training is going to be introduced in the UK.</p> <p>DK enquired about the policy for when 2 wheelchair users want to travel on one bus. IB advised that the bus driver was required to stop at the bus stop, communicate with the wheelchair user, and communicate with control via the tetra system, to ensure that the driver of the next bus on the route was aware that there was a wheelchair user at the stop.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Sight Matters Open Days</p> <p>IB reported on the event where a bus was taken to the Sight Matters headquarters, to provide an opportunity for people to come on board and have a chat. This had been very positively received.</p> <p>He further reported that the event had provided feedback on wheelchair space, the amber and white destination signage, and that the destination signage was too high. He advised that the IOM will follow the UK regarding this issue.</p> <p>It was noted that few people are aware of the “virtual bus tours”, and noted that the PR regarding this should be reviewed. SP reported that not enough is done within the Department to sell its positive messages. It was also noted that social media can achieve a lot in this regard.</p> <p>It was suggested that bus information stickers regarding prams need to be placed on the opposite side of the bus, and that information needs to be more pictorial, with less text, regarding priority seating.</p> <p>DK reported that she felt the Open Days had been very good.</p> <p>It was suggested that future Open Days should also include the minibuses.</p>	<p>IB</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Kassel Kerb Policy</p> <p>BA reported that Kassel Kerbs are installed where practicable when the Highways Division is working on the highways.</p> <p>He further reported that they are installed as standard in new developments, as required by the “Manual for Manx Roads”.</p> <p>He reported that whilst there is a current scheme to install Kassel kerbs at 19 bus stops, the Division is hoping to do more. He confirmed that the stops were identified in consultation with Bus Vannin, and also in relation to the usage of the bus stop.</p>	

	<p>He further reported that discussions are taking place with IB regarding the use of "slimline" Kassel kerbs, which are more sustainable, and reduce costs.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding tactile tiles and the floating bus stop at Pulrose Bridge.</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>(i)</p>	<p>Highways Issues</p> <p><u>Street Furniture</u></p> <p>SU distributed a number of pictures identifying where the street furniture is creating a barrier to accessibility.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding how such specific issues could be addressed.</p> <p>Further discussion took place regarding the collation of information regarding similar barriers around the Island caused by street furniture. DK suggested that the WI could be asked to provide feedback on this issue, and reported that she would be happy to make contact with the WI.</p> <p>SC reported that she was aware that DfE was progressing a piece of work to audit town centres, and agreed to follow this issue up with DfE, and forward any relevant information to the Steering Group.</p> <p>In relation to the issue identified on Central Douglas Promenade at the crossing next to the Savoy Hotel, it was noted that this could be safety critical, and suggested that a pragmatic approach could be to remove the tactile paving that currently runs straight to the edge of the kerb.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the cost of addressing this particular concern, and BA stated that the DOI had addressed a similar issue in Ramsey before construction was completed. BA said he had raised the issue with the Promenade project delivery and design team and repeated what was quoted to him:</p> <p><i>"this is one item on what is a long list of works still to be undertaken on the Promenade. Available budget to complete this work was the issue in taking it forward. I have not heard anything further to confirm whether any of the items on the list have been prioritised or allocated funding to be undertaken this financial year."</i></p> <p>It was agreed that this could be safety critical and BA agreed to enquire further and report back on progress at the next meeting.</p> <p>DK enquired on the mechanism to provide feedback regarding highways issues, and BA advised that he talks to the relevant officer/s.</p> <p>DK enquired about whether there was a process of engagement for new schemes. BA advised that whilst consultation took place regarding the promenade, there is no definitive consultation</p>	<p>SC</p>

	<p>procedure. The Division refers to UK guidance for schemes, which is derived from consultation with stakeholders and disability groups. DK suggested that the next step could be to consult on whether this approach was currently working, and that the Department should consider reaching out to get feedback on this issue.</p> <p><u>Living Streets</u></p> <p>It was noted that there is an opportunity to voice issues in the current consultation on "Living Streets".</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Close</p> <p>The meeting closed at 3.50pm</p>	

Signed.....**Date**.....
(Chair)