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30 June 2009

Janet Watson
Mobility Inclusion Unit
Regional Planning & Transportation Division
Department for Regional Development
Room 3-01 Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST BT2 8GB

Dear Madam

Re. **Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012**

Further to the above, Antrim Borough Council wishes to thank you for the opportunity to review the document.

Following discussion at Committee, Council wishes to compliment the Department on the significant progress already achieved to date, and in endorsing the proposed policies and actions outlined in the draft Action Plan (2009-2012), expects that this will continue the excellent work undertaken by the initial Action Plan (2007-2009).

By way of general comment, Members were keen to ensure that visually impaired and persons with other disabilities did not face discrimination when using existing forms of public transport. Unlike emerging forms of public transport (e.g. proposed rapid transit system for Belfast) - which will incorporate audio-visual aids for the benefit of all groups as a prerequisite - it was suggested that existing forms of public transport did not necessarily comply with such provisions, and any proposals to address this deficiency would be welcomed. It is understood that this very issue formed the basis of a recent presentation to the DRD Committee at Stormont.

It is hoped that these comments are helpful.

Yours faithfully

LIZ JOHNSTON

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