

From: Lorraine Hunter [mailto:hunterl@larne.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 July 2009 16:16
To: Watson, Janet

Subject: Accessible Transport Strategy 2009-2012
Please find below Larne Borough Council's response to the above consultation:

"Elected members note with interest the Department's Accessible Transport Strategy 2009-2012.

Larne Borough has unique transport needs. It is home to a major port, train station, bus station, various harbours and rural roads. Our rate payers rely on accessible transport to access services both within and outside the Borough. Approximately 20% of our population is aged 60 or over, and a similar number who perceive themselves as disabled.

Given our requirements we were disappointed that the Department decided not to hold one of its public meetings in Larne, or even in the East Antrim area.

We believe that meaningful consultation and engagement with the people of Larne is required in order that DRD can tackle the needs unique to our area. We would therefore seek clarification as to whether there is local representation on the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee.

The action plan also states that the Department will consult with older and disabled persons. However, it is not clear as to how it will do this. Written consultation documents or public meetings are not always the most appropriate means, especially with vulnerable groups. We would therefore like to see a more detailed consultation plan utilising a variety of consultation techniques.

In addition, we would invite the Department to engage directly with Larne Borough Council in the development of accessible transport in our Borough."

Trusting the Council's comments will be noted.

Kind Regards,
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