

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Main Committee Meeting



Who was at the meeting?

Linda Bamford, Convener

Michael Tornow

Naghat Ahmed

Joanne Devitt

Susan Fulton

Simon Watkins

Graham Dunn

Hilary Stubbs

David Hunter

Lynsey Shovlin

Audrey Birt

Heather Still



Officials

Karen Armstrong – Deputy Sponsor

Alexis Devlin - Secretariat





Guests

Mr Ben MacPherson MSP – Minister for Social Security and Local Government

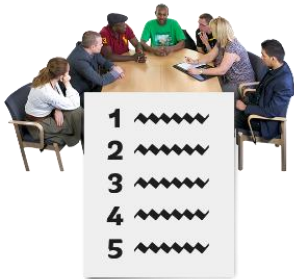
David George – Social Security Scotland



Who was not at the meeting?:

Ewan Matheson
Pauline Kelly

Item 1. Welcome and introductions.

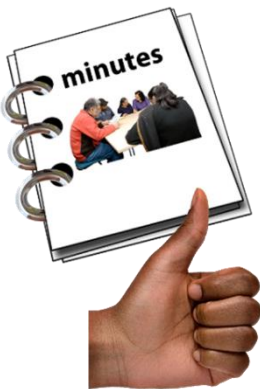


Linda started the meeting by welcoming everyone and said what would happen in the meeting.



She said that when Board members agree to do work, it gets written in the minutes as an action.

Item 2. Agreeing the Minutes from the last meeting and seeing how the Actions are going



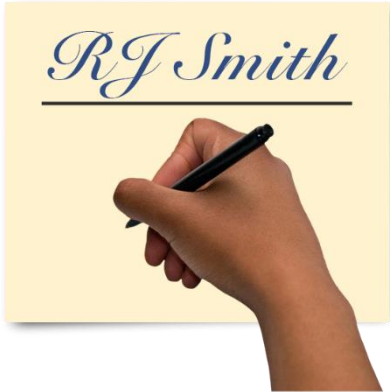
Linda asked if everyone agreed with the Minutes from the meeting on 19 October 2021.

The committee said they agreed the Minutes.



Linda said that there were 16 Actions to be done.

10 Actions have been done.



Action 3 is still being worked on.

The Deputy Sponsor still needs to sign off a document.

This should be done by the end of January 2022.

Action 1: Alexis will look at Action 3 and send the new consultations document to all the committee members early each month.

Action 2: Alexis will look at the last meeting's Action 5. Alexis will talk to ferry companies about blue badge traveller problems.



Action 10 is now finished.



Action 11 is still being worked on. Alexis said that there is a queue for putting documents on the MACS website.



Action 12 and Action 13 – Michael will share these documents as soon as he gets them.



Michael said it would be a good idea if Public Health Scotland could tell MACS how the Impact Assessment is going.



Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.

It will happen on 30 August 2022.



Karen – the Deputy Sponsor – joined the meeting.



Someone asked if MACS should thank Mr Dey for his work.

Mr Dey has left his job as Transport Minister.

There has been a message on Twitter thanking him.

Action 3: Karen will write a letter to welcome the new Minister for Transport. Her name is Ms Gilruth.

Item 3. Being ready for the meeting with the Minister



Linda talked about meeting the Minister – Ben Macpherson – in a few moments.

She wanted to talk about Motability and how this might make a difference to the Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme. This is also called AVES.



Linda asked if there was anything that members wanted her to talk about with the Minister.



Hilary said that the Motability Annual Report from December 2021 showed that Motability customers were being charged a lot of money.



Hilary said:

- they are paying 1 thousand pounds each year more than it costs to delivery Motability
- this is about a third of their PIP payments



Linda said:

- this was about 20 pounds a week
- this was the same amount as the new Scottish Child Payment



Hilary said that members who want to know more can click on <https://www.motability.org.uk/media/jbtpdeam/annual-report-and-accounts-20-21.pdf>

Item 4. Meeting with Ben Macpherson, the Minister for Social Security

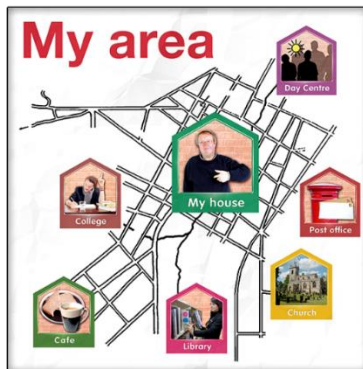


Linda welcomed Mr Macpherson.

She introduced everyone.



Linda talked about some of MACS work that links to his Minister tasks.



She said that MACS has been:

- giving advice to Local Authorities about 20 minute neighbourhoods and connected communities



- listening to disabled people's needs for 20 minute neighbourhoods



- trying to make cheaper travel fares happen on public transport and community transport, as part of the Fair Fares Review



Linda said in 2022 and 2023 the committee plan to work with Ms McKelvie, the Minister for Equalities and Older People.



They want to talk with her about:

- how transport helps people feel less lonely



- making sure that Equality Impact Assessments are used to help local authorities create local neighbourhoods and better transport



Linda said that in this meeting MACS wanted to talk about:

- the stopping of disability payments



- Motability moving to the Scottish Government Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme



- how these 2 things mean we can look at our worries about the Mobility scheme



- how these 2 things mean we have a chance to help more priority groups from the Child Poverty delivery plan



- how these 2 things mean we can help with the climate crisis by:
 - making better cars cheaper
 - making mobility equipment cheaper and easier to get



Mr Macpherson thanked Linda for explaining this.

He welcomed the work and said MACS should keep going on all these things.



Linda said that the Committee had some questions to ask him about the Scottish Government Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme.



Mr Macpherson left the meeting.

Item 5. Committee thoughts after meeting the Minister



Susan said the Minister had read the information about each committee member before the meeting.

So there was no need for introducing everyone again.



This extra time could be more useful for a question.

The committee agreed.



David asked Karen if she could work with him to update the Motability information on the MACS website.



Everyone agreed that MACS will write a tweet on Twitter to thank the Minister and to list the main things in the meeting.

Action 4: Karen and David will change the Motability information on the MACS website.

Action 5: MACS will put a message on Twitter about meeting with the Minister.

Action 6: Naghat will write an answer to the Minister about examples of grant awards and means testing problems.

Item 6. Update from Linda, the Convener



Linda focused on 2 points from her report.



1. The next Development Day is on 12 April 2022.

It will be about taxis and private hire cars.



2. The next Knowing Me, Knowing You sessions will cover:

- how to write and talk in ways that are accessible to all
- use of language and ways to write messages



Both these sessions are being led by guests.

They will happen on:



- 28 June 2022
- 13 September 2022



These dates are already in members diaries for the Full Committee Optional Meetings.

The committee agreed that it was a good idea to add these sessions to these meetings instead of having extra meetings.



Some people asked if the timings could be changed to 10am to 12.30pm with a short break, instead of working over lunch.

Action 7: Alexis will change the timings for the Knowing Me, Knowing You sessions and send the new details to the full Committee.



Hilary asked if the Knowing Me, Knowing You sessions could have full details taken in their Minutes for people to use afterwards.



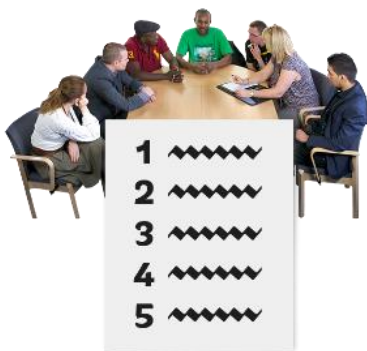
Linda said that she will share copies of the presentation slides and tips.

She said there is already a hints and tips guide about inclusive communication on the MACS website.

Action 8: Alexis will send out the hints and tips guide again.



Linsey asked if a future learning session could be about Equality Impact Assessments.



Linda said that the next meeting with the Minister for Equalities and Older People will focus on these assessments.



Linda also said that there is a video that Equalities staff had shared. The video showed best practice.

She asked Alexis to send this out again to all members.

Action 9: Alexis will send out the best practice video to all members again.

Item 7. Sponsor Team Update



Linda said that this paper was to read through.

She asked if it could have:

- page numbers
- underlines under headings taken out

Action 10: Alexis will check that the Sponsor Team update has page numbers and no underlined headings.



David said he would like the paper to show which areas were worked on by:

- Transport Scotland
- Scottish Government



David said this would show any gaps in policies.

He also asked if an organisation chart could be shared with the Committee.

Karen said she will make these changes and try to find a chart to share.

Action 11: Alexis will add whether new updates have come from Transport Scotland or Scottish Government to help MACS spot gaps in policy.

Karen will search for an organisation chart to share.



David said that details about the Delivery Board and its members has changed.



He asked if Karen could check:

- the Delivery Board's new Terms of Reference
- the Delivery Board membership
- the Transport Equalities Network membership

Action 12: Karen will look at the letters from November 2021 about membership of the Delivery Board.

Action 13: Karen will send David the Terms of Reference for the National Transport Strategy 2 Delivery Board.

Action 14: Karen will send David the membership details for the Delivery Board and the Transport Equalities Network.



Karen told the committee about the different people who had left and joined Transport Scotland.

Item 8. Agreeing the new Work Plans for 2022 to 2023



Linda showed the committee the newest Work Plan for 2022 to 2023.



The committee looked carefully at all the pages and talked about how to make it better.



Linda called this new copy Version 01-00.

She said she would finish it and send it to Alexis to send it to the Minister.



Next the Work Plan will be sent to:

- MACS team
- Transport Scotland Policy Teams
- MACS stakeholders

Item 9. Talking about the ways that the work streams are organised



Linda talked about how the new work streams are going to be organised.



The main change is making the Planning and Strategy Work Stream into 2 groups.

The groups will be called Flow 1 and Flow 2.



The committee agreed with this.

Item 10. Twitter Messages



MACS will write a Twitter message about:

- the meeting with Minister Ben Macpherson
- Motability
- Scottish Government's AVE Scheme

Item 11. End of Meeting



Linda thanked everyone for joining this meeting.

She said it was a long meeting but it had been very helpful in agreeing important things.