

**Mobility & Access Committee Scotland (MACS)
Main Committee meeting**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 24 July 2012
Conference Room 1, Victoria Quay**

Present:

Anne MacLean (AM) Convener

Members:

John Ballantine (JB)
Bob Benson (BB)
Clare Byrne (CB)
Heather Fiskin (HF)
Andrew Holmes (AH)
Jane Horsburgh (JH)
Grahame Lawson (GL)
Muriel Masson (MM)
Annette Monaghan (AM)
Jane Steven (JS)

Secretariat:

Linda Craik, (LC) Secretary
James Walker, (JW) Secretary
Wendy Nicol, Assistant Secretary

In attendance:

Jill Mulholland (JM), Head of Sponsor Team
Ann Henderson, Passengers' View Scotland
Sheryll Holley, Palantypist
Lorraine Johnstone, Assistant Secretary Passengers' View Scotland

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions and apologies

1. The Convener extended a welcome to everyone at the meeting. She introduced, James Walker; MACS Secretary, Wendy Nicol; MACS Assistant Secretary and Lorraine Johnstone; Assistant Secretary PVS, who have all recently been appointed. She also welcomed Sheryll Holley; Palantypist and Ann Henderson; PVS who was attending as an observer. She congratulated JB on being re-appointed to DPTAC.

2. Apologies for absence were received from James Glover and Hugh Flinn, (HF) Passengers' View Scotland.

Item 2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to an amendment to item number 42.

Action point 1: Secretariat to amend item 42

Action point 2: Secretariat to publish 17 April 2012 minutes on the MACS website

4. Secretariat to pass on information to MACS Committee members in relation to meeting with planning officials. LC has been in touch with planning officials regarding confirmation of dates of meetings and hopes to be in a position to confirm dates shortly.

Action point 3: Secretariat to confirm meeting dates to members as soon as they are available.

5. JM gave an update which she had discussed and agreed with the Convener proposing attendance at a Directors meeting to discuss what MACS offers Transport Scotland in the way of expertise and experience and how this could be fully utilised. She advised a paper to the board was required in advance of attendance and this could be done in conjunction with a presentation of the annual report and forward work plan (which would also address action point 4)

Item 3. Convener Update

6. The Convener informed the members that all eleven appraisals had now been completed for MACS members. The Convener also thanked the members for their hard work, which is much appreciated.

7. The Convener reminded members that contributions for the Annual Report should be submitted no later than the 13 August 2012 for inclusion in the Annual Report 2011-12.

8. The Convener informed the Committee that both she and LC had recently attended the Royal Garden Party.

Action point 4: Secretariat to remind members of the submission deadline for contributions.

Item 4. Secretariat Update

9. JM gave an update on a number of issues across Transport. She advised that rather than merely cribbing from information circulating in Transport Scotland she would ask the Secretariat to write out to Directorates in Transport Scotland and ask for any relevant information to be included in the next secretariat update.

Item 4

Action point: 5 Secretariat to request Directorate input into the Secretariat Update before each meeting.

10. GL raised the question of accessibility in respect to the new “cutting edge” ferries. The Convener spoke about her own personal experiences on the Western and Northern Isles ferries and commented that the treatment and service provided to disabled people was very good. Blue badge holders and guide dogs/assistance dogs were given priority embarkation. However, the Convener stated that quality and provision of assistance was dependant on staff training. Questions were raised by the Convener, however, concerning the effectiveness of evacuation procedures and equipment relating to the sliding chutes on the new ferries. There was a discussion as to whether design of ferries was a reserved matter or not and JB informed the Committee that ferry design was a reserved matter. The Convener said that smaller terminals were less accessible and asked if smaller ferries came under the remit of European Law. It was agreed that this matter could be discussed at a later date.

Action point: 6 Secretariat to request further information on any specific new ferries accessibility features.

Item 5 MACS Annual Report 2011/12

11. The Convener reminded members again that action points 8 and 9, below, should be dealt with in a timely manner, in order that the Annual Report 2011-12 be signed off ahead of the Convener's leave.

12. There was a general discussion relating to topics which might be included in the report. MM noted that the consultation in respect of the EGIP January 2012 should be included in the consultations section.

13. GL suggested that events attended should also appear in the annual report, this was agreed.

Action point: 7 Members to send contributions for inclusion in the Annual Report by 13 August 2012, ahead of the Convener's leave

Action point: 8 Members were requested to send updated biographies for inclusion in the Annual Report

Action point: 9 Secretariat to include EGIP Consultation January 2012 in the Annual Report

Action point: 10 Members to email details of events attended for inclusion in the Annual Report to the MACS mailbox

Item 6: Member's reports on events attended – matters arising

6 a 5th National Active Travel Conference

14. AM attended the 5th National Active Travel Conference. AM reported that the conference was useful and suggested it might be useful for MACS and PVS to organise a representation at next years event. HF suggested that Active Travel for disabled people and possible improvements could be discussed in a future meeting. In general terms the Committee agreed that this would be a good idea and enhance the profile of MACS and PVS. LC indicated that she had been in touch with colleagues and that they had indicated that MACS and PVS would be welcome to attend the next event.

6b Glasgow Commonwealth Games Accessibility Reference Group

15. GL informed the Committee that a replacement for Adrienne Nardi had been found. Having read GL's report AM agreed that it would be beneficial to have a separate meeting, outwith the Commonwealth Games remit, with other groups to achieve a unified approach to disability matters. HF stated that unless the meeting participants had decision making powers, the meeting would achieve very little. JB expressed concern that there were still gaps in access at events outwith Glasgow which could disadvantage disabled people attending.

Action point: 11 GL to report back to Committee in relation to Commonwealth Games Access outside Glasgow

6c DPTAC Main Committee

16. JB stated that he is to attend a special meeting on the 29th August 2012 in relation to the English Law Commissions Taxi Legislation, and added that it was an English matter. JB informed the Committee that BB, GL and himself are to work on preparing the MACS response to the DPTAC Consultation which closes on the 14 September 2012.

6d SRAF

17. MM referred to the extensive reports she had written on EGIP and also her attendance at SRAF meeting in Glasgow on the 13th June 2012. MM referred the Committee to a list of recommendations from the meeting. The Convener asked that a small working group be created to look at this further and report back to the next meeting. JB, BB and GL agreed to be part of the working group to investigate whether there would be real benefits for Disabled travellers.

Action point: 12 JB, BB and GL to form a separate working group to look at the EGIP project.

6e Blue Badge

18. There was a general discussion relating to the Blue Badge Scheme and the regional variation in time limits and enforcement of parking

restrictions. The Convener and GL noted that in some areas Blue Badge holders were restricted to a three hour time limit. The Committee noted that the application of restrictions was a local authority matter, however, in England time limits were more strictly enforced and could lead to prosecution but in Scotland the concern was more focussed on the cost of such prosecutions. Scottish Local Authorities can put in local restrictions as long as these restrictions are signed accordingly. The Local Authority would however have to correctly sign these restrictions throughout the parking areas.

7. Agenda items for future meetings and Workstream Review

19. Work-streams were discussed by the Committee. The Convener requested that the following items be removed from the work-streams review; The London Olympics and Paralympics, any mention of the DDA, National Transport Strategy, Single Outcomes Agreements and the Regional Transport Partnerships. The Convener asked the Committee that CB and GL would jointly lead on the Commonwealth Games with GL. MM mentioned that Airports should be transferred to the Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Change work-stream. MM asked that she be included only in the Airports item of the EICC work-stream.

Action point: 13 Secretariat to update the work-stream document.

20. The Convener asked that BB assist on the Rail Workstream. MM was to be removed from the Bus and Community Transport and Workstream and to be replaced by AM.

21. On the forward workplan, there was a discussion on the Hightrans paper, suggesting that it was more cost effective to fund community transport than run bus services that were not used. JS spoke about the DRT Forum and the Convener asked if there was a division in Transport Scotland that dealt with regional transport strategies. LC informed the Committee that HF has set up a meeting with Transport Scotland transport Strategy team to discuss the matter of regional strategies. It was noted that the Scottish Government were waiting for a Health and Community Transport Policy document to be signed off.

8. Oral update from Workstreams

22. JH spoke about the Forth Replacement Crossing and said that communication was continuing. JH informed the Committee that she would be attending a meeting in relation to pedestrians and vehicles and would also be having a discussion with the contractors in late August. JH will also be having discussions with the Access Group to discuss the design of the tactile paving.

23. There was a discussion about trials of controlled crossings in Edinburgh, which concluded that the crossing should stay as they are. Trials of non-contact crossing have shown that the concept is workable but needs more investment.

24. JH highlighted that the Architecture Division of the Scottish Government were conducting a consultation on Architecture and Place Making, with a meeting due at the end of August. Matters of pedestrian infrastructure may be covered at the meeting, if so MACS will be involved.

25. The discussion concluded with GL thanking AM and HF for their contributions to the consultation on the Responsible Parking Bill. MM spoke to the Rail 2014 summary statement and highlighted that the language used in the report was out of date and should be amended to reflect correct terminology. MM also spoke about the variance in the standards of accessibility of the many rail stations throughout Scotland.

9. Any Other Business

26. JG had submitted an item for discussion under AOB "Advertisements on bus windows" He requested that this be raised at the next meeting. JS spoke about the Sustrans new Disability Access APP available via Smart-phones; the APP identifies access tools and access ramps and has been trialled by London Access. JM advised that the Blue Badge team were considering future passporting arrangements from the new disability benefit from DWP – Personal Independence Payment (PIP). She advised that DWP were still considering eligibility criteria and she would provide an update as soon as this had been agreed.

10. Date of next meeting and dates for 2013 meetings.

27. Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 23 October 2012 at 11.00 am in Conference Room 2, Victoria Quay.

28. The dates of the 2012 meetings were agreed as follows:

Tuesday 22 January 2013

Tuesday 23 April 2013

Tuesday 23 July 2013

Tuesday 22 October 2013

The Convener closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and for their Work during the year and their commitment to the aims of the Committee. The Convener also thanked Linda Craik for her help and assistance over the last four years and the other Committee members echoed this sentiment and wished Linda the very best in the future.

**MACS Secretariat
August 2012**