

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

**Minutes of meeting held on 19 April 2011
Conference Room 2, Victoria Quay**

Present:

Anne MacLean, Convener

Members:

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

Secretariat:

Linda Craik (LC), Secretary
Jean Goldie, Assistant Secretary

Apologies:

Jane Horsburgh

In attendance:

Fiona Locke, Head of Sponsor Team
Kathryn Sykes, Palantypist

Welcome and Introductions

1. The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kathryn Sykes who was in attendance as the palantypist for the meeting.

Apologies

2. Apologies had been received from Jane Horsburgh.

Minutes of the last meeting

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment. The Convener indicated that she had, on behalf of the Committee, sent a card to Shonagh Terry wishing her well.

Points of Action from meeting held on 25 January 2011

4. Item 2 (Drop off charges at Edinburgh Airport) – Members gave consideration to the information which had been circulated in connection with the Edinburgh Airport drop off charges and it was agreed that MM would provide a draft letter to airport officials for consideration/sign off by the MACS Convener.

Action: MM to provide a draft letter for the Convener to issue to Edinburgh Airport management on behalf of MACS.

5. Item 4 (Ferries Review) – Members noted that, in response to MACS's letter to David Middleton, Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, he had responded agreeing with the points which the Committee had raised.

6. Item 8 (Front line staff training in relation to rail franchise) – The Committee agreed that MM should continue to pursue this matter and the Secretariat would identify a contact for her within Transport Scotland for further discussion.

Action: MM to pursue this issue with TS officials and report back to MACS members in due course.

7. Item 11 (DLA Consultation) – members noted that JB had provided a response to this consultation via DPTAC.

8. Item 12 (Christie Commission – Public Service Reform) – AH agreed to circulate available information on this matter to the members of MACS.

Action: AH to circulate information on the Christie Commission – Public Services Reform to the members of MACS.

Matters arising

9. There were no issues for consideration under this item.

Secretariat Update

10. FL gave members an overview of the work which was underway in preparation for the forthcoming election and the new administration. She gave a brief indication of some of the transport issues contained within the various political parties' manifesto's. Following a brief discussion, members agreed that the MACS Convener should seek an early meeting with the Transport Minister following the Scottish Election.

Action: Secretariat to draft a letter for the Convener to request a meeting with the Transport Minister.

11. Information on the changes being made to the eligibility criteria for blue badge holders was shared with the Committee, as was an indication of the further work being carried out in this area by FL and her team. Members were asked to

take part in a future test session planned for the updated blue badge website. The session would be conducted in VQ and would last for approximately 1 hour. It was agreed that the Secretariat would seek volunteers for this once the actual date of the website testing was known.

Action: Secretariat to seek MACS volunteers to test the new blue badge website.

12. FL spoke to the paper which she had produced in relation to the DPTAC Training Framework for transport operators. Members accepted the points which FL had highlighted. In discussion, members agreed that the DPTAC document might be used as a structural framework for the MACS Workstreams in using the questions posed as a challenge to work being taken forward. In this way the good practice suggested in the Framework document would become embedded in the work of MACS and in their dealings with other organisations. BB was keen to move this work forward as part of the Disability, Equality Rights, Standards and Outcomes Workstream.

13. The Convener suggested that a presentation from an Access Consultant might be beneficial to assist members. HF and JG also offered to be part of this task.

Action: BB to take forward work on this issue and the Secretariat to arrange for an Access Consultant to make a presentation at a future MACS meeting.

Convener Update

14. The Convener informed members that she was required to carry out appraisals on each of them before the end of August and that she had completed this task last year in writing and over the telephone. Members were asked to contact the Convener to arrange a mutually convenient time for their appraisals to take place.

Action: Members to contact Convenor to arrange appraisal timings.

Oral Update from Workstreams

15. The Convener requested that each workstream present an oral update to the Committee on issues which they were currently giving consideration. The following points were highlighted:

(i) Rail – general issues on works being planned at stations in 2011 were being discussed by SRAF, including ongoing refurbishments/improvements at Waverley Station. Secretariat to arrange a speaker from Passenger Focus to attend a future MACS meeting.

Action: Secretariat to arrange for speaker from PF to attend future MACS meeting.

(ii) Roads – Roads for all Forum - continuing to monitor issues as they arose. It was agreed that GL would prepare a letter to Jim Mackinnon, Director of the Built Environment in the SG (copied to Rory Mair, Cosla) regarding SP17/SP1 guidance in connection with access issues generally and Equality Duty, using access to a new built shopping facility as a specific example.

Action: GL to prepare draft letter to SG Planning officials and share with the Convener and the Secretariat for consideration.

(iii) Equality Act - The new Act came into force on 1 October 2010, but specific duties from the Act had been rejected by the Equal Opportunities Committee. Members noted that it should be “business as usual” until further guidance was available.

(iv) DRT – Various bits of work on this matter ongoing throughout the country, but appeared uncoordinated. Committee informed that PVS keen to work with MACS on this issue and that this was something which should be discussed jointly at a future meeting.

Action: DRT to be an agenda item for discussion between MACS and PVS officials.

(v) Taxi – Members made aware of the current consultation on taxi licensing. AH agreed to prepare a draft MACS response for consideration by other members. Secretariat to send a copy of the consultation paper to MM.

Action: Copy of taxi consultation paper to be sent to MM and AH to prepare draft response for consideration by members.

(vi) Ferries – It was noted that reports on the Ferries Review Consultation were now available on the Transport Scotland website and that, on this occasion, JB would be attending the meeting of the Review Group on 4 May 2011 in place of AM, who was unavailable to attend.

(vii) Active travel – Members were made aware of various strands of work which were continuing for example on car clubs, shared surfaces etc.

(viii) Misc. – the Convener reminded members that MACS was a strategic, not a representative group, which had a limited role and remit and only a certain number of days in which to complete its various tasks. As such, the Committee was not in a position to cover all subjects and all possible passenger disability issues. Members were asked to give consideration to raising the profile of MACS whilst bearing in mind the limitations within which it had to work.

Waverley Station and Commonwealth Games Issues – Next Steps

Waverley Station

16. LC informed the Committee that a meeting with Network Rail had been requested. This would present the opportunity to discuss the ongoing resurfacing works and the difficulties travellers were experiencing as a result of the temporary ban on taxi operators being allowed to access the station. It was noted that the Convener, MM and JB would represent MACS at this meeting, which was provisionally planned to take place on 26 April 2011.

17. MM made comment on the severe lack of information which was available both within the station and on websites about the ongoing works and the Convener indicated that the temporary assistance/taxi arrangements at the station appeared to be disjointed and not working as well as might be expected.

18. Members also made reference to, and had a lengthy discussion about the ongoing work being carried out to the Waverley Steps area of the station. They agreed that, although the finished product would be much welcomed and would allow disabled travellers a choice of ways to enter/exit the station, there were still issues which needed to be addressed.

19. It was agreed that the issues discussed by the full Committee, be raised at the meeting as well as requesting that MACS and other relevant bodies be added to the Network Rail distribution/consultation list. In this way the Committee could be kept informed of any other forthcoming works being carried out within their stations.

Action: Secretariat to confirm arrangements for meeting with Network Rail.

Commonwealth Games

20. GL made reference to the letter which the Committee had received from David Grevemberg, Chief Operating Officer of Glasgow 2014 Ltd in response to the correspondence which MACS had sent to them. GL highlighted the fact that no single group appeared to be co-ordinating accessibility/disability issues, nor did there appear to be any representatives from transport operators on the 2014 Board. The Convener drew attention to the fact that Mr Grevemberg had indicated that an accessibility forum would be created and that MACS would have the opportunity to participate in this.

21. Following discussion on the details contained within the correspondence, the Committee agreed that GL should prepare another letter to Mr Grevemberg at Glasgow 2014 Ltd to raise the further concerns which MACS had in connection with the preparations for the Games. It was also agreed that the Secretariat would identify an appropriate contact within the Scottish Government to whom any correspondence might also be copied to, to ensure that they were made aware of MACS's involvement in this matter.

Action: GL to prepare draft response to the Chief Operating Officer of Glasgow 2014 Ltd for consideration and sign off by the members and Convener.

Preparation and Planning for MACS Annual report 2010-2011

22. Members agreed that the content of the 2010-2011 annual report would be set out using the same format as previous reports, subject to some minor re-arranging of the order of the workstreams.

23. JB indicated that some of the recommendations made in the 2009-2010 report were still current and this was acknowledged by the Convener. It was agreed that reference to issues which were still current or ongoing would be made most appropriately, in the main body of the report.

24. The Convener requested that a copy of the transcript from the session at which MACS gave evidence before the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee of the Scottish Parliament (TICCC), and their follow up correspondence, should be added as an annex to the 2010-2011 report.

25. Members agreed the suggested timetable of submitting their contributions to the Secretariat by 30 June 2011 to allow the draft report to be considered at the next MACS meeting on 26 July 2011.

Action:

(i) Convener and Members to send their contributions to the annual report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2011.

(ii) Secretariat to ensure that the TICCC transcript and correspondence forms part of the 2010-2011 report.

Members reports on events attended

26. The reports from events which members had attended were noted and there was no follow up actions.

Any Other Business

27. The Convener informed members that the planned meeting with representatives of Passengers' View Scotland (PVS), which had been scheduled to take place prior to this MACS meeting, had been postponed due to disrupted travel. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree areas of mutual interest and to give consideration to the possibility of joint working between the two bodies. It was agreed that another meeting should be arranged and would be attended by JS, AH, BB and the Convener from MACS and Hugh Flinn, Charlie Anderson, Irene Kitson and Jane Steven from PVS. JS informed members that PVS had drafted a proposed protocol to assist the forthcoming discussion between the two bodies (copy attached). BB suggested that all MACS members be invited to contribute any questions or issues that they thought appropriate to be raised at the meeting, to be submitted to the Secretariat.

Action: Secretariat to arrange a meeting for MACS and PVS

28. MM suggested that it might be useful to invite a representative from ATOC to speak to members at a future MACS meeting and the Convener indicated that she would give this matter consideration.

Action: Convener to consider issuing an invitation to ATOC to present at a future MACS meeting.

29. AH asked if the dates for the 2012 MACS meetings had yet been arranged and it was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate suggested dates for these.

Action: Secretariat to send out proposed dates for the 2012 Committee meetings.

Date of next meeting

30. Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 26 July 2011 at 11:00am in Conference Room 2, Victoria Quay.

Dates of Future Meetings

31. The dates of the remaining meetings for 2011 were agreed as follows:

Tuesday 25 October 2011

The Convener closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and for their ongoing hard work and commitment to the work of the Committee.

MACS Secretariat

May 2011