

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

**Minutes of meeting held on 25 October 2011  
Conference Rooms 4 & 5, Victoria Quay**

**Present:**

Anne MacLean, Convener

**Members:**

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

**Secretariat:**

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

**In attendance:**

Fiona Locke, Head of Sponsor Team (FL)  
Laura Harrison, Palantypist

**Welcome and Introductions**

1. The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies**

2. Apologies for absence were received from Jane Steven. The Convener informed the members that Jane's husband had sadly passed away and that she, on behalf of the Committee, had sent a letter of condolence.

## **Minutes of the last meeting**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to an amendment on page 5 to correct the acronym for DPTAC.

**Action:** *Secretariat to amend minutes of previous meeting.*

## **Points of Action from meeting held on 26 July 2011**

4. With regards to Action Point 8, JH indicated that she would be able to provide the Secretariat with a contact name for information relating to the Haymarket Station improvement programme

5. It was agreed that HF should be included as part of the sub-group who were preparing a draft Framework for Equality document.

**Action:** *JH to provide Secretariat with contact details for official in connection with the Haymarket Station improvement programme.*

## **Matters arising**

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

## **Convener Update**

7. The Convener informed the Committee that she had attended the International Association of Transport Professionals conference in Aviemore on 27 September 2011. The Conference was attended by officials from Scotrail, Passengers' View Scotland (PVS), Caledonian MacBrayne and others. The Convener indicated that she had raised the issue of staff training on disability issues with the various transport operators and had been approached by one or two of the conference delegates who indicated that they would welcome the views of MACS on the training programmes which they provided for their employees. The Convener had welcomed these approaches and indicated that MACS would welcome the opportunity to input and assist in any way it could.

8. The Convener stated that she had been invited to be a speaker at an event which had been organised by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments - the aim of which was to encourage people with disabilities to apply for positions on Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). Members were informed that the Convener had received a Boots gift voucher for £15.00 as a thank you for speaking at the event.

9. Members were informed that a letter had issued, on behalf of PVS and MACS, to the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland to ask what plans, if any, he had to resurrect the National Transport Strategy (NTS) working group. A response was awaited. It was also noted by the Committee that the Secretariat were in correspondence with officials at Edinburgh Airport to try to organising a meeting to discuss the drop off facilities at the Airport.

10. Following her attendance at a PVS meeting, the Convener had received a copy of the draft Good Practice Guide for Bus Operators which the Bus Passenger's Platform (BPP) sub-committee had prepared and she asked that this be shared with the other members of MACS.

**Action:** *Secretariat to issue copies of the draft BPP "Good Practice Guide for Bus Operators" document to MACS members for information.*

11. Committee members noted that the Convener had also attended an event which had been organised by Visit Scotland and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the aim of which had been to highlight the potential to increase tourist business by adapting facilities to accommodate disabled visitors. Although transport was not one of the topics under consideration, the Convener felt that Visit Scotland had missed an opportunity on this.

### **Secretariat Update**

12. FL informed members that Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment, had attended the ICI Committee at the Scottish Parliament, where he had focussed on the Government's spending review proposals and the Programme for Government.

13. Members noted that the Draft Scottish Ferries Review plan was due to be published before the end of 2011.

### **Member's Reports on Events attended**

14. The reports which Members had provided on the meetings and events which they had attended were noted.

### **MACS Annual Report for 2010-2011**

15. Consideration was given to the draft Annual Report which had been prepared by the Secretariat and included contributions from the Convener and all members of the Committee's workstreams. A number of minor amendments were requested and it was agreed that the Secretariat would incorporate these in the final Report and then arrange for it to be sent to the Minister for Housing and Transport and be formally laid in the Scottish Parliament.

**Action:** *Secretariat to incorporate amendments and finalise the MACS Annual Report and arrange for it to be sent to the Minister for Transport and to be laid in the Scottish Parliament.*

### **Guest speaker – Jim MacKinnon, Scottish Government Chief Planner**

16. The Convener introduced the Scottish Government's Chief Planner, Jim MacKinnon and Principal Architect, Sandy Robinson. She invited Mr MacKinnon to address the Committee and indicated to members that they would be given the opportunity to ask any relevant questions at the end of the session.

17. Mr MacKinnon spoke about the 2006 Planning Act, which he said aimed to make the planning process more inclusive. He indicated that, over the last five years, he had only received correspondence from MACS on issues of concern to

disabled people in relation to planning matters. On the subject of the challenges of integration, Mr MacKinnon indicated that he believed that local councils and authorities were best placed to monitor and improve issues, such as buildings and roads, in their specific areas. He suggested that it would be useful if MACS were able to attend a meeting of the Heads of Planning and Inquiry Reporters and this offer was welcomed by the Convener and members. Members emphasised the need for planning and building projects to give consideration to the needs of all members of the public, and that an Access Consultant was a crucial element to this process.

18. Members of the Committee raised a number of general concerns in relation to planning and accessibility issues and it was agreed that the Secretariat would pass these onto Mr MacKinnon to allow him the opportunity to seek background information and provide an informed response. Everyone agreed that the main objective would be to get transport, infrastructure and planning bodies to communicate and work better together to ensure that the best and most accessible outcomes were achieved.

19. Following a further discussion which covered issues in relation to Independent Living and the importance of disabled access needs being taken into consideration at the design stage of any new projects, JH agreed to meet with Sandy Robinson to discuss the key issues further and report back to MACS on this in due course.

**Action:**

- (i) Secretariat to make arrangements with SG Planning officials for MACS to be invited to attend a future meeting of Directors of Planning and Inquiry Reporters.***
- (ii) JH to arrange a meeting with Sandy Robinson to discuss awareness, education and training in relation to architectural design.***
- (iii) Secretariat to supply Mr MacKinnon with the questions raised during the meeting to allow him to provide substantive responses to these.***

20. The Convener thanked Jim MacKinnon and Sandy Robinson for taking the time to attend the MACS meeting and for their informative presentation.

### **Oral Update from Workstreams**

21. Each of the workstreams gave an oral update on the key issues that they were working on and brought the following matters to the attention of the Committee:

(i) PVS – The Convener drew attention to BB's report which indicated that PVS had undertaken to write to Scottish Government officials on the subject of tendering for rail services. PVS would provide MACS with a copy of their letter and the Convener indicated that, following receipt of this, she would give consideration to whether any action would be required from MACS.

(ii) DPTAC – The written report, which JB had provided, on work being undertaken by DPTAC was noted by members.

(iii) Rail – MM indicated that the members of the Scottish Rail Accessibility Forum (SRAF) had received a very informative presentation on the forthcoming Rail 2014 consultation. Members commented on the lack of consultation and information being provided with regards to the Scotrail Minor Works Programme and the Access for All Programme and the Secretariat agreed to seek further information from Transport Scotland on this matter. MM agreed to draft a response in relation to the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP) and circulate this to members for their comments.

(iv) Commonwealth Games 2014 – Members were informed that the Secretariat had written to the Glasgow 2014 organisers to request an urgent meeting for MACS members but had, as yet, not received a response. Secretariat agreed to pursue this as soon as possible and invite Ms Nardi, Head of Transport for the Glasgow 2014 games, to attend the next MACS meeting.

(v) Ferries – The draft Ferries Review plan, due to be published before the end of the year, would be considered and a draft response prepared by the Ferries workstream and circulated to members.

(vi) Bus – It was noted that AH had provided a response, on behalf of MACS, to the BSOG consultation.

**Action:**

***(i) Rail workstream to:***

***(1) prepare a draft letter with regards to the Minor Works Programme, for consideration by MACS members;***

***(2) prepare a draft response with regards to the EGIP, on behalf of MACS and***

***(3) give consideration to the Rail 2014 consultation document and prepare a draft response for consideration by MACS members.***

***(ii) Secretariat to contact Transport Scotland rail officials to seek further information/advice on the Access for All programme of works.***

***(iii) Ferries workstream to give consideration to the draft Ferries Review plan and prepare a draft response for consideration by MACS members.***

***(iv) Secretariat to follow up invitation to Glasgow 2014 team to attend next MACS meeting.***

**Workstreams review**

22. Following a discussion on the aims, themes and membership of the current workstreams, it was agreed that the issues listed under the Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change workstream would best be absorbed by the other workstreams. A new sub-group entitled “Planning and Infrastructure”, which would include the topic of active travel, would replace the “Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change workstream and retain the membership of the former workstream. The membership and topics covered by the other workstreams would remain unchanged.

***Action: Secretariat to issue a revised workstreams document to members of the Committee.***

### **Future Work Programme**

23. The Convener invited members to give their thoughts on what the MACS future work programme might consist of. Members agreed that there was a need to continue to be proactive and to raise the Committee's profile with key transport and infrastructure bodies.

24. Members were asked to give consideration to this issue and to share their thoughts so that a further discussion could take place at a future MACS meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

25. The Secretariat informed members that the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC) had expressed an interest in the work being undertaken by MACS and indicated that an invitation to discuss the MACS Annual Report 2010-2011 would be made when the Report was published.

### **Date of next meeting and future meetings**

26. Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 24 January 2012 at 11:00 am in Conference Room 2, Victoria Quay.

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

Tuesday 24 January 2012

Tuesday 17 April 2012

Tuesday 24 July 2012

Tuesday 23 October 2012

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**

November 2011