

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

**Minutes of meeting held on 26 July 2011
Conference Room 2, 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)
Jane Steven (JS)

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. There were no apologies for absence.

Minutes of the last meeting

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

Points of Action from meeting held on 19 April 2011

4. Items 1, 2 and 3 – members noted that these points had all now been completed and that no further action was required.
5. Item 6 and 8 (Access Consultant/Passenger Focus representative to be invited to a future MACS meeting) – it was agreed that this would be included in the discussion on the forward work programme.
6. Item 16 (meeting between MACS and PVS) – members noted that the Convener had been invited to speak at the next PVS meeting which would take place on 25 August 2011.

Matters arising

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

Convener Update

8. The Convener informed Committee members that she had attended a Scottish Government training session relating to the appointment (and re-appointment) of members to public bodies. This had highlighted the need to ensure that public appointments and re-appointments were made to comply with the skills required by that public body and that the Public Appointments Commissioner's code was adhered to. She indicated that the knowledge and information she gained during the training session had been put to good effect whilst carrying out the MACS members' yearly appraisals.
9. FL suggested that it would be advisable, once the forward work programme had been agreed, to re-assess the MACS skills audit to ensure that all the available knowledge and experience within the Committee was being put to best use. Members agreed that this exercise should be carried out.

Action: ***Secretariat to circulate the current MACS skills audit and this should be an Agenda item for discussion/update at the next meeting.***

10. The Convener gave an overview of the areas which had been discussed during the site visit to Waverley Station on 26 April 2011 and referred Members to the meeting report which had been produced by the Secretariat. It was acknowledged by those who had used the Station more recently that the situation regarding signage, assistance and taxi accessibility had much improved within days of the meeting taking place.
11. Members were also informed that the Convener had been invited to take part in one of four seminars which were being jointly run by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Inclusion Scotland – the aim of which was to encourage more people to apply to become members of NDPBs. HF indicated that she had been invited to speak at one of the events which would take place in October/November.

Annual Report 2010-2011

12. The Convener thanked members for their contributions so far to the Report. Members agreed that the aims of the Committee should be amended to reflect that “infrastructure and accessibility” also fell within the remit of the body.

13. There was a discussion covering several specific areas of individual sections of the report. It was agreed that, once the Secretariat had incorporated all the suggested amendments, that the Report would be re-circulated to the Convener and members for final agreement.

Action: *(i) Secretariat to suggest amended wording in relation to the MACS aims (number 5) to incorporate a reference to infrastructure and accessibility.*

(ii) Secretariat to take on board all suggested amendments to the Report and then re-circulate it to the Convener and members for final sign off.

Secretariat Update

14. FL spoke to the Secretariat paper which provided information on a variety of transport related matters. She indicated that, due to the Parliamentary Recess, the Directorate had not yet had any interaction with the ICI Committee (Infrastructure and Capital Investment) but that this would no doubt change when Parliament resumed. Members were asked to note that the Local Government and Regeneration Committee (LGRC) might also take an interest in the “softer” transport issues.

15. Members noted that a Public Consultation on the future design of the National Travel Survey had been launched by DfT on 9 June and that the closing date for responses was 5 September 2011. It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate the link to this consultation to members to allow them to consider whether a response from MACS should be considered.

Action: *Secretariat to send link to DfT consultation to MACS members.*

16. FL informed the Committee that the SG Transport and Travel in Scotland 2010 Statistical Bulletin – which will contain the information previously released in two publications, *Main Transport Trends* and *Household Transport* – would be published on 31 August 2011 and that this would be circulated to members to provide information on latest transport trends.

Action: *Secretariat to circulate the Statistical Bulletin when published on 31 August 2011.*

MACS – What’s our vision for the future?

17. Members agreed that there was a need to think about and plan the forward work programme for the Committee and consider what MACS wanted to achieve in

the coming year. FL suggested that at present Ministers were focused on the Spending Review and the forthcoming announcement on 20 September by Mr Swinney. Ministers had also been considering their future vision for what Scotland would look like in 2020. Early indications for Transport were that there would be some further work around STPR and the possibility of a refresh around the key strategic objectives of the National Transport Strategy.

18. The following points/issues were raised:

- (a) How to take forward the work of MACS to ensure that it complements the SG's vision and priorities for the coming years?
- (b) How could MACS effectively contribute the views of disabled travellers to feed into transport projects?
- (c) How could MACS influence future transport infrastructure to enable disabled people to contribute to the SG's priority of increased sustainable economic growth?

19. Members discussed the possible impact which any potential transport related cutbacks might have on the availability and accessibility of public transport for disabled people. They agreed that it was important for the Committee not to duplicate the work which other groups were already contributing to and to concentrate on more strategic issues e.g. not to become involved in local issues which might be better addressed by local groups.

20. The Convener indicated that it would be prudent to await the publication of the SGs priorities following the forthcoming Spending Review announcement and to tailor the work and the workstreams of MACS to allow the body to focus in that direction.

21. The Committee agreed that the transportation needs of the aging population and rural transportation were issues which MACS might look at in some detail to ascertain what was being done. FL suggested that it would be useful for members to give consideration to the SG's priorities and the areas in which MACS was able to exert influence.

Action:

- (i) ***Members to give consideration to what areas they would like to concentrate on in the coming year and what impact the Committee could make to the disabled people when travelling.***
- (ii) ***Secretariat to include "forward planning/work programme" on the Agenda for the next MACS meeting.***

Oral Update from Workstreams

22. The Convener invited lead members from each of the workstreams to present a brief oral update on items of interest within their areas.

- (i) Blue Badge Reform – CB indicated that the draft Code of Practice for Local Authorities was being considered by the Blue Badge Reform Working Group and would be issued to Local Authorities in the Autumn. This would provide guidance on all aspects of the Blue Badge Reforms. The blue badge design would change quite substantially. The new badge, which would be issued from 1 January 2012,

would incorporate more advanced printing and security features to make it harder to copy, forge or tamper with. Members noted that the new process to obtain a blue badge would be much more robust and streamlined and was being designed to enable a much more co-ordinated approach by local authorities across the UK. FL informed members that Northgate Information Systems together with Payne Security had been awarded the contract to issue the new badge through a more secure method of distribution.

(ii) DPTAC – Members noted that DPTAC had commented on responses to the consultation on its future role or successor arrangements. DfT considered that a body very like the existing one, but without any statutory powers, would be the best option out of those which were being proposed. The Convener thanked JB for all his work in connection with this issue and for his ongoing role as the Scottish member on DPTAC.

(iii) Rail – MM reiterated that the site visit to Waverley Station, during the ongoing refurbishment works, had been very useful and had resulted in significant improvements to issues of concern to disabled travellers. She also commented on the markings on the new steps being built, that a discussion at the last SRAF meeting indicated that all of the steps would have contrast markings as opposed to just the first and last step in each section. In relation to EGIP, it was noted that the expected timeframe for completion was 2016. Members requested sight of any available information on the proposed improvements to Haymarket Station in Edinburgh.

Action: Secretariat to determine what information was available in relation to Haymarket improvements and to circulate to members.

(iv) DRT – AH stated that the Audit Scotland report on Transport for Health and Social Care was due to be published at the beginning of August and that he had been invited to take part in a meeting with SG officials to discuss this. JS added that the Health Transport Group of which she was a member, would be meeting following the publication of the Audit Scotland report to discuss.

(v) Roads - JH gave an update on work being undertaken by the Roads for All (RfA) group. This included the setting up of a roads maintenance review working group which would be meeting on 18 August 2011 to discuss the public perception of roads maintenance issues. JH also drew attention to a local transport note on shared spaces which DfT had produced and indicated that the MACS Roads workstream would be looking closely at this.

(vi) Ferries – AM referred the Committee to the meeting report which had been circulated to members following her attendance at the Scottish Ferries Review Steering Group meeting on 4 May 2011. Members noted that the Ferries Review was ongoing and AM would feedback on any relevant issues which arose.

Disability Equality, Standards and Outcomes

23. BB had produced a draft paper which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. This had suggested that the DPTAC Training Framework might help provide the basis for a framework for MACS which would guide the Committee's consideration of transport issues through setting expectations of

standards of delivery and good practice for the disabled travellers' needs. This framework might be "boiled down" into a template to guide and direct MACS work. GL commented that a Charter published by DPTAC in 2002 and a European Implementation Charter might provide a useful set of principles. Although these would need to be updated in light of more recent EU Human Rights legislation.

24. Other members commented in support of it being a good idea to have a common framework across all workstreams to structure their work, but that the Committee as a whole needed to be clear about how to use it and what it would achieve.

25. Following a lengthy discussion on the proposed purpose of a Framework document, it was agreed that:

- the 6 principles included in the *DPTAC Charter on training and education in accessibility* document would be a good starting point for any framework being devised.
- the overarching point of the proposed MACS framework document would be to emphasise that the needs of disabled people should be considered during any transport and infrastructure projects.

26. It was agreed that BB and JG – with input from GL – would attempt to develop such a framework and report progress back to members in due course. By way of practical application, the framework might be used as a tool to form the basis of a discussion with Jim MacKinnon, Chief Planner on earlier consideration of disabled passengers' needs in the planning process.

Action:

- (i) BB, JG and GL to prepare a proposed framework document for consideration by Committee members.*
- (ii) Secretariat to invite the SG Chief Planner to speak at the next MACS Committee meeting.*
- (iii) Secretariat to make enquiries as to whether MACS might be invited to speak at a future Planners Conference.*

Members reports on events attended

27. The reports from events which members had attended were noted and no follow up action requested.

Any Other Business

28. There were no issues raised under this item.

Date of next meeting and future meetings

29. Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 25 October 2011 at 11:00am in Conference Rooms 4 and 5, Victoria Quay.

30. 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

August 2011