

**FREIGHT STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
27 MAY 2009, 11:00HRS, VICTORIA QUAY**

Present: Alastair Wilson (Scottish Government), Chairperson
Gavin Scott (Freight Transport Association)
Phil Flanders (Road Haulage Association)
Maya Rousen (Scottish Enterprise)
Tony Jarvis (Highland and Islands Enterprise)
Gareth Williams (Scottish Council for Development and Industry)
Rab Dickson (Nestrans)
Margaret Horn (Scottish Government)
Pam Stott (Scottish Government)
Jim May (Scottish Government)
Carol Ann Munn (Scottish Government) – for item on Freight in
Scotland only
Maureen Rooney (Transport Scotland)

WELCOME FROM CHAIR

1. Alastair Wilson welcomed everyone to the initial meeting of the Freight Stakeholder Group.

REMIT, MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

2. Alastair Wilson outlined the remit, membership and operating principles of the Group:-

a) **remit** – with a view to increasing sustainable economic growth in Scotland, and recognising the importance of freight in the transport sector and wider Government policies to:-

- advise on and monitor delivery of freight policy in Scotland in order to achieve national outcomes and objectives;
- consider the impact of wider Government policies on the movement of freight;
- prioritise and co-ordinate action taken by industry and other stakeholders in response to government policies.

b) **core membership** – would be:

- Scottish Government Transport Directorate (Chair);
- COSLA;
- Freight Transport Association;
- Road Haulage Association;
- Regional Transport Partnerships;
- Scottish Council for Development and Industry;
- Scottish Enterprise;

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- Highland and Islands Enterprise;
- Transport Scotland.

c) **operating principles** – were to be based upon those of the FAP Steering Group:-

- collective ownership and participation;
- an acceptance that the Group was not a lobbying organisation.

3. It was agreed that discussion might benefit from ad hoc attendance from:

- UK Government officials;
- Skills for Logistics;
- Scottish Trade Union Congress;
- Climate change / Sustainable development groups;
- Modal groups e.g. Rail Freight Group, maritime and airport organisations etc;
- CBI Scotland;
- Confederation of Small Businesses;
- Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport;
- Chambers of Commerce;
- Sustainable Development Commission for Scotland.

4. The remit, core membership and operating principles were agreed by the Group.

Actions:

COSLA to be contacted again about nominating a member for the Group.
(Alastair Wilson)

Group members to consider and advise on possible alternatives routes for engaging with Local Authorities as a fallback. (All)

WORK PROGRAMME – IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES

5. Paper FSG 27/05/09 outlined a number of issues that the Group might want to take forward although it was not intended to be an exhaustive list:-

- swine flu;
- multi modal hubs;
- image of the industry;
- climate change; and
- rail freight.

SWINE FLU

6. Margaret Horn informed the Group that the Transport Emergencies Team co-ordinates emergency arrangements across both Transport Scotland and

the Transport Directorate. Experts were proposing that the real pandemic would hit the UK in the autumn. While emergency arrangements with FTA + RHA were operational, it would be useful for the Group to consider any wider issues over preparedness of the freight sector.

7. Gavin Scott answered that intelligence received from the industry to date suggested that many companies did not have formal continuity planning procedures in place, but instead were hoping that no large scale flu pandemic would hit the country. He did say however that supermarket chains had done work on this matter and most had plans to deal with a pandemic. Gareth Williams confirmed that he was not aware of industry having done any preparation work to deal with a flu outbreak.
8. Margaret Horn was not surprised that many of the smaller hauliers had not considered this matter as their main concern at the moment was likely to be surviving the current recession rather than planning for an event that might not happen.
9. Phil Flanders asked if the Government had plans to introduce travel restrictions in the event of a wide-scale flu pandemic. Off-hand we were not aware of any such plans and it was confirmed that stakeholders would be kept fully informed.

Climate Change

10. The Group agreed that climate change was an issue that needed to be discussed on a regular basis. Maya Rousen felt that the Group should take a long term strategic view on this issue. Margaret Horn said that on freight volumes, the multi-modal hubs report contained projections for 10-20 years ahead, and could potentially be drawn from as part of a longer view.

ONGOING FAP ACTIONS

Freight in Scotland Draft Document

11. Pam Stott explained that the purpose was to draw together all freight information available and to put it into a single, accessible document. It is intended to refresh the document every 5 years.
12. Carol Ann Munn confirmed that the document was a useful piece of work although some of the information contained within it was UK wide rather than Scotland specific. Maya Rousen suggested that care needed to be taken to ensure that ownership of any data collected as a result of surveys, etc rested with the public bodies commissioning the work, rather than consultants.
13. Phil Flanders asked if any published figures were available on truck crime and Carol Ann Munn undertook to investigate the matter – although it would not be possible to include these figures in the current document.

14. Tony Jarvis commented that some of the maps within the document had errors e.g. towns and cities located in the wrong part of Scotland.

Actions:

Carol Ann Munn to supply the Group with relevant data on truck crime.

Group members to feed any specific comments they had on the document to Pam Stott by 29th May 2009.

Carol Ann Munn to liaise with contractor to have remedial actions carried out on maps and corrections suggested by Group members.

Multi Modal Hubs Study

15. Maya Rousen introduced the draft report which had been circulated for comment. The consultants were happy to give a presentation to the Group. All of the information within the document was evidence based and would be published on both the Scottish Government and Enterprise websites.

Actions:

Maya Rousen to organise a meeting for the Group and the contractor.

Freight Quality Partnerships

16. Gavin Scott said that Tactrans had recently produced a very helpful report on lorry parking within its area. He believed that it would be a useful document to be sent out to other RTPs as a possible model approach. Margaret Horn suggested that the report could also be placed on the Scottish Government website.

17. Rab Dickson reported that Nestrans had produced a freight action plan and were currently awaiting Local Authority buy-in. Gavin Scott mentioned that Austin Smythe of the Westminster University may be producing a best practice guide for RTPs and will pass on to the Group any information he can find on the matter.

Actions:

Gavin Scott to pass to Group RTP best practice guide.

Jim May to arrange for lorry parking report to be placed on the Scottish Government website by 26th June 2009.

COPING WITH THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

18. Phil Flanders reported that the industry was holding up better than anticipated. Gareth Williams also commented that retail sales were holding up and that the agriculture sector was doing well.

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

19. Tony Jarvis presented paper FSG 27/05/09 on European funding from the Energy in Transport (STEER) that have a budget of around €14 million to be made available to fund projects tackling non-technological barriers to the uptake of renewable and energy efficiency measures. He asked Group members to make other stakeholders aware of the availability of this funding. Pam Stott suggested that consolidation centres for example, might be able to benefit from this funding.

Actions:

Group members to make appropriate stakeholders aware of funding.

AOB

20. Gavin Scott suggested that the Groups name might be SCOTFLAG – Scottish Freight Logistics Advisory Group. It was agreed that this and other suggestions could be discussed at the next meeting.

Actions:

Jim May to place Group name on the agenda of the next planned meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Late August 2009.