

ScotFLAG Rural Freight Sub-Group Meeting

Conference Room 11, Victoria Quay

Tuesday 18 July 2017

Note of meeting

Present:

Roland Stiven, Confor (Chair)
Sally Thomas, Scottish Government Land Use & Biodiversity
Chris Little, Road Haulage Association
Jamie Smart, NFU Scotland
Derek Nelson, Forestry Commission Scotland
Anne Gray, Scottish Land and Estates
Paula Coopland MPAS

Apologies:

Jane Atterton SRUC
Robin Pope, Highland Council
Chris MacRae, Freight Transport Association
Peter Clark SWA
Pam Stott, Transport Scotland
Bob Bridges, Transport Scotland

The following people should be on the email list for the agenda

Rob Clarke HIE
David Cannon Calmac
Patrick Krause SCF

Sally Thomas noted that she will be leaving SG and suggested that SG would be more appropriately represented by Alistair Prior of the new Rural Economy and Communities Division

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome and introductions made. It was noted that the previous planned meeting on 16th May had been cancelled.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Review of actions from previous meeting

3. **Action 1:** Circulate a link to the Rail Freight Strategy (RFS). Done (Pam Stott)

4. **Action 2:** Speak to Rail Freight colleagues to identify publications since the RFS. Done (Pam Stott)
5. **Action 3:** Invite Scottish Government Renewables Policy colleagues to feed in to work of the group. **Done and they were not interested, neither were Scottish Renewables** (Pam Stott)
6. **Action 4:** Prepare a paper to Transport Scotland/Scottish Government Resilience Groups to inform of work of the group and invite expressions of interest. Ongoing (Pam Stott)
7. **Action 5:** Circulate the link to the Transport Scotland Economic Value report. Done (Pam Stott)

Bob Bridges to put on Knowledge Hub. Roland to investigate work done on local road network. The Road Maintenance Stakeholders Group is also looking into this.

8. **Action 6:** Explore information sharing options (e.g. Knowledge Hub). Done (Bob Bridges)
9. **Action 7:** Feedback comments/suggestions to Roland Stiven on survey. (All) Done and survey issued.
10. **Action 8:** Continue making contact with SRUC to explore possibility of carrying out an analysis of existing data. (Roland Stiven)

Roland Stiven and Derek Nelson met with Jane Atterton of SRUC. SRUC is keen to assist but have no capacity until the autumn. While they may be able to access funding through existing resources and/or knowledge exchange programme, they will need additional funding.

The group is of the opinion that without some executive resource there is little likelihood of an effective output. Continue to look for SRUC input but also consider other options. Roland to circulate draft remit for executive support for comment.

11. **Action 9:** Source sectoral reports and circulate to group. Done (Tony Jarvis)
Bob to post on KH

Online Survey

12. A Survey Monkey summary of responses so far was presented. 38 responses, 20 of which were timber related but also a reasonable response from haulage farming and construction. All local authorities covered. There has been some promotion of the survey had been done through newsletters

A list of responses to main challenges and next steps was circulated. These could be usefully grouped and presented. Discussion followed on

- High costs of rural haulage – in part due to road type, e.g. not dual carriageway etc.
- Lack of drivers and challenges of recruiting, are possibly due to the buoyant construction industry offering high wages
- Livestock haulier recognise the issue but are unlikely to respond to survey.
- Road verge vegetation pushes vehicles into the centre of roads. Responsibility for verge maintenance?– wing mirror statistics?
- Motorway fences are suffering from simultaneous senescence where they are all the same age and fail at the same time.
- Maintenance of roads surfaced with coal tar is being delayed due to cost of spoil disposal as waste. Is there data on this?

Data Gathering

13. Audit Scotland report summarises spend on roads but can be misleading where costs are effectively interest on previous loans for previous works.
14. Farming statistics can show livestock numbers and harvests by region also Tiff Total Income from Farming stats.
15. MPAS has data on location and output of quarries which will be shared.

AOB

16. Note NTS Call for evidence closing shortly.
17. Roland has been invited onto NTS Economic Working Group

Date of Next Meeting:

18. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 September.

Summary of Actions

Action Point – Bob to set up a knowledge Hub so information can be shared.

Action Point – Minutes from March to be added to Scotflag Website.

Action Point – Pam to prepare a paper to SG Resilience colleagues. This was noted in the action points from March.

Action Point –TS to look for funding for executive input to group.

Please note – SRUC suggested ‘knowledge exchange funding’ might be available. Or Post Graduate students may take this on, next summer, as part of their course work.

Action Point – Roland to circulate ‘Terms of Reference for Executive Support’.

Action Point – Paula to share MPAS data.

Review of actions from previous meeting

Action 3: (Develop a graphic to show interdependencies between group and other policies) Done. (Pam Stott)

Action 6: (TS to develop Project Plan for group's work) Ongoing. Update with meeting details and circulate. (Bob Bridges)