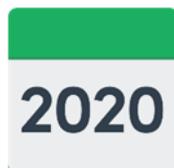


# Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



## Main Committee Meeting



Easy Read minutes of meeting on 21 July 2020



Teleconference on Zoom

## **Who was at the meeting?:**



Linda Bamford – Convener (Chair)  
Marsali Craig  
Naghat Ahmed  
Susan Fulton  
David Hunter  
Hillary Stubbs  
Audrey Burt  
Joanne Devitt  
Keith Robertson  
Hussein Patwa



## **Secretariat:**

Lucy Logan – Secretariat  
Karen Armstrong – Deputy Sponsor



## **Who could not be at the meeting?**

Michael Tornow  
Fraser Sutherland

## **Agenda Item 1**

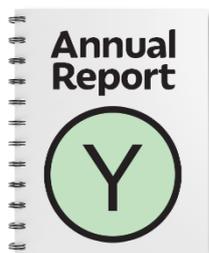
### **Welcome, apologies and team welfare check**



Linda paid a tribute to Sheila Fletcher who died in May 2020.

Sheila knew a lot about accessible travel and will be very much missed by the committee.

MACS Annual Report was dedicated to Sheila.





Linda thanked John Whitfield for all his work with MACS over 4 years.

John left the committee in April 2020.



## Agenda Item 2.

**Approval of minutes, matters arising and update on actions from previous meetings.**

The April minutes were agreed.



## Action Point 1

**Lucy will make spelling changes to the April minutes.**



Action point 4 from the January committee meeting will stay open.

Lucy will ask the Ferries Team to make sure new ferry terminals are accessible and if there is someone advising on access in the design team



**Update:** Hilary will do this.

The ferries team are doing work about coronavirus.



There will be an update at the October meeting.

## Action Point 2



Lucy will email the Ferries Team to see if they now have more time to work with the committee.



Linda asked about work on the accessibility of ScotRail's website and the Traveline app.



Hussein said Scotrail is changing their website.

It is being tested and has been delayed by coronavirus work.

The Committee will get more information in October.



MACS are worried that the Traveline app is still not accessible.

SEStrans have an app that could help but it will not be ready until the end of 2021.



MACS want Traveline to add a note to their app saying that the accessibility improvements are being worked on.



There will be a meeting with Traveline, MACS and the Sponsor Team about the Traveline app.

The Transport Transition Plan Equality Network will talk about the Traveline app at the Equality Network meetings.



## Action point 10 of the January meeting

Lucy will ask the taxi licensing team to give the guidance for licensing authorities to Susan and ask for a date to reply.



This action will be closed and the work will be part of the Accessible Travel Framework Annual Delivery Plan.



The Department for Transport have sent out an email about changes in the law.

The changes will not make a difference in Scotland.



## Agenda Point 3 Update from Convener

Linda said the last few months have been very busy and thanked MACS members for their hard work.

She thanked Hussein for organising Zoom meetings.

There are 3 places to be filled on the Committee until April 2021.

Linda thanks everyone for the extra work they are doing to cover this.

The job adverts will go out after November 2020.

MACS members are happy with the plans to get new committee members.



## Recommendation 6 of the [2019/20 Annual Report](#).



The committee will have a meeting called a 'Scoping Day' in December 2020 about the work they think is most important and make a work plan for the next year.



The information will be given to the Cabinet Secretary before March and the work plan will be in place by 1 April.



Members must think about the National Transport Strategy 2 when they make the work plan.

MACS will ask the Sponsor Team about work on the Accessibility Framework.

### Action Point 3

Lucy will arrange for Karen and David to meet and discuss the future of the Accessibility Framework.



Two MACS Committee members went to the Accessibility Steering Group on 16 July.



They want to know more from the Sponsor Team about restarting the Accessible Travel Framework Annual Delivery Plan at the next Steering Group meeting.



The Plan should link in with the National Transport Strategy 2.

It should give an update on work every year.



The meeting talked about how work on the Accessibility Framework has stopped.

The most important work on accessibility should be done through the Transport Transition Plan and the National Transport Strategy 2.



The Committee agreed that the December Scoping Day will decide the work the committee think is most important.

MACS Members should be able to say whatever they want at the scoping day. The committee would like to invite relevant Ministers.



#### **Action Point 4**

**Lucy will talk to Karen about Minister invites and organise invitations to the event.**



An appraisal is when a Committee member meets with Linda to talk about how their work is going.



Committee members will have these meetings by October 2020.

They must send notes to Linda by 28 August.



Members should suggest a date and time for their appraisal for the week of 28 September or 5 October.



The Super Report had a section about working with government ministers.

Linda asked committee members to think about which Ministers MACS should work with.



### Action Point 5

All members must tell Linda by 28 August which ministers they think MACS should be working with.



### Agenda Item 4 Workstream Leads Update

Linda asked all leads to give updates on how work was going.

### Planning and Strategy - David Hunter

There are MACS members at the Transport Transition Plan Advisory Board meetings.

People at the meeting think there should be more positive messaging about public transport so that people feel confident to use it.





People have not been able to use mobility scooters on buses.

People who do not live in Edinburgh can't use their concessionary travel cards on the trams.



Linda said if people could use their travel card on trams it would give more choice for disabled people.



Trams are more accessible than buses and have more wheelchair and scooter spaces.

This would help people stay 1 metre apart.



The committee want rural and island issues to be part of Transport Transition Plan meetings, as well as community transport.



Audrey said things are very difficult for community transport because of:

- less money from councils
- volunteer staff not being available
- more people needing community transport because there is less NHS, public and private transport.



Linda has talked about this at the Transport Transition Plan Advisory Board.



The Committee think the Community Transport Association should ask for funding from the Bus Service Operator Grant.



**Action:** Audrey and David will talk about support for community transport with the Community Transport Association.

It was asked if the Transport Transition Plan includes disability awareness training.



Linda said Transport Scotland have talked with the Community Transport Association about coronavirus guidance and disability awareness training.

There must be good communication between disabled people and transport providers.



Keith reminded everyone of the Safer Places for People guidance.

It includes information about Equality Impact Assessments and disability awareness training for service providers.



He is disappointed that no councils have contacted him since the guidance was produced.

He has seen images of roads and pavements which are not accessible.

### **Ferries and Planes: Hilary Stubbs**



The committee has been in touch with the Civil Aviation Authority.

There has been no guidance for airports.

They are only providing assistance if they think something can be done better.



The Ferries Team can't work with the committee because of work on coronavirus.

Lucy will complete Action Point 2.

### **Rail: Marsali Craig and Hussein Patwa**



The rail workstream are working with Scotrail on passenger assistance and how people are using transport.

They are also working with Transport Scotland rail policy staff.



### **Action Point 6**

Lucy will ask Transport Scotland staff for the next rail workstream meeting papers.



The Office of Rail and Road have made their accessible travel policies better.

The National Assistance Travel Notice Period is getting less.



The travel notice period is the time needed to ask for assistance before you travel.

Scotrail's time is two hours.



### **Bus and Community Transport: Audrey Birt**

The committee are worried about the future of community transport organisations.



The Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group have looked at transport to health in Aberdeen.



They have worked well with Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS to meet the needs of disabled people.



The committee think community transport needs money to keep running.



The Health and Transport Action Plan group said changes to how staff are working are going well.

Feedback has not come from patients.



Decisions made quickly because of coronavirus have worked well.

Changing things quickly could mean organisations do not work together and Equality Impact Assessments are not done.



Linda thinks this was a good example of how to make decisions in a crisis.

Equality Impact Assessments should always be an important part of all changes.



## Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel: Keith Robertson

The committee were working with the Department for Transport on inclusive mobility on tactile surfaces but this work has stopped because of coronavirus.

Keith is giving a presentation at the Living Streets webinars on 29 July and 12 August.



This will be about keeping streets in good working order, and street furniture – things like road signs and benches.

He is meeting with the Energy Saving Trust about accessible streets and community transport.



## Agenda Item 5 Sponsor Team Paper and Update.

Karen thanked the committee for their hard work.

The Sponsor Team are working on Bus Restart and Recovery, Blue Badge work, and Bus and Active Travel.

The Sponsor Team had a steering group meeting last week.

Transport Scotland talked to other organization about accessibility and the transport strategy.

Work on the Accessibility Framework has stopped.

The Accessibility Team have worked with SEStran so the Thistle Assistance Card can be changed to include people who are exempt from wearing face coverings.

More people are asking for the card.



The Sponsor Team is working with Disability Equality Scotland on projects including the Hate Crime Working Group Charter.

They will tell people about the charter in January 2021.

This might change because there are lots of messages being given to the public about coronavirus.





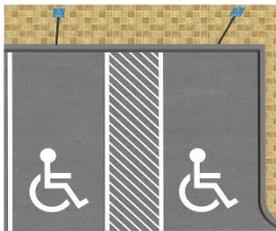
The Sponsor Team will work with Disability Equality Scotland on a webinar for disabled people about public transport.

It will be a useful webinar for people with sight loss.



The Sponsor Team can work on Blue Badge policy.

There have been '4 Nations' calls and work with Social Security staff on changes to Personal Independence Payment and disability assistance benefits in Scotland.



They are asking councils what they think about changes to Blue Badge guidance.



Karen has been involved in the rules about wearing face coverings on public transport.

Most people are following the rules. The people who are not could be exempt – this means they do not have to wear face coverings.



There is new guidance to change physical distancing to 1 metre on transport.

Most bus operators have done this. It will happen on rail services on 27 July.



Karen talked about money for the bus industry.

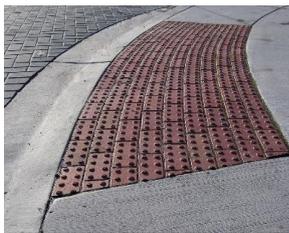
The Active Travel team have a Spaces for People project.

The committee gave advice on this.

All councils have asked for money from the project.



The committee have been part of work on the Safer Public Spaces guidance, which came out on 29 June.



Work on inclusive street design and report is still happening.

Work is going slower than they thought it would.



Most work has been on the Transport Transition Plan.



A Committee member asked to contact the Sponsor Team about the Blue Badge project.

Work on the Signs and Wayfinding Framework has stopped for now.



Aberdeen Council widened pavement as part of their Spaces for People project.



This has changed bus routes in Aberdeen and Elgin.

The committee think this would not happen if an Equality Impact Assessment had been done.



Karen said there is no plan to work on the Accessibility Team Framework at.

The National Transport Strategy work has stopped for now but they will make a delivery plan.



Karen said they are looking at new funds – money for projects.

She has been in touch with Community Transport Associations to talk about school transport.



Audrey is working hard to pick up on all the different parts of the bus workstream.

Karen is working on bus policy and can share information.



## Action Point 7

Lucy will arrange for Karen to speak to Audrey about bus accessibility.

Linda asked why Transport Scotland are working on school transport. This is usually done by council and Education staff.



Karen said Transport Scotland are working with other organisations on many important areas because of coronavirus.

Linda hopes this can be the same for transport to health and social care work.



There will be a transport to health working group about coronavirus and the Committee could be part of this.

### Action Point 8

Lucy will get in touch with health staff about the work of the Transport to health and social care Working Group.



Linda is worried about the Sponsor Team becoming part of Bus and Active Travel teams.



The Sponsor Team do not know of any plans for them to change.

Staff are working with different organisations and departments more than they used to.





Linda wants accessibility to stay in the Programme for Government work, so it includes what disabled people need.

Karen thinks the committee should use their position on the Transport Transition Plan Advisory Board to make sure it looks at equality and accessibility.



The committee agree with the guidance change to 1 metre physical distance.

They did not know about the change and think communications should be better.



The guidance changed on 9 July. There is a communication plan that covers transport, places to eat and drink, and shops.



### Action Point 9

Karen will send the guidance to Hussein.



Linda asked committee members for ideas for Twitter topics to tell people about what has been talked about at the meeting.

These should be sent to the person in charge of the Twitter account this week.

## Agenda Item 6 Any Other Business



The committee would like to be able to dial in by video as well as audio for all meetings.



Linda said the Sponsor Team could ask the Scottish Parliament for advice, as they have done this well.

The committee can use Microsoft Teams video calls.



## Action Point 10

Lucy will look at having committee meetings where people can use video links or phone in.



August

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The next Leads and Planning Strategy meeting will be on 4 August.

August

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The meeting will talk about the December Scoping Day and MACS Recruitment and Selection Strategy.

The next full committee meeting is on the 11 August.