

**Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS)
Main Committee Meeting**



**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020
Via Zoom
11.00 – 13.30**

Present:

Linda Bamford (LB) - Chair
Naghat Ahmed (NA)
Audrey Birt (AB)
Marsali Craig (MC)
Joanne Devitt (JD)
Susan Fulton (SF)
David Hunter (DH)
Keith Robertson (KR)
Hilary Stubbs (HS)

Secretariat:

Karen Armstrong (KA) - Deputy Sponsor
Lucy Logan (LL) – Secretariat
Bryan Little (BL)

Apologies:

Hussein Patwa (HP)
Michael Tornow (MT)
Fraser Sutherland (FS)

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

1.1 The Convener thanked all committee members for their continued hard work and commitment to large workloads over what has been a very busy time. She also introduced BL who officially joined the Accessible Travel Team (ATT) on 19 Oct.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of minutes, matters arising and update on action points from previous meeting

2.1 MACS July Committee Meeting Minutes have been approved online but the following amendment was highlighted; Page 5, Section 4.1- 'Convenor' needs changed to 'Convener'.

2.2 There were no other matters arising.

2.3 It was agreed that all 10 action points from the July Committee meeting were now closed. This includes AP 8 and 10.

2.4 *AP 8: Secretariat to check in with health colleagues to see what progress has been made on the transport to health working group.*

The secretariat have contacted the relevant health officials who have agreed to attend the MACS Committee meeting on 10 Nov to give an update on Transport to Health and Social Care and MACS recommendations from their report, which followed the roundtables and engagement with experts by experience in 2019.

2.5 *AP 10: Secretariat to investigate moving to hybrid committee meetings in future.*

This will be revisited if/when Scottish Government colleagues have access to office spaces after April 2021.

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Agenda Item 3- Convener Update

- 3.1** The Convener reinforced a few points from the Super Report as follows:
- 3.2** The Committee will not be taking a leading role in work relating to young people's travel needs, instead they will feed into the work others are leading on through MACS wider stakeholder network.
- 3.3** An initial meeting has taken place between MACS, the Sponsor Team and the Public Appointments Unit (PAU), to kick start the recruitment and selection process of 6 new MACS members. The selection panel for this recruitment will consist of KA (chair), LB, DH and HS, with the commissioner not wishing to provide an advisor.
- 3.3** The Convener recapped the discussion and action points which came out of this meeting with (PAU), including MACS wish to hold one or more 'Zoom' awareness sessions for potential candidates. The Committee agreed that this is an effective way for people to ask questions and learn more about the roles and work of the Committee.
- 3.4** A draft agenda for MACS Scoping Day on 8 Dec has been shared with Committee members, with papers for the Scoping Day meeting being distributed by 24 Nov.
- 3.5** There are 3 remaining ministerial meetings scheduled for the beginning of 2021, which will follow the same format as the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.
- 3.6** There is also a follow up 'Knowing me, know you' Development Day on 12 Jan 2021 that will focus on the travel needs of people with hidden disabilities.
- 3.7** The Convener invited questions on the highlighted areas or general questions from the super report.

Agenda Item 4- Sponsor Team Update

- 4.1** The Deputy Sponsor updated the Committee on the current staffing situation; with DB having left, MO being unavailable and BL being very new to the team, resources are extremely tight and she is working to recruit a new B1 team member as soon as possible.
- 4.2** DB and MO had been leading on the Accessible Travel Team side of SfP talks. In their absence KA is now going to pick this work up.
- 4.3** The Civil Aviation Authority report on accessibility ratings for airports has been delayed. A priority within this years' delivery plan was for all Scottish airports to achieve a "very good" rating. Conversations are taking place with Inverness airport where this work was focussed to update the delivery plan accordingly.
- 4.4** The Deputy Sponsor has been working with others on the Inclusive Design report by Williams Sale Partnership (WSP). The working group met on 14 October to discuss principles, within it a sub group is now in the process of reviewing and reframing the principles based on feedback, with further meetings being set.

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4.5 The Deputy Sponsor has linked MACS to the Pace Project, which is looking at electric vehicle (EV) charging points in North and South Lanarkshire. Additionally, a new Challenge Fund has been launched in relation to EV charging points for disabled people. Options are being looked at for taking a MaaS approach to engaging with bidders and disabled people ahead of applications being taken forward. KR undertook site visits in Lanarkshire to look at what has been proposed and what has been put in place to date. KR and SF are meeting with the EV team on 22 October.

4.6 An update on the DES Webinar, 'The Return to Public Transport' on 29 Oct was given.

AP 1 - Secretariat to send MACS the register link for the DES Webinar on 29 Oct.

4.7 Progress has been made around plans for a Webinar on the topic of 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, which will be taking place on 2 Dec.

4.8 Additionally, the Academy of Urbanism have agreed to put a call round their members so see if we can secure another speaker for the Webinar. The Academy have also asked if ATT and MACS if they would like to do a short presentation about accessible travel at one of their 'coffee sessions'. The Sponsor Team will email MACS about this separately.

4.9 A new national exemption card for face coverings is being launched by Health colleagues and Disability Equality Scotland (DES) will be fronting the help line and card distribution. The launch date is next week and will be accompanied by a public awareness campaign linked to FACTS. This card will apply to all settings including retail. The card will work alongside others currently in circulation such as the Thistle Card.

4.10 The Convener stated she was pleased with the momentum of the Thistle Assistance Card but wanted to know if there is any disability awareness training for bus drivers being planned. The Convener reiterated that this "ask" was in response to the issues that had been raised by disabled people stating that their experience of using the card was inconsistent with many front line staff having limited knowledge of the Thistle Assistance Card, which also linked to disability awareness training.

4.11 The Deputy Sponsor confirmed that bus operators are fully aware of the role of the Thistle Assistance Card. She mentioned a new online disability awareness toolkit being launched by DfT, which she would share when there was more detail. The Convener asked if the need for disability awareness training for passenger facing staff, to improve disabled people's experience, could be raised at the Deputy Sponsor's upcoming meeting rounds.

AP 2- Deputy Sponsor to raise point around disability awareness training in relation to assistance cards at bus industry call.

4.12 The Committee asked if an EqIA had been carried out in relation to the introduction of a new national exemption card. The Convener confirmed that her understanding was that one had been undertaken.

4.13 The Sponsor Team continue to work on their delivery plan whilst engaging with stakeholders and steering group. They will share progress with MACS in due course.

4.14 The Convener raised a point in relation to the Active Travel update about SfP. She referred to the claim that changes had been well received but that local authorities had received “challenges” from disabled people. She raised the point that, for disabled people, this was not the case; in a recent poll of almost 500 people, 71% stated that SfP changes had made it harder for them to get around.

4.15 The Convener also questioned the use of the wording that local authorities had received “challenges”. The Convener suggested “feedback” would be a better reflection and should be viewed as such. The Convener also stated that meaningful local engagement and collaboration would assist with getting the designs right.

AP 3 - Sponsor Team will raise MACS concerns around Active Travel’s wording in their SfP update with Active Travel.

Agenda Item 5- Workstream Leads Updates

5.1 Planning and Strategy

MACS have been in touch with the engagement manager at Motability about the Motability Foundation. Motability have two priorities, which are of interest to MACS; Access to Electric Vehicle (EV) and community transport i.e. door to door solutions.

5.2 MACS want to ensure that the Motability Foundation engage with them.

AP 4- DH to ask Motability Foundation to contact KR regarding engagement with MACS on EV.

5.3 DH is the MACS representative on the NTS2 Delivery Board. He is keen to ensure objectives to reduce inequality are met. MACS continue to have contact with the Scottish Government Analytical Team to discuss how this evidence will be gathered and analysed.

5.4 MT is the MACS representative on the Public Health Group and HS on the Transport Inequalities Group.

5.5 Ferries and Aviation

The Ferries Accessibility Fund is now open.

5.6 The Ferries Team at TS have already involved MACS in the early stages of their new Islands Connectivity Plan, which is a progression of the ‘Ferries Plan’

5.7 The Committee are also invested in helping to ensure travelling with guide dogs and assistance dogs are not affected by the changes EU Exit will bring to dog passports.

5.8 ViaVan have carried out work in England around rural transport solutions. The Committee are interested to see if this progress/ideas can be replicated in Scotland.

5.9 Rail

The Rail Workstream has been focusing on strategic engagement, including engagement with the Office of Road and Rail (ORR), Traveline, Network Rail, Scotrail and the new TS staff; BL and JM.

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5.10 MT will take over on the ORR Stakeholder Engagement forum in Mar 21.

5.11 MACS have put Scotrail in touch with High Speed 2, which will hopefully allow Scotrail to use their testing ring in Doncaster.

5.12 Bus and Community Transport

MACS have engaged with the Community Transport Association (CTA) to see how they can better support them.

5.13 MACS recently sent out a survey to Local Authorities on the topic of discount Taxi Card Schemes. The results indicated that that majority of authorities do not offer such a scheme, the reason could be around the fact there is no agreed guidance. DH will contact ATCO for further assistance.

AP 5 – DH to give AB his contact in ATCO, regarding Taxi Card Schemes

5.14 MACS recently visited Aberdeen's City Link Gold bus and were impressed with the new design especially in relation to accessibility.

5.15 Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel

The Spaces for People working group are still due to have their second meeting with RNIB and other members. Responses to the second letter on the topic of SfP sent out by the Society of Chief Officers of Transport in Scotland (SCOTS) are due back soon.

5.16 KR has arranged for himself and SF to meet BL to keep momentum with Blue Badge development into the 21st century and to discuss the work DeBlur are doing on the digitisation of BB following DB's departure.

5.17 There are 2 development days next year covering Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel and Rail. The first will be April 2021 and will be led by KR.

Agenda Item 6 - Key Messages for Twitter

6.1 Pictures of the Gold City Link Buses taken in Aberdeen will be posted on MACS Twitter and the TS webinar on return to public transport.

Next Meetings:

Next Planning and Strategy meeting: 3 Nov 2020

Next Full Committee Meeting: 10 Nov 2020

Close

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Action Points

No.	Ref.	Action	Status
AP 1	4.6	Secretariat to send MACS the register link for the DES Webinar on 29 Oct.	Complete
AP 2	4.11	Deputy Sponsor to raise point around disability awareness training in relation to assistance cards at bus industry call.	
AP 3	4.13	Sponsor Team will raise MACS concerns around Active Travel's wording in their SfP update with Active Travel.	
AP 4	5.2	DH to ask Motability Foundation to contact KR regarding engagement with MACS on EVs.	
AP 5	5.13	DH to give AB his contact in ATCO, regarding Taxi Card Schemes	