

**Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021
Via Microsoft Teams 10:45 – 13:15**

Present:

MACS members

Linda Bamford – Chair
Naghat Ahmed
Audrey Birt
Marsali Craig
Joanne Devitt
Susan Fulton
David Hunter
Keith Robertson
Hilary Stubbs
Hussein Patwa
Michael Tornow
Fraser Sutherland

Officials

Karen Armstrong – Deputy Sponsor
Alexis Devlin - Secretariat
Bryan Little, Accessible Travel
Maureen Olliffe - Accessible Travel
Lucy Logan – Accessible Travel
Bruce Sutherland – Equality Unit

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies – housekeeping and aims of the day.

1.1 The Convener welcomed everyone and introduced those present for verbal orientation. She then confirmed apologies and gave a run through of the day including general housekeeping and timings of the agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Committee discussion

2.1 MACS went on to discuss the Local Authority requirement for Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs), which require to be undertaken as part of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

MACS have been advocating strongly for the need for organisations to undertake meaningful EqIAs, with disabled people's or their representative's input, for a couple of years now and although there has

been some progress, there is still work to be done in this area and as such the Committee agreed to carry over high level objective 3:

High Level Objective 3: To ensure that the Scottish Government makes it clear that public bodies and local authorities have a duty to respect the legislation regulating improvements of the accessibility of public transport service provision and the surrounding infrastructures.

What will we do to deliver this priority?

MACS will:

- Hold the Scottish Government to account, as an exemplar, in mainstreaming Equality Impact Assessment (EqlAs) in their own work.
- Engage with Local Authorities, public bodies and transport service providers to advocate compliance with their Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including the Fairer Scotland Duty and the need to conduct meaningful EqlAs before any services changes, developments or withdrawals. We will advocate this approach in order to identify, mitigate and manage any negative impacts or consequences to disabled people of any changes and/or service developments.
- Work to promote that places are more inclusive to everyone and underpinned by the Place Principle ethos and follow good practice design guidance.
- We will promote discussion on the “20 minute neighbourhoods” aspiration from Programme for Government (PfG), to better understand what this means to disabled people and older people and work with stakeholders to ensure the needs of those we represent are central in plans.
- Support and make clear the need to involve disabled people in designing the places they live and the services they use.
- Seek to ensure that places and services are designed by learning from direct and lived experience (experts by experience) to assist with getting it right.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of minutes, matters arising and update on action points from previous meeting

3.1 Minutes from October 2020 meeting were approved. MACS Secretariat will chase up response from the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing's office.

Agenda Item 4: Update from the Convener

The Convener explained that, as her update report had been circulated two weeks in advance, rather than go through the full report she would pull out a couple of key issues then open up for questions.

4.1 It was agreed that the approach to the super report should be to leave it as one report instead of five separate work-streams reports. This would prevent duplication where more than one work-stream were engaged on a specific piece of work.

4.2 In relation to the recruitment drop-in sessions it was reported that there was low uptake on the daytime session but that the evening session had proved more popular. It was also reported that these sessions had worked well and offered potential applicants a less formal session to come along for a chat about the role of a public appointee to MACS.

Agenda Item 5: Sponsor Team Update

KA explained that, as the her update report had been circulate two weeks in advance, rather than go through the full report she would pull out a couple of key issues then open up for questions. She also stated that members could provide feedback via email after the meeting too.

- KA confirmed that the Inclusive design research report is completed and work is on-going in relation to publication and how to take forward the guidance.
- An update on the Blue Badge appeals process was given, raising awareness that the Accessibility team has responsibility for reviewing appeals.
- A discussion took place in relation to Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations (PSVAR). MACS repeated that their view was that the further extension of these was unacceptable.

- Update was given on the webinar series being run by Disability Equality Scotland (DES) and Transport Scotland (TS).

Comments and questions from the committee: -

- MACS thanked DES and TS for these useful engagement events, for the information gathering that would underpin the work of MACS.
- The Ferries team update was disappointing as there was no reference to the ferries accessibility fund, which MACS had been involved with and as such realised the positive benefits of this fund.
- The Rail Leads felt that it was unhelpful to push on rail replacement vehicles due to the current economic crisis.
- In relation to the Department for Transport (DfT) wheelchair review, it was hoped that there would not be a similar use of colour introduced by Transport for London as it is too brightly coloured for neurodiverse people.

Agenda Item 5: Key messages on Twitter

The Committee agreed to:

- *Tweet about EqIA podcast and video.
- *Tweet about Human Rights group

Agenda Item 6: AOB

6.1 The meeting schedule from May 2020 to October 2020 has now been released by the Convener. She reminded members that some of the meetings were optional and agreed to recirculate the meeting schedule

Action Point One:

Convener to recirculate the meeting schedule for May to Oct 2021.

At this point the meeting moved to a closed session to allow the full MACS Committee to have further discussions to finalise their Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 and Work Plan for 2021-2022. These further versions being produced by the Convener following the scoping day in Dec 2021 and to align with the Committee's governance remit.