



## **Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS)**

### **Work Plan: April 2022 – end March 2023**

The Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) is a non-departmental advisory public body. Within the founding legislation the Scottish Ministers have defined the overall aim for MACS as follows:

**“MACS will consider such matters relating to the needs of disabled persons in connection with transport as the Committee think appropriate and give advice to Scottish Ministers”.**

In doing so, the Convener aims to ensure, that MACS’ policies and actions supports the wider strategic policies of the Scottish Ministers. This aligns with the Framework Document (previously our MOU) between MACS and Transport Scotland (TS), our Sponsors. MACS Strategic Remit is:

- To give Scottish Ministers advice on aspects of policy, legislation and practice affecting the travel needs of disabled people.
- To take account of the broad views and lived experiences of disabled people when giving advice.
- To encourage awareness amongst disabled people in Scotland of developments which affects their mobility, choices and opportunities.
- To work closely with SG and ensure our work programme complements the work being undertaken by the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Committee (IMTAC), the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and other organisations, voluntary and statutory.
- To promote the travel needs of disabled people with designers including transport planners and operators so that these are fully taken into account in the development of vehicles and infrastructure and delivery of services.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our work against the above aims and objectives in improving travel opportunities for disabled people in Scotland.

### **MACS Vision**

"MACS believes in a Scotland without the barriers that isolate and exclude disabled people from making their choice of successful door to door journeys"

### **The Committee’s Work Plan**

This work plan sets out an overview of the work that the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland plans to do from April 2022 – end March 2023 in pursuit of its five high level objectives.

It is derived from MACS Strategy for 2021-2024 and has been agreed by MACS Committee Members prior to seeking approval from the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Infrastructure and subsequently approved by the Minister for Transport.

It covers the following areas necessary to deliver on our strategic remits and progress our objectives:

- Engaging with disabled people (listening, learning and advocacy)
- Engaging and collaborating with key stakeholders (providing advice, challenge and scrutiny)
- Engaging with Scottish Ministers and providing advice on the travel needs of disabled people
- Responding to consultations and calls for evidence (advocacy)
- Providing guidance and scrutiny to the National Transport Strategy (NTS2), the Accessible Travel Framework (ATF) and elements of the Active Travel Delivery Plan (to support inclusive active travel and the sustainable transport hierarchy).
- Developing and learning as a Committee, and
- Monitoring and reporting on our performance.

### **1. Engaging with disabled people (listening, learning and advocacy)**

MACS members will reach out to disabled people and use their existing networks to listen and understand the challenges and needs of disabled people in relation to using public transport. We will take account of these broad views and the lived experiences of disabled people (including pan disability and the views of people with hidden disabilities) when giving advice and encourage awareness amongst disabled people in Scotland of developments, which affects their mobility, choices and opportunities.

Where we feel an area needs a deeper level of engagement we will undertake this through polls/surveys to gather evidence, roundtable discussions, conferences or themed webinars.

For **2022-23** MACS will engage more intensely around the following areas:

- Closing the Mobility Gap through the National Transport Strategy (NTS2), the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2), the National Planning Framework (NPF4) and the Accessible Travel Framework (ATF)
- Making active travel work for disabled people, including through Transport Scotland's Active Travel Delivery Plan
- Motability and the Scottish Governments Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme (AVES)
- Transport to Health and Social Care, including the NHS Recovery Plan commitments in Programme for Government.

- Demand Responsive Transport, including highlighting inequalities with the National Entitlement Card (concessionary travel) and taxi schemes (linked to tackling inequalities and reducing the mobility gap)
- The Connected Scotland Strategy and advocating the role of **Available, Accessible and Affordable** public transport provision to enable human rights, keep people and communities connected and reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Involvement with the revision of the Scottish Disability Delivery Plan, and
- The National Islands Plan and Islands Connectivity Plan

The above areas will link to developing policies such as Mobility as a Service and Mobility Hubs.

During our work we will ensure connections are made between the need for an accessible, easy to use and affordable public transport system that works for everyone to assist with overcoming some of the negative impacts from C-19 such as more disabled people and older people being at risk of social isolation and loneliness and more people living in poverty or on low incomes.

We will also continue to work across Ministerial portfolio to ensure connections are made to the role of transport in delivering Programme for Government commitments and other, wider, Ministerial commitments and strategies.

Where there is a need we will seek engagements with Transport Scotland policy area Directors, seek to give evidence to relevant parliamentary committees and build on our work with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland) and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

## **2. Engaging and collaborating with key stakeholders (providing advice, challenge and scrutiny)**

MACS members will continue to engage with key stakeholders including Scottish Ministers, Transport Scotland, Regional Transport Partnerships, Local Authorities, NHS Boards, Integration Joint Boards, Transport Providers, Relevant Public Bodies, the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), Disability Organisations, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Scottish Road Works Commissioner (SRWC) and our advisory committee colleagues from the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Accessibility Committee (IMTAC) and the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).

Each work stream will produce an "areas of engagement" matrix, showing key projects of interest. This will be reviewed by the full committee twice yearly and will inform who MACS need to engage with and feed into our work plans. We will use these engagement opportunities to share learning, share successes, pull resources and gain "buy in" to cross-organisational, sector or nation initiatives.

To supplement the work-stream structure the committee has a champion for rural issues (Vice Convener) and for engagement with Disabled People's Organisations and Disabled People (Convener).

### **3. Engaging with Scottish Ministers and providing advice on the travel needs of disabled people**

The Committee's outputs from areas one and two will stand us in good stead to keep ministers advised on the infrastructure, travel and transport challenges that disabled people face.

We will identify relevant Ministers to engage with and prepare pre meeting briefings to ensure we maximise our aims and objectives from Ministerial meetings. We will continue to work across Ministerial portfolios.

The Committee will also advise Ministers of significant issues as they arise to keep Ministers informed and where possible offer solutions to explore to address the challenges.

The Committee will respond to "asks" from Ministers as appropriate.

### **4. Responding to consultations and calls for evidence (advocacy)**

To ensure we contribute to strategy and policy developments, the Committee will respond to appropriate consultations and calls for evidence using the information we have gathered through engagements and from disabled people and/or their representatives. Our consultation responses and calls for evidence will be published on the MACS website.

The Committee will also produce and publish (on our website) appropriate good practice guides that will inform and assist other stakeholders to better understand and respond to the transport and travel needs of disabled people.

### **5. Providing guidance and scrutiny to the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) and the Accessible Travel Framework (ATF)**

MACS have routes to feed into the NTS2 Delivery Board (previously through the Delivery Board before restructuring) and are members of the Transport Transition Plan National Advisory Group, the Transport Equalities Network and the Accessible Transport Steering Group. We will continue to engage with these boards and groups (and others) to provide advice, provide scrutiny and offer challenge to the progress of the NTS2, STPR2, Active Travel Delivery Plan and ATF. We will ensure disabled people's views and their needs are heard within these forums.

For the Accessible Travel Framework, Annual Delivery Plan, we will focus on scrutinising the work areas below:

- Ensure clear paths and pavements
- Transport to Health and Social Care
- Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles, and
- Continuing to push for a review of concessionary travel (to widen the scheme) to reduce inequalities within the existing scheme (we will use opportunities through the Fair Fares Review to progress this)

Our work in the above areas will be overseen by the Planning and Strategy Co-Leads and supported via dedicated and themed full committee sessions, where external stakeholders may be invited to give updates.

We will feed back the findings from our reviews of progress annually, highlighting areas of good progress and identifying lags or gaps in reducing the mobility gap and within the reducing inequalities pillar of NTS2.

## **6. Developing and learning as a Committee**

It is important that the Committee continues to learn and develop its members, especially as we hope to welcome several new members joining the Committee. This will be achieved through the performance appraisal process and also through a schedule of themed development days and committee learning sessions (knowing me, knowing you).

## **7. Monitoring and reporting on our performance.**

The Committee will monitor its progress at regular intervals through the four Main Committee Meetings, the Work Stream Leads Meetings, the Planning and Strategy Meetings, Scoping Days and by reporting progress and sticking points annually within the Annual Report, which is signed off by the Transport Minister and then laid before parliament.

### **Developing the Committee's Strategic Plan**

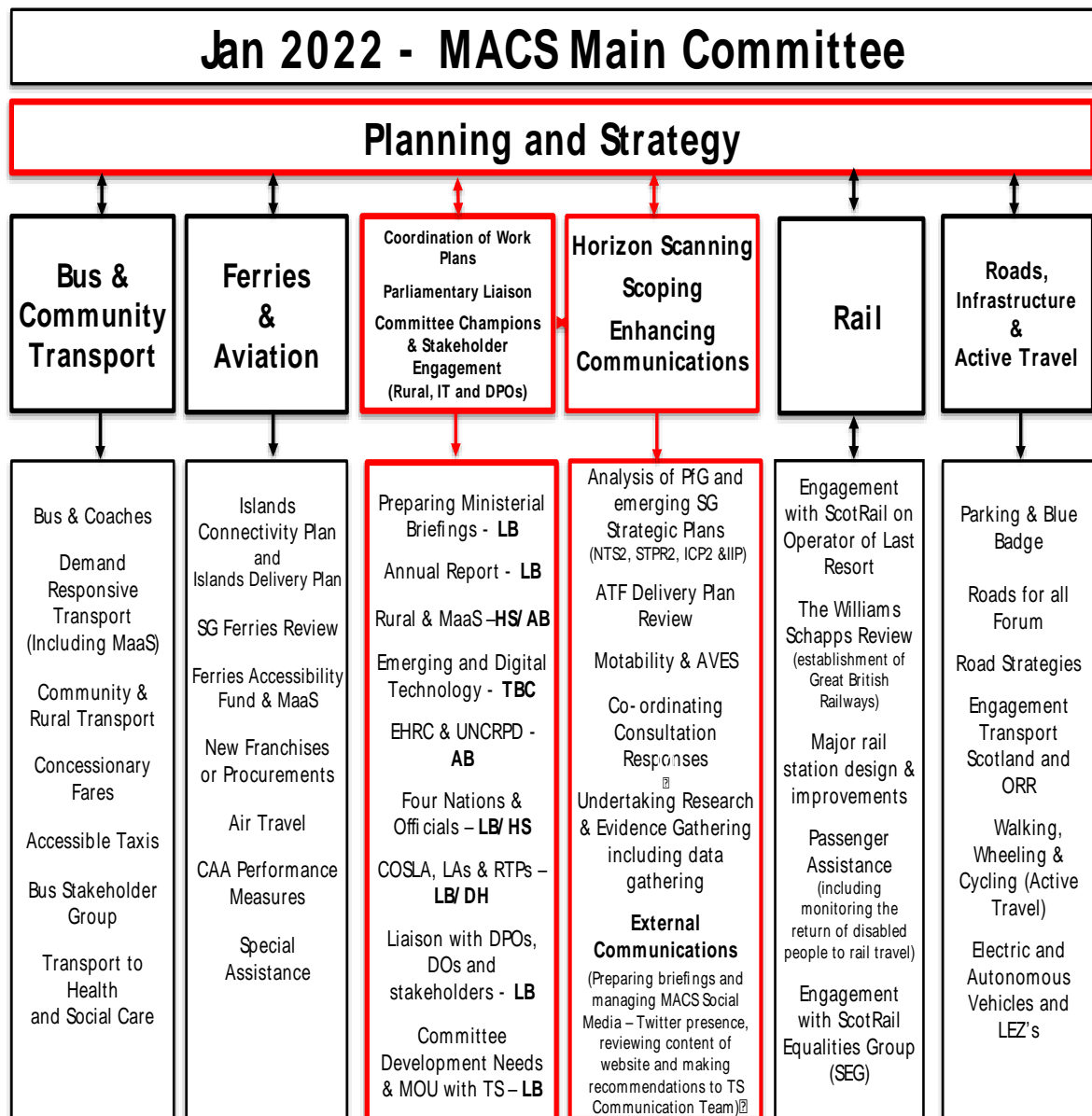
MACS has identified a number of areas that will be longer term priorities and work to progress these has been outlined within the **five high level objectives** within our strategic plan for 2021-2024. These will be revisited annually at "MACS Scoping Day" in November to refresh and align with relevant Programme for Government commitments and to ensure MACS strategy remains current to assist with the delivery of the wider Ministerial and Scottish Government policies.

The work plan review period will be active from November until February each year, with new work plans being introduced in April (after Ministerial agreement). The Convener will lead on this work area.

The areas of engagement across the work-streams that will assist in the delivery of the work plans – reviewed twice a year.

The Committee structure shows the working groups (work-streams) and underpinning external areas of external engagement for MACS to gather insights, identify issues, share good practice, give advice and inform organisation on the needs of disabled people in relation to accessible travel and inclusive infrastructures.

These areas of engagement are not exhaustive and are reviewed twice a year by the Planning and Strategy work stream.



# Governance Checks and Balances

