

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland

Main Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on
Tuesday 24 April 2018

Conference Room 2,
Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Easy Read



Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

A Convener leads the work of MACS. The Convener is called Linda Bamford.

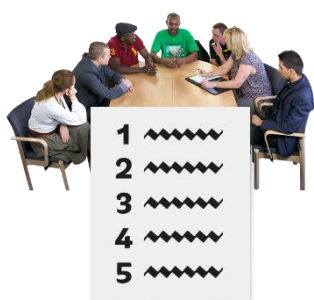


Agenda Item 1.1

Linda Bamford started the meeting by welcoming Naghat Amhed and Audrey Birt who are two new members of the MACS Committee.



Linda also welcomed Karen Armstrong and Mark Hoskins who are two new members of the Accessibility Team at Transport Scotland.



Agenda Item 1.2

All members were at the meeting.



Agenda Item 2: Paul Ruffles from Sustrans Scotland talked about Improving Accessible Travel

Agenda Item 2.1



Paul Ruffles from Sustrans Scotland talked about healthy travel and the work the charity does to create better places for walking and cycling in Scotland.

Agenda Item 2.2

Sustrans are working with The Scottish Government to make travelling happier and healthier for everyone.



The Scottish Government have doubled the amount of money for healthy travel from £40m to £80m between 2018-2021.



energy
saving
trust



Cycling Scotland

Agenda Item 2.3

Sustrans is working together with other charities, including: Living Streets, Cycling Scotland, Paths for All, and the Energy Saving Trust Scotland. This will help people to think about walking and cycling more.

Together the charities want to:



- Build healthier, friendlier and safer travel for everyone, including older and less mobile residents.
- Tell people about healthy travel who can't afford to use public transport
- Tell more people with reduced mobility about electric bicycles.



Agenda Item 2.4

Sustrans works mostly with local councils but they are also looking to work more with other charities.



Agenda Item 2.5

Sustrans are working with transport companies to make sure disabled people are able to change from one type of transport to another.



The Active Travel Team at Transport Scotland are also working to improve changing between types of transport. One example is asking bus operators to accept bikes on their buses.

Agenda Item 2.6



Paul Ruffles from Sustrans Scotland talked about money that is available from Community Link funding.

There is money available for 300 projects next year. It is mainly local councils that have applied so far, but the fund is open to other partners and community groups.

Agenda Item 2.7



Paul Ruffles also talked about Community Link Plus funding. This is money that is available for bigger projects: two in Glasgow, two in Edinburgh, one in Stirling and one in Inverness.

Agenda Item 2.8



It was pointed out that disabled access should be thought about at the start of all projects and all companies involved should be aware of the Equality Act 2010.

(Action Point 1: Sustrans to send MACS information on how they get more disabled people to travel actively).

Agenda Item 2.9

A report about walking and cycling by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) was pointed out as useful guidance on tactile pavements.



Agenda Item 2.10

It was noted that electric bikes could help people with limited mobility, but they are often too expensive for disabled people to afford them.

The cost of bikes could be paid for by the Government's active travel fund.

Agenda Item 2.11

Members were told to email Paul Ruffles and Karen Furey if they have any more questions to ask.

Email: Paul.Ruffles@sustrans.org.uk.

Email: Karen.Furey@transport.gov.scot





Agenda Item 3. Minutes of the previous meeting, matters arising and action points.

Agenda Item 3.1

The minutes of the last committee meeting held on 23 January had been agreed by email.



Agenda Item 3.2

The members were frustrated that little progress had been made with the review of the Inclusive Mobility document.



**Department
for Transport**

(Action Point 2: Karl Zaczek to ask for an update about the Inclusive Mobility document when he meets with the Department for Transport in London on 10 May 2018)

Agenda Item 3.2a



The Inclusive Mobility document could be updated to include Scottish Government building regulations to become the Inclusive Mobility Document for Scotland.

Agenda Item 3.3



An explanation was given about the difference between planning and architectural services and Scottish government building standards.



Agenda Item 3.4

Stagecoach is launching a new accessible coach has invited the Minister, Humza Yousaf to join them in Dunfermline.

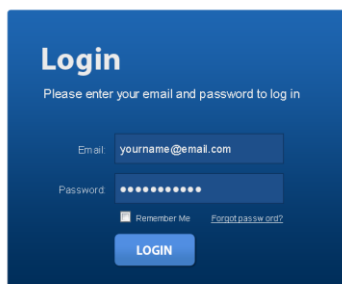


Sheila Fletcher from MACS agreed to attend the launch as she has been involved in assessing the disabled access of the new coach.



Agenda Item 3.5

Most action points from the January 2018 MACS Committee Meeting have been completed. Karl Zaczek is working on Action Points 4 and 5.



Agenda Item 3.5a

Action points 10 and 11 are complete. The reason of the Share Point platform was explained and login instructions provided. If members have any individual issues, they must contact the secretariat.



Agenda Item 3.5b

The site was thought to be accessible, but there were some concerns about using it with a screen reader. Members were encouraged to speak with Secretariat directly to solve the problem.



Agenda Item 3.5c

It was pointed out that getting emails about the activity of the site would be helpful and get more people to visit the site. Secretariat agreed to explore the possibility of setting up email notifications.

(Action Point 3: Secretariat to look at the possibility of setting up email notifications advising of activities on the Share Point site.)

Agenda Item 3.5d

It was agreed to try this new way of communicating before the next meeting and provide feedback to the Secretariat.

(Action Point 4: Members to give feedback on the Share Point Site by the end of September to the Secretariat.)





Agenda Item 4. - MACS Members talked about their recent activities.



Members could ask questions to find out more information about recent activities.

Agenda Item 4.2

Paper 4a - Joanne Fairweather meeting with Mark Whitelock of Stagecoach



Sheila Fletcher was worried at the mention of using smart technology rather than on board signs and verbal announcements. She confirmed that the Department for Transport's position is to provide fully accessible information, in audio and visual format and not to limit it to smart technology only.



Agenda item 4.3

Paper 4b – The response to the consultation on loneliness and social isolation.

Sheila Fletcher had written a response to the consultation on loneliness and social isolation and was waiting for clearance from the Minister before submitting.

Agenda item 4.4

Paper 4c - Marsali Craig went to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities conference.

Sheila Fletcher mentioned it would be good to form better links with the Equality and Human Rights Commission - Scotland, and Linda Bamford confirmed that they could be invited to the next Development Day in August.



Agenda item 4.5



Paper 4d - Scottish Rail Accessibility Forum meeting from 14 March.

Hussein Patwa mentioned that the conference helped to build links with stakeholders and progress with MACS work.



Issues about the availability of accessible toilets at stations have been raised and it was decided that the Rail Workstream would consider how to challenge them.

Agenda Item 4.6



Paper 4e – Transport Scotland Bus Stakeholders Group

Sheila Fletcher said that the Transport Bill is ongoing, but there were some worries about getting views from disabled people, especially from small community groups.



Agenda Item 4.7

Paper 4f – Rail Delivery Group

Hussein Patwa said the work was ongoing, and that MACS had built a strong position to give their views at strategic level.



Agenda Item 5. Convener Update

Agenda Item 5.1

The Convener Linda Bamford gave an update on her work in the last three months.



Agenda item 5.2

Linda talked about her meeting with the Transport Minister Humza Yousaf on the 22 February 2018



- Transport Minister Humza Yousaf thanked all members of the MACS Committee for the good work that they do.



- The Minister will come to the next MACS Committee meeting in October 2018



- The Minister has agreed to read and comment on all consultations that MACS respond to. A consultation is how the government asks the public for their thoughts and ideas before they make changes to the law.



- MACS will plan meetings with Scottish Ministers for Communities, Social Security and Equality, the Minister for Public Health and Sport and the Minister for Local Government and Housing and the Minister for Employability.

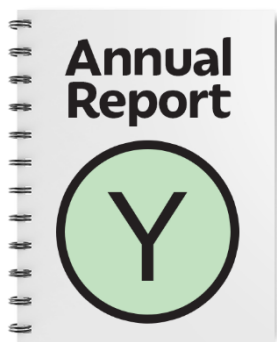


- The Minister will go on a rail journey with members of the Centre for Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross so he can see the difficulties disabled face when traveling by train.



- The next meeting with the Minister will take place in June and if members have anything they would like to ask Minister they must tell Linda by 16 May.

(Action Point 5: Members to tell Linda of any points to be discussed with the Minister by 16 May.)



Agenda Item 5.3 Changes to the Annual Report

The committee can give ideas on how the annual report can be more strategic.

Strategic means a long-term plan on what to do to reach a goal.



(**Action point 6:** Members to provide comments about the Annual Report to Linda by 30 April.)



Agenda item 5.3a

Members wanted to know how many meeting they should be going to. This will be talked about in more detail at next time the Members have training.



Agenda item 5.3b

Any changes to the annual report should mention different types of transport.

Agenda Item 6. Secretariat Update



Agenda item 6.1

Karl Zaczek will keep working with the Department for Transport to share ideas about how to improve access for disabled people.



- Karl is meeting with Stephen Brookes at the start of May to look



at the accessible bus services in Blackpool.

- Karl is working with Police Scotland and Edinburgh City Council to stop hate crime taking place on public transport.

Agenda Item 6.2

Disability Equality Scotland is a charity that work with Access Panels. Access Panels are groups of volunteers who work together to improve access to buildings, streets and transport in their local area.



The Transport Scotland Accessibility Team and MACS members want to look at how they can work with Access Panels to take forward the Accessible Travel Framework.



The Accessible Travel Framework is a plan about making it easier for disabled people to travel.



Agenda Item 6.3

Following up from the action point of the last Steering Group meeting in March, it was agreed that making all documents into Easy Read might not be able to be done.

All papers should be clear, short, relevant and written in plain English.



Agenda Item 7. Workstream' Leads Update on Priorities for the Next Reporting Period

Agenda Item 7.1

Sheila Fletcher talked about Bus and Community Transport



Agenda Item 7.1a

Some MACS Members went to look at a Lothian sightseeing bus that has a better way of securing wheelchairs.



Agenda Item 7.1b

It was agreed that workstream's members should go to the new Stagecoach launch.

Agenda Item 7.1c



There has been more work because of the Transport Bill. The Transport Bill is an act of the Scottish Parliament to make travel better for people in Scotland.

Agenda Item 7.1d



More work has been done on the taxi accessibility work package led by Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA).

Agenda Item 7.1e

There are plans to extend the tram lines in Edinburgh.



It was noted that the local Access Panel would be more involved in this project than the MACS committee.

There were worries about the accessibility of new tram stops and whether more trams would mean less buses.

Agenda Item 7.1f

There are worries about how little security and disability training there is for Uber and Jet drivers.



Agenda Item 7. 2 Ferries and Airports – Hilary Stubbs



Agenda Item 7.2a

A new accessibility toolkit for ferry terminals has been completed and will be shared with all related partners.

Agenda Item 7.2b



Hilary was asked to come to the opening of new Accessible Purpose Built Ferry Terminal in Brodick, which is the first ferry terminal with a changing places toilet.

A changes places toilet is an accessible toilet with extra equipment and space to allow disabled people to use the toilets safely and comfortably.

Agenda Item 7.3

Agenda Item 7.3a Planning and Strategy – David Hunter

MACS has produced lots of responses to consultations recently.



A consultation is how the government asks the public for their thoughts and ideas before they make changes to the law.

MACS can work with the Policy Teams to make sure they are responding to new consultations.

(Action Point 8: Secretariat to ask Policy Teams to pass on the details of any consultations that relate to accessible travel).

Agenda Item 7.3b Secretariat

(Action Point 9: Keith to keep looking at low emission zones where blue badge holders can be allowed to drive.



A **low emission zone** is an area where access by some cars that produce toxic fumes is lowered or stopped with the aim of improving air quality.

This should be added to the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel Work Plan for 2018/19.



Agenda Item 7.3c

The members talked about the Motability scheme.



The Motability Scheme allows disabled people to get mobile by using their mobility allowance to hire a new car, scooter or powered wheelchair.

Agenda Item 7.3d

David Hunter asked members to share any comments about planning and strategy



Agenda item 7.4 Rail – Hussein Patwa & Marsali Craig



Hussein Patwa told members that at the Accessibility Infrastructure meeting the Transport Minister talked about how the needs of disabled people should be thought about at the very start of a project.

Agenda item 7.4b: what will happen next



- Getting to know more about the new high-speed trains and older trains that have been updated.
- Let more people know about trains that are too busy.
- Work with ScotRail managers to show them how important it is for disabled people to be involved from the start.



Agenda Item 7.5: Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel – Keith Robertson



Agenda Item 7.5a

Keith was worried about how the Scottish Motability scheme is being run. He will speak to the accessibility team about his worries.

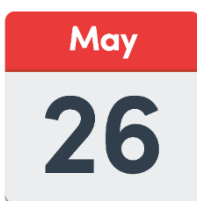
Agenda item 7.5b

Keith let members know that work on the A96 road had not taken place. Keith and Hilary will meet with John MacIntyre to take this forward.



Agenda item 7.5c

A meeting will be set up with Laurence Kenny to talk about electric cars, following on from the work started with Bob Benson.



Agenda item 7.5d

Keith let members know that the next Workstreams' Leads meeting will take place on 26 May at Victoria Quay.



Agenda item 7.5e

Keith asked MACS members to move away from using the term *Shared Space* and instead use *Inclusive Street Design*.



Agenda Item 8. Any Other Business

Agenda item 8.1

Members were asked if they wanted to go to the *Supporting People with Communication Needs* meeting on 26 June to let Linda know by Monday the 30 April.



Action Point 10: Members to tell Linda by 30 April if they want to go to the *Supporting People with Communication Needs* conference on 26 June.)



Agenda item 8.2

Secretariat told Members about changes to how MACS members are paid.



The new picture that will be used for the MACS logo was agreed.

The wording of the logo will change to *Advising Scottish Ministers on Accessible Travel*.

The prototype should be sent to the Communications Team for final approval.

(Action Point 11: Secretariat to send the logo to the Communications team.)