

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Main Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on
Tuesday 21 January 2020
at Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Easy Read



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Who was at the meeting?

Naghat Ahmed
Linda Bamford, Convener
Audrey Birt
Marsali Craig
Joanne Fairweather
Sheila Fletcher
Susan Fulton
David Hunter
Hussain Patwa
Keith Robertson
Hilary Stubbs
Fraser Sutherland
Michael Tornow
John Whitfield



Secretariat:

Karen Armstrong - Deputy Sponsor
Aga Lysak - Secretary
Lucy Logan – Assistant Secretary



Other people at the meeting:

Jan Beattie – Allied Health Professional
Advisor
Pauline Meenan - Transport Scotland
Rail Accessibility & Policy Manager

Agenda Item 1
Welcome and Apologies



Linda started the meeting by welcoming everyone especially Pauline, Jan and Lucy.

She thanked Mark Hoskins, who has left the Accessibility Team and moved to another job.

There were no apologies and no-one on Skype.

Linda said the Agenda was busy. There is an session after lunch for MACS members only.

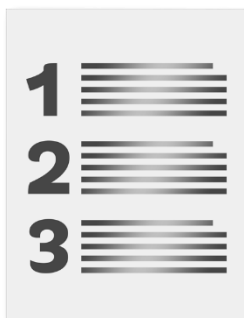


Agenda Item 2 Minute of last meeting and Action Points.

Minutes of the meeting in October meeting were agreed by email after a few changes.

Action Points from the July meeting:

- Action 7. Secretariat will get information from the Transport Scotland Rail Team about Rail Equality Advisory Panels. Pauline will let MACS know what happens.
- Actions 8, 20 and 22 were closed.



Action points from the October meeting:



- Actions 4, 8 and 12 were closed.
- Action 2. Karen and Pauline to talk about Equality Advisory Panels. Pauline had agreed to do this after July 2019.
- Action 3. Karen and Pauline to talk about there being no online booking for Passenger Assist. Pauline will tell MACS what happens.
- Action 10. Secretariat will ask the taxi licensing team to give Sheila the guidance for licensing authorities and ask when they need to reply. The guidance is not finished yet.



Agenda item 3

Update from the Convenor

Linda hoped people had read the 'Super Report' before the meeting.



Agenda Item 3a

Issues or actions from Super Report

Linda said that the committee will have 6 recommendations for 2020/2021.

These are the things that are the most important.

These will go on the work plan and will



be talked about in the afternoon.
The committee said this was ok.

Linda has written to the Chief Executive Officers of all Local Authorities to remind them about MACS Annual Report 2018/19 and the recommendations about Equality Impact Assessments, the Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty.



Stirling, Angus, and Dumfries & Galloway councils have replied.



Sustrans Scotland have offered Better by Design training.
Contact David for more information.



Keith said the Inclusive Mobility Guidance is still being updated.

Recommendation 7 in the Annual Report about the guidance will move to the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel Workstream.



Action Point 1: Recommendation 7 from the last Annual Report will move to the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel Workstream.



Linda said the next Development Day, about Transport to Health and Social Care will be on 12 March.

Audrey will be the chair of the event – the person in charge.



The Transport to Health and Social Care group are having a teleconference on 30 January to talk about the Development Day.



There have been good talks with Ministers about the report and its recommendations.



David Hunter will be the MACS representative on Cycling by Design group.

Agenda Item 3b – Consultations

The last 3 months have been busy with consultations.

These are the consultations that are open and who is working on them:



- Road maintenance – Keith
- Barriers to Motability – Linda
- Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 - David
- Islands Plan - Hilary
- Air Travel - Assistance Dogs – Hilary



- Ferries Inquiry – Hilary
- Highly Automated Road Passenger Services– Keith and Susan
- Low Emission Zones – Naghat and Keith
- Glasgow subway request for dispensation – Hussain, Fraser and Michael
- Fife Circle dispensation request – Hussain and Fraser
- Guidance on Accessibility of Rail Replacement Vehicles – Sheila
- National Planning Framework 4 – Keith and David

Agenda Item 3c – Meetings with ministers



Linda said MACS had met five Ministers: Ms Somerville, Mr Matheson, Ms McKelvie, Mr Wheelhouse and Mr FitzPatrick.

The meetings went well.

Motability – meeting with Ms Somerville.



There will be a new scheme called the Scottish Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme.

Ms Somerville listened to MACS' worries about Motability.

The worries are:

- does Motability give good value for money?



- how they work with their customers
- the large amount of money they have in the bank
- how the company is run.

These are things that the National Audit Office have looked at.

MACS will give advice on the new scheme.



Mr Matheson said officials will look at if Motability gives value for money and look at the amount of money held by the company.

David will give Mr Matheson information about Motability.



Action Point 2: David Hunter to provide Mr Matheson with information on Motability finances.



Ms McKelvie wants the Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme to be based on dignity and respect for disabled people.

She thanked MACS for telling her about their worries about Motability.



Transport to Health

Mr Matheson thanked MACS for the report.

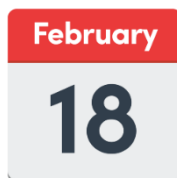
He suggested some ways to make things better and officials are looking at these.



Programme for Government

Ministers agree with MACS that accessibility should be an important part of the Programme for Government.

MACS should invite Transport Scotland's Accessibility, Bus and Active Travel colleagues to their next Leads meeting on 18 February to talk about this more.



Some active travel schemes are not accessible.



An example of this is bike hire schemes in cities and in stations.

They have not thought about what disabled people need.



It was agreed that the most important thing is making accessibility better in places that have money from the Programme For Government.



MACS think they should look at the Active Travel plan – encouraging people to walk, wheel and cycle, and the money that goes to bus travel.

Mr Matheson agreed and will look at what the 2020 Programme for Government will say.



The new projects should look at how people can afford them and what people need.

National Transport Strategy

At the meeting with Mr Matheson, David said someone who knows a lot about accessibility, equality and inclusion should be on the National Transport Strategy Delivery Board.



David asked members to tell him what they thought so he can tell the Minister.



Action Point 3: MACS members to email David about who should be on the National Transport Strategy Delivery Board. David will then tell the Minister.



New Minister for disabled people

MACS had a good meeting with Ms McKelvie the Minister for Older People and Equalities.

She thinks equality, dignity and respect for disabled people is very important.

Equality Impact Assessments



Ms McKelvie knows about the work MACS does on Equality Impact Assessments – these make sure that organisations treat everyone equally.

She will have a group to look at how people do assessments and make sure everyone works the same way.

Agenda Item 4

Update from Sponsor Team



KA said the paper has a lot of information.

Members can contact her if they have any questions.

Staff in the Accessibility team have changed.



Douglas has been replaced by Lucy and Mark has left.

Mark's post has been advertised. It will be funded by MACS and the Accessible Travel Framework.



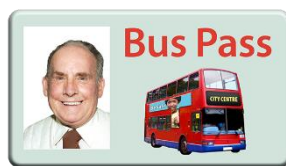
Sheila said there are not as many bus services in the countryside.

This makes it hard to finish Recommendation 10 in the Transport to Health and Social Care report.



Recommendation 10 wants there to be longer times for concessionary travel – when people can travel for less money.

This would be good when people are travelling to medical appointments.



Bus companies sometimes do not have buses in the countryside because not enough people use them and the company does not make money.

Councils could help keep services going and help people to use public transport instead of their cars.



Linda spoke about her meeting with Transport Scotland Concessionary Travel Team.

Transport Scotland, Councils and the bus services are all saying it is not a problem they can sort.

This means things do not get better.



She hopes that MACS Recommendation 10 will start organisations talking and working together again.

People in the countryside need to stay connected by bus.

The meeting talked about the climate and having cleaner air.



We need to help disabled people to use public transport instead of their cars.

Linda said that public transport had to be available, accessible and affordable to do this.



It is good that the National Transport Strategy 2 wants to have transport that is accessible and is not expensive.

MACS should talk about this at the meeting in February.



Sheila said bus accessibility is a reserved matter – this means it is a Westminster power.

Any information needed for Mobility to ensure accessible vehicles are used should be available on the Mobility system.



Linda said the Development Day in August should be about bus services and accessibility especially in the countryside.

Sheila will lead the event. It will help MACS to work with people who run bus services.

MACS could give them advice on how their £500 million budget could be used to make accessibility better.

Susan asked about ferries being accessible and if this is looked at for new ferry projects.



She asked if there is an Access Consultant in the design team. The Secretariat will find out and tell the Committee.



Action Point 4: Secretariat to ask the Ferries Team if new ferry terminals are accessible and if there is an Access Consultant in the design team.



Karen said the Accessibility Team staff are on the Ferries Accessibility Fund Team.

Mark works in the Ferries Team and he knows about accessibility.



Keith spoke about the CivTech project. It wants to develop technology so that Blue Badge holders would not pay to drive in low emission zones.

Keith and Naghat will be at the CivTech event in March.



MACS members wanted the 'Clear Pathways' title in the Annual Delivery Plan to be changed.

This can't be done.

Karen said this work is about pathways and pavements.

Hussein talked about Traveline Scotland's website and app.



Traveline Scotland have not answered a letter, email or phone call about the app not being accessible.

This has been a problem since 2013.
Karen will do something about this.



Action Point 5: Karen will ask Traveline how long it will take for their app to be accessible.



Linda says the Active Travel team should not have stopped using the term 'wheeling'.

It was agreed their information should talk about 'wheeling' as well as walking and cycling.



Karen will speak to staff about this.

Action Point 6: Karen to speak to staff in the Active Travel Team to remind them to use inclusive words and include 'wheeling' in their information.

Jan is a physiotherapist.
She supports the team who work on the Blue Badge scheme.



She said a Blue Badge should not be the only thing that is used to support travel for disabled people.

There should be other things to help like rehabilitation or mindfulness.

Aga said there is research that says giving autistic children the Blue Badge is not always helpful to them.



They need to try different routes and learn new things to stop their condition getting worse.

It was agreed that a Blue Badge should only be a tool in a toolbox of things that could be used to help.

The whole person should be looked at, not just their disability.



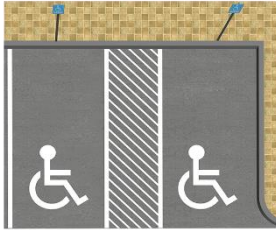
The meeting talked about how people apply for a Blue Badge.

Some members think it is too difficult to apply.



Other members think the scheme should be strict and only give a badge to people who can't travel another way.

Marsali said if there are more people with blue badges there may not be enough disabled parking spaces.



It is important that people are stopped from parking in disabled spaces if they do not have a blue badge.

It was agreed that a different word should be used instead of 'harm.'

Agenda Item 5: Motability

David said the Cabinet Secretary did not agree with MACS that Motability should be reviewed.



Motability was reviewed as part of the Accessible Vehicles Accreditation Scheme.

She was surprised that MACS was not part of that and will get her team to give the information to MACS.

We don't know who will provide Motability in Scotland.

David thinks MACS should now keep a relationship with Motability.

It will be talked about at the 4 Nations meeting and David will make a briefing paper for this.

It can also be used to tell other organisations what MACS thinks about this.

We can do this on social media.





Action Point 7: David will do a report on Motability before 17 February 2020 so Linda can give it to the 4 Nations meeting in March in Belfast.



Agenda item 6: The review of the Inclusive Mobility Guidance and the Guidance on the use of Tactile Surfaces

The review of the Inclusive Mobility Guidance will be moved to the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel group. Keith said:

- He is working with roads officials on the research paper.
- The research was done by Transport Research Laboratory.



There is no money from the Department for Transport to work on the new Inclusive Mobility information and the Guidance on the Use of Tactile Surfaces.



They need to work with people from the UK Government to get this finished.

There is no timescale for this.

- Keith said the draft document took him 3 weeks to read and review.

Some MACS members would like to see the draft.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 given by the UK Government.



MACS is worried that the UK government can give dispensations to some companies.

This means they do not need to follow the rules.

Companies have had 10 years to arrange for their vehicles to follow the rules.

Sheila said the Office of Rail Regulations think that services for disabled people should be treated in a different way.



They should not get a £5k fine if they do not follow the rules.

MACS does not agree with this.



David said we should ask the Department for Transport for information about how companies follow the rules.

Pauline will give this information to MACS.



Action Point 9: Pauline will get the Department for Transport briefing paper on how vehicles follow accessibility rules on transport and give it to MACS.



MACS asked for the report that shows if Scotrail is working to make accessibility better.

Action Point 10: Karen will get the ScotRail report and give it to the MACS Rail Workstream.



The Scottish Government have said what they think about rail accessibility and MACS agrees.

Action Point 11: Karen will give MACS the Scottish Government's statement on the what organisations do not have to follow the rules on accessibility.



Agenda Item 8 – Talking about the work plans and MACS meetings for 2020/2021

This part of the meeting was just for MACS members.

There are no minutes.



Agenda Item 9 - Any Other Business

Marsali said everyone must not 'reply to all' in emails unless they had to.

MACS members should have their own email addresses as :

name.surname@macs-mobility.org



Some members would like support to set up the emails to their smart phones, laptops, or computer.



Action Point 12: Secretariat to get MACS email addresses for all members.