

## **ScotFLAG Rural Freight Sub-Group Meeting**

**Forestry Commission Scotland, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road,  
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT**

**Friday 13 January 2017**

### **Note of meeting**

Present:

Roland Stiven, Confor (Chair)  
Chris Little, Road Haulage Association  
Tony Jarvis, Highland and Islands Enterprise  
Jamie Smart, NFU Scotland  
Robin Pope, Highland Council  
Pam Stott, Transport Scotland  
Keith McDowell, Transport Scotland  
Chris MacRae, Freight Transport Association (by Telephone)  
Sally Thomas, Scottish Government Land Use & Biodiversity (by Telephone)  
Campbell Gerrard, Scottish Government Planning (by Telephone)  
Bob Bridges, Transport Scotland

Apologies:

Derek Nelson, Forestry Commission Scotland

### Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome and introductions made.
2. Background and context for the group's establishment was given and members' views sought on what their respective organisations could bring to the work of the group.
3. Key points were:
  - Evidence gathering
  - Ability of rural roads to accommodate freight movements
  - Local authority funding gaps
  - Impact of road infrastructure on rural industries
  - Identify issues with connections/interface with rail and coastal shipping
  - Highlight importance of first [few] mile[s] in logistics chain
  - Clarification of how group's work feeds into NTS and STPR
  - New Land Use Strategy moving towards regional partnerships and seeking collective resolutions to local issues.

## Membership

4. Consideration was given to potential gaps in the group's membership.
5. Suggestions were:
  - Calmac
  - Network Rail
  - Aquaculture/Fisheries
  - Whisky Industry
  - Renewables Sector
  - SCOTS
  - Visit Scotland
6. There was agreement that the group would benefit from local authority representation on issues of planning and infrastructure. However, beyond this, the group should remain relatively small, but with flexibility to call in expertise from other areas on an issue by issue basis.

## Governance

7. Transport Scotland were providing secretariat support to the group, but were keen that each of the ScotFLAG sub groups were chaired by industry rather than Transport Scotland or Scottish Government.
8. The group agreed that Roland Stiven should continue as Chair of the group.

## Remit

9. It was explained that Transport Scotland, Confor and Forestry Commission Scotland gave consideration to the remit.
10. Keith McDowell left the meeting.
11. There was a discussion about the identification and gathering of available statistics/data.
12. Available data included:
  - Road network extent and condition
  - Network Rail load capacity/routes
  - Rail freight Strategy report on commodity market
  - HIE island review
  - IDBR
  - Agri Department Estimates
  - Livestock Movements
  - Lifting the Spirit
  - Upsticks and Timber Transport forum
  - Ferry freight fares review highlighted Freight Intensive Industries

- Analysis of freight supply chains
- Freight Data Document 2013

13. There was a further discussion about the group's wider remit. Including:

- Need to define rural – given that urban fringes also have road sharing issues with recreational users also Sustrans core paths etc.
- Develop an evidence/business case to feed in to the Transport Rail Policy for consideration for next control period (2019-2024) – closing date is 24 February so little time to input – suggest members do rather than group.
- Identify make up of rural economy through existing economic data with a focus on freight intensive industries.
- Highlight importance of rural sector to Scottish economy.
- Need to identify freight priorities and develop an evidence base for what group wants to achieve.
- Identify a thread of responsibilities for strategic freight planning and thought leadership that runs through National Transport Strategy Strategic Transport projects Review, Regional Transport Strategies and Local Transport Strategies etc.
- Design a short survey to allow industry to feed in to and inform group's thinking.
- Individual sectors will have their own priorities. Need to recognise these and show where there are strategic national priorities.
- Possible academic assistance from Phd, MSc students?
- Identify drivers for change to clarify what planning can do to assist group achieve its outcomes.
- Members (HIE) have access to economists who can assist in collating data.
- Maintain focus on freight reference other issues demographics, regulation skills, fleet maintenance and testing facilities etc./benefits of rural network, but not a focus

#### Lifespan

14. It was felt that the lifespan of the group should be limited to 12-18 months.

#### Output of Group

15. It was agreed that the group's findings should be presented to ScotFLAG and possibly Ministers, with wider publication via a workshop. Consideration to be given to whether a single, large, document is produced, or shorter themed papers are published.

#### AOB

16. Key points were:

- Deadline for responses to Planning Review White Paper Consultation is 4 April 2017. Group members to consider and respond. SG Planning to consider potential access to responses to consultation.

- Rural summit – Considered role of planning system in rural development/infrastructure. Appetite by Minister for firm outputs.

#### Actions agreed

**Action 1:** Inform SCOTS of the group's work and issue invitation to join (Roland Stiven)

**Action 2:** Follow up with Scottish Rural College (Roland Stiven)

**Action 3:** Develop a graphic to show interdependencies between group and other policies (Pam Stott)

**Action 4:** Transport Scotland to facilitate a meeting between SG Planners and Roland Stiven (Pam Stott)

**Action 5:** SG planning to keep group informed of progress and highlight potential overlaps to avoid duplication. (Campbell Gerrard)

**Action 6:** TS to develop Project Plan for group's work. (Bob Bridges)

**Action 7:** Consideration of questions for inclusion in stakeholder survey (All)

#### Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting to be confirmed (circa 8 weeks).

24 January 2017