No. | Item | Action By
--- | --- | ---
1. | **Introductions**
   JB who chaired the meeting asked everyone at the meeting to briefly introduce themselves for the benefit of any new person attending. He announced the apologies for non attendance at the meeting.

2. | **Minutes of Last Meeting**
   Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed to be correct.

3. | **European Freight Conference**
   **Overview of the conference**
   The conference was well attended with 59 representatives from local authorities, operators, academics, students, and other organisations. Gary MacDonald of Newcastle City Council successfully moderated the event throughout the day, introducing the speakers and the questions.
The morning event comprised of the speeches, question and answer session and was held in the Council Chambers at Newcastle City Council offices. The afternoon breakout workshop sessions were split into three groups, two in the Chambers and one in the Pandon Rooms.

Speakers
The event took the form of an introduction, keynote speech and five presentations to delegates: Cllr Wendy Taylor gave the introduction speech to welcome the delegates followed by Brian Simpson MEP who gave an excellent keynote speech.

John Hix of AECOM presented an overview of the Freight Operator Recognition scheme (FORS), Thomas Kirpal of the City of Bremen discussed their perspective on urban freight and Magnus Jaderberg from the City of Gothenburg talked about their involvement with the local freight network in urban planning. Thomas Zunder of Newrail at Newcastle University told the delegates of best practice, good practice and myths in urban freight and Sally Herbert from the City of Newcastle Council outlined the electric vehicle infrastructure and innovation in Tyne and Wear.

Question and Answers
The presentations were followed by a question and answer session, with three preset questions and two from the floor:
The panel of experts had prior knowledge of the preset questions and elected to answer the questions between themselves.

Workshops
Three parallel workshop discussion sessions were held after lunch, delegates had the choice of attending one of three workshops:

- Access restrictions with a short presentation given by Justin Laney of John Lewis.
- Routing and mapping with a short presentation given by Richard Toner of Elddis Transport
- Consolidation centres with a short presentation given by Sally Herbert of Newcastle City Council

The summary of findings from the workshops were fed back to the delegates by a representative from each of the workshop groups

Site Visits
The conference closed with delegates being invited on one of two site visits, John Lewis Warehouse, Camperdown, Killingworth and Smiths Electrical Vehicles, Washington. They proved to be very popular and a great success

Feedback Analysis
The presentations in terms of quality and content of scored very highly. All delegates agreed that the event was well organised and the venue was excellent. 88% of the delegate thought the conference was very useful and provided an opportunity to network and gain experience from experts throughout Europe.
Comments highlighted the overall success of the workshops, with comments including the benefits of the discussions they created, and the interaction they enabled between different professionals.

CG commented that the main financial benefit of the AG Barr electric vehicle (a 14 tonne Smith Electric vehicle) is that it saves £8.00 per day on the London congestion charge. CG went on to say that the battery for the vehicle alone costs £35,000.

It was suggested that Sainsbury and TNT recover costs within 4 years of operation of an Electric truck against the norm of 7 years.

In terms of the consolidation centres it was mentioned during the meeting that delivery patterns were changing where operators were delivering to private addresses for delivery.

Martin Murphy, in relation to understanding of benefits, reiterated that it is of paramount importance to measure the ‘whole picture’. For example not just realise the reduction in CO2 emissions but understand the impact on people’s health improvements in the city centres as a result of electric vehicles delivering. In summary the wider ‘societal benefits’

4. Website

Website progression
Leading up to the conference the registration page allowing the delegates to register and select their dietary, workshop and site visit preferences. To allow delegates to book accommodation a link was supplied. The summary of the conference has been added to the website. Minutes of the December meeting have been added together with the December newsletter and supplied in two other languages, German and Polish.

TT2 asked the Partnership to include a Newsflash for the Tyne Tunnel highlighting the opening of the new tunnel and the corresponding road changes.

Website Stats
The number of hits for a Rolling 12 month hits is 223,715, with 103,003 Hits in previous 3 months. Most popular pages viewed are in order of popularity: knowledge network, interactive destination maps, restriction map, events, destination maps, traffic info, freight map and lorry parking.

Truck Information Point
Durham Services
Site visited early in each month found operation of the TIP still reliable, all amendments made to issues encountered.

DFDS Ferries
A TIP was installed December 8th 2010 in the ‘King of Scandinavia’ ferry. The ship was visited early March to check the operation and replenish hard copies of the map. On the visit it was found that the ship has been renamed to ‘King Of...
5. **Regional Freight Map**
Redesigned with a new image on the front and back cover. The instructions on how to use the map are now in English, German and Polish. Additional key destinations have been added, however, the number of symbols remain at 71 with a slight restructure of the key of destinations.

Contact details updated for Traffic Managers and Streetworks. The logos have been amended to show the five local authorities and Integrated Transport Authority.

6. **Lorry Parking**
A meeting was held on February 15th with the landlord of the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate site (UK Land Estates). The meeting at the site was to exchange knowledge and ideas for creating a lorry park facility, unfortunately it was found that there would be a number of issues to be dealt with. At the time lorries would access the site, the main volume of traffic would be exiting from the estate this would cause problems for lorries crossing the exiting traffic. The entrance gate is near the junction of the A183 and is constructed over cables from the sub stations and would require a concrete raft to accommodate the heavier traffic.

The initial cost would be prohibitive due to the underground cables and that the spoil from previous development on the estate has been dumped on the hard standing and would need to be cleared for H&S.

This leads to the decision to abandon the idea of a lorry park facility at this site due to the prohibitive costs associated initially to get the site ready.

7. **Freight on Rail**
The Workshop group meeting on January 24th was held at the AECOM offices Newcastle, with representatives from organisations such as Railfuture North East, Sunderland City Council, Network Rail, Nectar, Rail Freight Group, Port of Tyne, Wilton Transport (on behalf of the FTA) and Oxford Rail Strategy.

The conclusions from the Workshop meeting were to set a date time and Venue for the bigger Partner group meeting, establish which organisations would be appropriate to join the Partner group and identify 3 key themes to increase rail freight traffic and the market potential, including inter modal traffic and the identification of current facilities. We also need to outline the scope to increase rail freight opportunities through traffic flows from ports, industrial manufacturers and third party haulage. Finally, there is a need to gain knowledge of the potential barriers including geographical boundaries, availability of grant funding and producing and distributing a questionnaire.

It was highlighted at the meeting to consider the movement of waste to Teesside. GC to supply name of contact in the Potter Group for an invite onto the Partner group.
8. Sunderland Signing Strategy
Site Survey carried out on approaches to the City Centre in January from the A19 southbound via A1231, A19 northbound via A1018 Southern Radial Route and the A1 and A19 via A690.
The city is divided into four zones with no connectivity between each zone, West, East, South and North. A consultation meeting with Sunderland City Council has been organised for March 14th to discuss the proposed strategies.

9. Freight Exchange Programme
It is perceived that operational benefits to the hauliers involved with FEAs include the potential to increase load fill on vehicles travelling to and from the North East and enhanced networking in looking for more business. It will lead to increased opportunities for back-loading, establish more cost effective fleet management and reduced empty running / reduced CO2 emissions.

Five operators were chosen to take part in the trial commencing November 2010. A page on the website is now dedicated to the trial by promoting links to the chosen Freight Exchange on the website.

Following investigation into various exchanges the preferred organisation selected was the Haulage Exchange which is reportedly the largest freight exchange in the UK. A reporting mechanism has been arranged with the Haulage Exchange which enables an overview of loads posted, collected and times logged on. Membership fees paid for initially 6 months – later extended to 12 months. Current indicators suggest that Operators have received little benefit from involvement and that the subscription may outweigh the benefits. A report will be made available at the end of March.

10. Year 7 Business Plan
JB outlined the Year 7 Business Plan and said it will be structured differently than in previous years. The core maintenance communication tasks are to be undertaken by the LTP Team which are the website maintenance, Newsletter, facilitation of the Partnership meetings and maintaining the truck information points. The technical and development tasks are to be put out to tender, the tender brief is due out at the end of March.

11. Any Other Business
GW said that it is important to inform operators of the toll increases for heavy goods vehicles. The following is an extract from the New Tyne Tunnel pricing structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cars</th>
<th>HGVs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2008</td>
<td>£1.20</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2012*</td>
<td>£1.40</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2013*</td>
<td>£1.60</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2014*</td>
<td>£1.60</td>
<td>£3.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It was suggested that the Partnership send out current information on the progress of the Silverlink Junction.

12. **Date, Time and Venue of Next meeting**

The next meeting is to be held on **June 15th 2011** at the **Newcastle Civic Centre** at **10:30**

The following series of meetings will take place at different locations and are planned for:
- September 15th 2011
- December 7th 2011
- March 7th 2011

Please pencil the dates into your diary for future reference.