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Project: Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership

Purpose: March Quarterly Meeting

Date Held: 4th March 2015

Held at: Collingwood Room, Newcastle Civic Centre

Made By: Stuart Hill

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Present:

John Bourn	Regional Transport Team
Mike Page	AECOM
Paul Davison	AECOM
Gordon Carr	CILT
Malcolm Dodds	RHA
Ian Rutherford	Abacus Haulage
Brian Curtis	AG Barr
Kevin Cobb	Alex Smiles
Rebecca Smiles	Alex Smiles
Natalie Stephens	Alex Smiles
Martin Murphy	Nectar
James Turnbull	Durham County Council
David Marshall	Sunderland City Council
Marin Marinov	Newcastle University
Anna Frasczyk	Newcastle University
Alex Dampier	Newcastle University (student)
Daniel Reece	Newcastle University (student)
Stephen Psallidas	Nexus

Apologies:

Colin Hall	Whatbike
Gary Appleby	Port of Tyne
Martin Forster	Sunderland City Council
Ian Radley	Highways Agency
Stuart Corker	Gateshead Council
Trevor Male	South Tyneside Council
Keith Taylor	Northumberland County Council
Nigel Cook	Eddis Transport
Cllr Frank Lott	North Tyneside Council
Malcolm Bingham	FTA
Richard Toner	Eddis Transport

No.	Item	Action By
1.	<p>Attendance and apologies</p> <p>John Bourn (Chair) welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the current financial year.</p> <p>Introductions were made around the room and apologies read out.</p>	

2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting held December 2014 and matters arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising. The minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p>
3.	<p>Cycle Logistics (CL)</p> <p>Paul Davison gave a presentation on Cycle Logistics. The appropriateness of CL in Tyne and Wear was researched and there were found to be no significant barriers to the introduction of a CL operation, particularly with regard to large public sector organisations such as Universities and Hospitals. There is no cycle courier currently operating in the local area. A workshop on CL took place in October 2014.</p> <p>The Sugar Down Bakery based in Pink Lane were interested in replacing a van they use for deliveries with a trike. They are currently applying for LSTF funding. They requested that the Smarter Travel logo be placed on their bike. Hopefully this should be put into operation soon.</p>
4.	<p>FORS Update</p> <p>Mike Page gave a presentation on FORS. In 2012/13 a trial with Transport for London (TfL) was undertaken. We are the first region outside of TfL to take it nationally. There are 109 operators in this region of which 63 are bronze accredited companies, 3 silver, 9 registered and 34 dormant. A total of 5329 vehicles are involved. This year bronze accreditations have increased by 50%. The scheme is voluntary.</p> <p>From February 2015 FORS will be operated on a commercial basis by FORS Community Partnership (FCP). The FCP is made up of AECOM, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and Fleetsource. AECOM continue to manage and administer the scheme. CILT will assist with audits but their main task is to manage the marketing of the scheme.</p> <p>From 17 February 2015 companies registering with FORS for the first time were required to pay; an annual subscription fee is based on fleet size and an audit fee on the number of operating centres to be accredited. The subscription fees from March 2015 to January 2016 range from £50 for 1 vehicle to £2,000 for more than 100 vehicles. The audit fee is £420 standard rate and £360 for a small operator of up to 3 vehicles.</p> <p>Since 2013 to the present time, 40 workshops have been offered. 271 people attended the workshops, an excellent result. Those who attended 9 of the series of 10 workshops become FORS practitioners.</p>
5.	<p>Rail Student Liaison</p> <p>Marin Marinov explained that students at Newcastle University are conducting ongoing research as part of their student projects and introduced two students who presented summaries of their research projects to the group.</p>

The first presentation was given by Daniel Reece who explained that increasing car traffic and emissions which result from this mean that making public transport more attractive would be beneficial. The objectives of his research were to find out why passengers use a specific mode of transport and investigate how luggage could be transported efficiently by light rail. The expected outcome of the research is to find out the best locations for a luggage collection system and which system will work best for different types of passengers.

Alex Dampier also presented to the group. She stated that the Tyne and Wear Metro opened in 1984 but some recent studies have suggested that the network is not operating at full capacity. In light of this it is useful to investigate whether it could be used to transport freight. The motivation is to protect the environment. The government is aiming for an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. HGVs amount to 21% of all emissions from surface transport but they are only 5% of vehicles. At present Metro trains are inoperative from 00.30-05.30 which means that freight could be transported during this period. A government study has estimated that congestion leads to losses of £10 billion per annum at present. Methodology of the research project is research, case studies, modelling, analysis and conclusion. She considered that the Metro system had potential in this respect. The project is scheduled to be completed in May.

JB stated that the carriage of lighter goods by rail had been identified as an area with potential at a national level and thanked the students and Marin for their presentation. It was suggested that the students could come back to a later meeting and report on the conclusions of their research.

Stephen Psalladis said that he would be happy to provide information to the students. He also noted that putting freight on to actual Metro carriages would be difficult to achieve but using other vehicles on the track is a possibility.

6. Driver and Operator of the Year Awards

PD explained that for the Driver Award entries were requested to be made via email in January in the format of a 300 word submission. The Operator Award was decided by the Partnership. The winner of the Driver Award was Ian Rutherford from Abacus Haulage based in Shiremoor. Ian was congratulated on his achievement and presented with the award. PD stated that, with the permission of relevant parties, this would be publicised in the press.

The Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Brian Curtis from AG Barr. Brian has had no sickness absence for 24 years and has driven 2 million km and delivered to 190,000 accounts with 3 million cases of products. Brian was congratulated on his achievement and presented with the award.

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The North East Freight Operator of the Year Award has been given to Alex Smiles Ltd. They have regularly supported the Partnership and have seen the benefits of FORS and subsequently allocated time for their staff to become FORS practitioners. They have sponsored the FORS workshops on two occasions. The award was presented to the company.

JB stated that with the permission of the recipient and employees this will be publicised in the press.

7. Task update for year 10

MP outlined progress with the various tasks contained in the Local Freight Development Plan.

Four courses on Safe Urban Driving were completed through the LSTF Go Smarter to Work programme. Operators were notified of the scheme but there was a low response so no additional courses are planned.

The maps have been updated to maintain accuracy. These are in a PDF format. The interactive map database has been updated. Details were checked with the local authorities.

There were 2 Rail Partner meetings in Year 10. The first took place in May at the AECOM offices. The second was hosted in November by the new Newcastle College Rail Academy, which was very well attended. A range of organisations have been attending these meetings.

With regards to promoting the partnership a paper was submitted to the Transport Policy and Procedures Award but unfortunately this was unsuccessful. JB and MP attended the Smartfusion Conference at Newcastle University. The October 2014 newsletter was produced and circulated. The CILT Cycling In The City Conference was attended by MP and PD who gave presentations at the event.

From April 2014 – February 2015 2,422 sessions of the website were created and 6,176 pages viewed. Maps is the most popular page, as was the case in previous years. The website is regularly updated.

The smartphone maps site is up and running. The refreshed website went live in January. It is more user friendly and contains the same information as the previous version.

Regarding Virtual Loading Bays a meeting took place on September 11 2014 to discuss the feasibility of virtual parking. There is potential in this type of scheme, but it was felt that, within Newcastle, there is not enough evidence or current problems to justify introducing such a scheme at present.

8.

Any Other Business / Close of Meeting

JB stated that this has been another active and productive year for the Partnership which will continue in Year 11. Additional proposals and ideas are welcome. It is worth considering whether there is anything more we could be doing to promote sustainable freight movement. Also, suggestions for interesting venues for meetings (which could possibly be combined with site visits) were called for.

SP stated that Recyke Y' Bike has been looking for donated cycles to be used in charity projects to alleviate poverty in Africa. It would be useful if a member of the partnership could assist in their transportation.

PD stated that this was the last meeting to be attended by MP. MP was thanked for his work for the partnership over the past 10 years and presented with a gift.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, the venue is to be confirmed. JB thanked Newcastle City Council for their hospitality and hosting the meeting, and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.