

**North East Freight Partnership****Date Held****6th June 2018****Venue****Northumbria University, Newcastle****List of Attendees and Organisation**

Morag White	WSP
Martin Murphy	NECTAR
Jim French	PD Ports
Andrew Carmichael	SENRUG
John Bourn	North East Combined Authority
Paul Davison	AECOM
Michael Page	AECOM
Graham Wood	Nixon Hire
John Cram	North Tyneside Council
Ann Wilson	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Malcolm Bingham	Freight Transport Association
Ron Pawass	Stockton Riverside College
Graham Scott	Nissan
Dr. Alireza Shokri	Northumbria University
Alex Farkas	Department of Work and Pensions
Amanda Mushing	Highways Agency
Malcolm Bingham	FTA
Tony Walker	NECTAR
Gendao Li	Northumbria University
Tom Zunder	New Rail
Mark Forster	Sunderland City Council
Nigel Cook	Elddis Transport
Nolan Grey	Port of Tyne

Apologies

Gordon Carr	CILT
Steve Bird	AG Barr
Ian Johnson	PD Ports
Dr Graeme Heron	Newcastle University
Paul Dixon	Highways England
Mark Goodwill	Highways England
Sarah Noble	Nissan
Bob Forster	Nicholsons
David Pentland	South Tyneside
Kate Cairns	See Me Save Me
Andrew Dorrian	NECA
James Turnbull	Durham County Council

Item Agenda 2: Introductions and Apologies

The chair welcomed all the delegates to the meeting, he asked the delegates to introduce themselves to those who were attending for the first time.

The apologies were read out of those not attending the meeting due to other commitments.

Item Agenda 2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed, reviewed and agreed.

Item Agenda 3: A Cook Book for Strategic Logistics Improvement, Dr. Alireza Shokri, Northumbria University

Dr Ali talked about the rationale for a 'cook book' theory hoping we would take away a few nuggets for strategic improvements in logistics.

He talked about the critical thinking in today's logistics sector, looking at operational value and waste and also mentioning the Logistics Bridge Model which includes logistics flow, capabilities and discipline. He explained some of the problems and complexities which could be experienced by some operations, which also enables power change from manufacturers to retailers and the ever-demanding customers. Unfortunately some operations don't know how to improve efficiencies, especially with the demands of the customer who want faster, cheaper and on-time deliveries.

One of the solutions to this is to apply systematic, rigorous and disciplined, data capture techniques which will drive sustainable improvement using the knowhow of the cook book, a step by step methodology of the Lean Six Sigma (LSS) system. Ali reported that a number of companies have applied this methodology and outlined the benefits and key success factors. He talked about practical improvements that could be implemented.

Ali took the group through two case studies of companies who had successfully applied LSS. One was to reduce lead time in a food distribution SME thorough implementation of a simplified version of Six Sigma methodology, the other a food supplier in a supply chain where the customer was complaining of poor packaging methods.

Agenda Item 4: Job Centre Plus (JCP) working with the Logistics Sector, Alex Farkas, Job Centre Plus

Alex Farkas is a Senior Account Manager for Job Centre Plus. His lead role is to work with the logistics sector working with the operators and the Freight Associations to consider and outline what can be done for the industry in relation to recruitment and skills.

He highlighted the challenges of a lack of appeal and understanding of the sector leading to poor candidate attraction, a lack of apprenticeship schemes and a skills shortage across all roles. This is exacerbated by an ageing workforce, dwindling labour supply and the sector growing.

He described how there are 33.24 million people in employment which is now the third highest in the EU. JCP currently offer an on-line service, recruiting young people and assist to recruit older people.

They are helping operators in the sector to recruit drivers and other roles to meet business needs, in

particular addressing local shortages with work academies and facilitating work experience placements.

JCP is working with the Road Haulage Association to ask operators to open up to the public so they may gain more knowledge of logistics.

There is a campaign to raise the profile on all aspects of logistics and improve opportunities for women in the sector. The aim is to better equip JCP staff to enable them to work directly with job seekers to raise awareness of the vast range of roles in the industry.

Item Agenda 5: Highways England and the Freight Sector, Amanda Mushing

Amanda Mushing works in the Customer and Operating Requirements Group (CORG) of the Customer Service Standards Division managing operator capability requirements, incident management, roadworks and occupancy and safety risk.

The former Highways Agency became Highways England in 2015 as part of the Roads Reform Strategy and is Government owned. This gives the department more flexibility for the £15 billion budget for 2015-20. Whilst this programme will cause short-term disruption it is calculated that for every £1 spent by the HE the public benefit is £3 and adding 400 mile of smart motorway makes roads safer and more efficient.

HE are aware that freight has an impact on the network and it is the HE's duty to consult with the industry to understand customer needs. In regards to the multi-modal transport, the use of alternative modes of transport is a priority, together with the reduction of commercial vehicle incidents by 20%.

To analyse and review these areas of improvement in the 1st year will be achieved with stakeholder engagement to understand the needs and expectation of the stakeholders.

Agenda Item 6: Overview of the North East Freight Partnerships Activities 2017-2018

Paul Davison talked the group through the current years tasks and how they were progressing.

FORS

In regard to FORS the numbers slightly up on August 2017 Bronze 157 (up 3) Silver 24 (up 2) Gold 12 Local Authority Fleet managers less responsive, FORS Community Partnership is chasing them to understand their reluctance to join. There is a workshop to advise on Going for Silver and Gold, this to be held on the 20th September at AECOM's Newcastle Office.

Mapping

The current mapping format is to be reviewed as the smart phone and other technology has surpassed the need for basic mapping, the use of the mapping on the website has consequently reduced.

Rail Freight Group

The group meets twice a year and is still proving to very popular and the latest meeting was held at Newcastle College Rail Academy in Gateshead on the 27th Feb 2018. The next meetings venue is 16th October 2018 at Lynefield Park, the former Alcan Smelter.

North East and Tees Valley Water Freight Group

The meeting was held on the 4th October 2017 at the Royal Navy Museum at Hartlepool. It was a great

success. Therefore we are actively seeking to host another event this year.

Terrorism, Risk and Incident Protection (TRIP)

The risk of terrorism in the UK is something that we all have to live with every day attacks, commercial vehicles are commonly used by terrorists as weapons, resulting in a large number of fatalities and casualties.

The North East Freight Partnership is fully funding CPC accredited TRIP courses to be held on the 23rd June and 29th September at Holiday Inn Washington, Emerson Road, NE37 1LB.

Brexit impact

With Brexit high on the countries agenda the Partnership will undertake an assessment of the likely impact on the region's freight and logistics sector.

Any other Business

John Bourn thanked all attendees for their attendance and contribution to the Partnership.

Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will occur in September 2018, location TBC.