



North East Freight Partnership

Date Held **10th January 2018**

Venue **Northumberland County Hall, Morpeth**

List of Attendees and Organisation

Mike Page	AECOM
Paul Davison	AECOM
Jim French	PD Ports
Kate Cairns	See Me Save Me
Bob Forster	Nicholsons Transport
Fran East	Fleet Source Limited
James Turnbull	Durham County Council
Martin Murphy	NECTAR
Ron Henderson	TT2
David Marshall	Sunderland City Council
Paul Gambrell	Energy Savings Trust
Sarah Noble	Nissan
John Coatman	Nissan
Keith Taylor	Northumberland CC
Andrew Carmichael	South East Northumberland Rail User Group
Marc Reimann	Northumbria University
Gendao Li	Northumbria University
Nick Caesari	Fleet Source Limited
Andrew Dorrian	NECA
Ron Pawley	Stockton Riverside College
Ruth Caborne	Stockton Riverside College

Apologies

Dave Pentland	South Tyneside Council
Tom Zunder	New Rail
Tony Walker	NECTAR
John Cram	North Tyneside

Item Agenda 1: 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

Minutes from the September 2017 meeting were reviewed and agreed. It was noted that TfN consultants could not attend this time and this item will be held until the next meeting.

<p>Item Agenda 3: Energy Savings Trust</p>
<p>Paul Gambrell presented on the role of the Energy Savings Trust, specifically related to the role of the Transport team. Services which are free (funded by DfT) range from;</p> <p>Green Fleet: identifying ways to make a fleet more efficient</p> <p>ULEV: Previously known as PIVI, this is around how to introduce ultra-low emission vehicles to their greatest effect,</p> <p>Air Quality Review: Profiling fleets and looking at the fleet’s performance and to better understand the implications of Clean Air Zones and the London Ultra Low Emission Zone to their fleet.</p> <p>Grey Fleet Review: Looking to review and reduce fleets, this could be encouraging car sharing or public transport, walking or cycling as alternatives to the vehicle,</p> <p>Freight Review: Looking at the impact of policy on the freight industry. Includes a snapshot at particular sectors and what policy changes mean.</p> <p>Anyone interested in these services can contact the Energy Savings Trust by visiting, http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/transport/fleet-services.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4: The Supply Chain Management Group, Dr Gendao Li</p>
<p>Dr Gendao Li presented on the supply chain management group and services that are offered by Northumbria University.</p> <p>The programme involves opportunities for students studying logistics management to go on placements and undertake research as well as business to work with the University on research opportunities and address questions through the clinics that are run.</p> <p>There were questions that in order to bolster those attending the undergraduate and postgraduate courses, there is a need for a collective effort to promote the sector more widely, linked to the actions which arose from the Freight Skills workshop in November.</p>
<p>Item Agenda 5: Terrorism Risk and Incident Prevention (TRIP)</p>
<p>Nick from Fleetsource reviewed the TRIP programme that has been set up by Fleetsource which increases awareness of threats that exist and enhances driver and employer roles and responsibilities when carrying out daily tasks and duties to reduce these risks.</p> <p>The course is very useful at raising awareness and taking simple steps to reduce risks including drivers being the eyes and ears on the ground to report any unusual activity.</p> <p>Further detail on the TRIP course is available at, http://www.fleetsource.co.uk/driver-training/trip/</p>
<p>Item Agenda 6: DfT Roads Consultations</p>
<p>Andrew Dorrian, presented three consultations which are currently live from Government</p> <p><i>Reforming the HGV Levy, A Call for Evidence: Comments by Weds 24th January</i></p> <p>This consultation launched in late November as a Call for Evidence for the potential reform to the Road User Levy. The current levy applies to heavy goods vehicles of 12 tonnes or more and is applied by DVLA at the same time as VED or by an online payment for non UK registered vehicles. The rates are applied based on banding of Vehicle Type, Weight and Axle Configuration. The government is posing the question of reforming the levy as they consider the current structure is limited in what it can achieve. As an example it doesn’t link to use of the network or impact on the road network and it doesn’t reward best practice in route operations and efficiency. As a result</p>

evidence is being sought as to what the reforms could be. The three main objectives that any reform should achieve include; encouraging individual HGV operators to plan more efficient route operation and use the most modern equipment, helping to drive more efficient use of our roads and reducing emissions which contribute to poor air quality and climate change. NECA are commenting and the deadline for response is next Wednesday before the comments are issued. There are 12 questions posed, available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661814/reforming-hgv-road-user-levy.pdf.

Roads Investment Strategy 2, Initial Report, Comments by Wednesday 31st January

Consultation launched in December for the Strategic Road Network Initial Report. This is the evidence behind the future RIS2 and is the first stage towards its development. NECA are commenting and the deadline for response is the 31st January. There are 10 defined questions in the document. All plans should have freight movements at their heart, including logistics companies / hauliers as key stakeholders. There is a drive for a more efficient and resilient highway network to improve journey times. Note the drive for Smart motorways / express roads but avoid any loss of access to the SRN. The plan recognises the drive towards technology to enable the roads revolution. We need to repeat the call for enhanced roadside facilities for freight drivers,

Major Roads Network: Comments by 28th February

Consultation launched in December for the creation of a Major Road Network. The Major Road Network is defined by a set of criteria, the purpose is to have a consistent Major Road Network across the country, MRN roads would be eligible for funding for schemes through the National Roads Fund. NECA are commenting and the deadline for response is the 28th February. There are 16 defined questions in the document. Using a defined methodology, the Government has established an indicative MRN which has largely been derived from the work within the original Rees Jeffreys report.

It is worth noting that Transport for the North through the initial major roads report suggested a MRN within the North. This looked at the connections of all major economic centres, prime and enabling capabilities as well as future growth areas. At the time of the TfN report the TfN MRN was more substantial than the DfT version and this appears to have continued. As the NECA we will likely be responding independently, however it is recommended that due to the evidence base for MRN investment being defined by TfN and the impending statutory status of TfN, our response generally aligns with the TfN response.

ACTION: All to send any comments to Andrew ahead of the deadline.

Item Agenda 6: North East Freight Partnership – Programme 2017-18

Paul Davison quickly outlined the programme of current tasks for the forthcoming year to the group, which includes:

Project Management, four Partnership quarterly meetings to be organised with associated PowerPoints, circulation of Agenda and meeting minutes. In the meeting the group receive reports on task progress, budget & output.

FORS has seen a growth in the number of companies overall

Freight on Rail continues the excellent work carried on from previous years by hosting Bi-Annual meetings at locations of interest, maintaining the high level of interest for the meetings. The next meeting will be held at the Newcastle College Rail Academy in Gateshead in February.

The Partnership will continue the beneficial Safe Urban Driving Courses (SUD) to the industry for HGV and Van drivers thanks to the FORS Community Partnership. There is funding to provide 6 SUD courses and 4 Van Smart courses with provision of facilities for the courses supplied by the Sunderland Training Centre. The course provides practical and theory on the vulnerable road user (VRU). Updates of online best practice materials can be accessed on the FORS website. The next Safe Urban Driving event is on the 20th January with the next Van Smart event on the 17th February 2018.

Promotion and Information Exchange for the Partnership is communicated to interested parties, through presentations, talking about the work undertaken by the Partnership, a twice yearly newsletter, an annual leaflet and maintaining the social media accounts Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

The website provides a wealth of information and of the work undertaken by the Partnership to the industry and will continue to update it with current information.

The Driver/Operator Awards award is putting out good news stories and to promote best practice to the Industry which is designed to create prestige among peers. They increase awareness of the freight sector. The awards will be publicised in the website and trade press. If anyone has any nominations, please get in touch with Paul Davison.

In the present climate the average age of the HGV driver is now 55. We will endeavour to tackle regional issues in the sector and create better connections between key stakeholders with enhanced understanding of associated issues and opportunities. We will take forward the action plan developed at the recent Skills workshop.

The North East's natural waterways, port infrastructure and long coastline mean that water freight is a key employer in the region and vital to its economic prosperity. Despite its strengths it is important that ports and rivers in the North East are as viable as possible and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the Northern Powerhouse initiative. A North East and Tees Valley Water Freight Group was organised at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, in October. We hope to organise follow up events

Transport for the North is projecting significant growth and it is important that those responsible for freight work together and we will arrange for regular updates to this group.

Any other Business

There was a call for volunteers to attend Stockton Riverside College's employer open day for students interested in freight and logistics. This is taking place on the 1st March. A freight flash with more details will be issued

Thanks go to Northumberland County Council for the use of their facilities for the meeting and to

Keith Taylor for organising.
Date and Time of next meeting
The next meeting will occur in March 2018 at the TT2 offices. Reception 10:00 for a 10:30 start.