

## South East Freight Council Minutes

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**Hermes House, St John's Road**  
**Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UZ**

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

- The meeting was chaired by Mike Sutton from Lime Logistics
- Members were advised of the code of conduct and guidelines at FTA meetings
- Roundtable introductions were made
- Minutes from the last council meeting were seconded
- Apologies were made on behalf of Highways England who were unable to attend and give their presentation on Operation Brock

### **UK COUNCIL REPORT**

- The update from UK Council included details on DVSA test availability, private testing, Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL) and Brexit

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Via the Secretary's Report members received an update on transport taxation, Clean Air Zones, OTC Review and Parallel MOT testing

### **REGIONAL ITEM – SOUTH EAST**

#### **Operation Brock**

- Apologies were given from Graham Russell who was unable to make a presentation on Operation Brock
- Heidi Skinner took members through Highways England's slides which outlined the phasing of Operation Brock and work that has been undertaken to keep Kent's roads moving in the event of cross Channel disruption after Brexit
- Members received an update on exemptions for East Kent operators entering Operation Brock
- Members discussed their concerns regarding access to facilities at Manston airport, particularly those who have refrigerated vehicles

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **BREXIT**

- Members received an update on the latest situation and discuss implications for logistics operations

### **ROADWORKS INFORMATION**

- Members discussed the potential shortcomings in information provision regarding roadworks from roads authorities, its effects on logistics, and what operators need in terms of future information provision
- Particular focus was given to roads in Beaconsfield and Detling where road closures lead to considerable delays and problems for businesses
- Members were keen to see more joined up thinking across Highways England and Network Rail when closures to the rail and road networks take place in close proximity to one another at the same time

### **BRAKE TESTING VEHICLES IN A LADEN STATE**

- Discussion focused on the consideration that is being given by the Traffic Commissioners as to whether more should be done to encourage that brake testing at inspections is conducted in a laden state, and if the long -standing acceptance that tri-axle trailers can be tested unladen at annual test should be reviewed
- Members had concerns that if a vehicle is tested laden and fails, someone has to work on the vehicle in a laden state which could be unsafe
- In addition, members discussed vehicles which would struggle to be tested laden, including a tow truck or car transporters
- Members also questioned how insurance companies would view this new process

- Members felt that morally testing laden is the right thing to do, but it is getting the practicalities right especially if it fails the test

### **DRIVER CPC**

- Members were asked to give feedback regarding certain elements within Driver CPC regulations that could potentially be affected by implementation of the EU Directive. These include use of work-based learning, e-learning and distance learning as part of course
- Members discussed splitting the hours across a number of weeks to offer more flexibility to drivers
- Many members felt group learning suited drivers better than e-learning, particularly those who may have dyslexia
- Members would be keen to be able to access DVSA data to see how many hours drivers have completed and what is still required.

### **PROPOSED BAN ON USE OF OLDER TYRES**

- Members discussed what should be the FTA's response to the DfT's upcoming consultation on banning the use of 10+ year old tyres on HGVs
- There was concern amongst members that this consultation will only look at HGVs many felt that vans and all vehicles should be included as they are all a risk to road safety
- Members were also interested in when the 10-year mark would begin – would this be from fitting?
- In addition, members were keen to learn how often re-treads would be allowed
- There was consensus that this is probably more relevant to specialist vehicles or those travelling short distances as most members are changing tyres on a very regular basis

### **DRIVERS' HOURS RECORDING IN MULTI-MANNING OPERATIONS**

- A clarification of the requirements for recording drivers' hours in multi manning operations has exposed operational challenges in the waste sector. The meeting explored if this affects any other operators
- Members highlighted that the removal sector and utilities will still have 2 drivers and need to be taken into consideration

### **HGV EXCELLENCE SCHEMES**

#### **a) Earned Recognition (ER) Benefits**

- Discussions focused on what future benefits would be required from ER to make it worthwhile for the logistics industry
- Members argued that they would like to see more upsides and incentives. Currently there isn't much 'carrot'
- Questions were raised as to whether it could be used as a mechanism to achieve FORS

#### **b) FORS Reform**

- Members discussed whether TfL's proposed reforms to FORS meet industry's requirements and reviewed FTA's proposals
- David Wells provided an update on his high-level engagement with TfL and the traffic commissioners
- Member expressed their frustrations with FORS and their strict criteria
- FTA highlighted a meeting TfL was held and called on members to attend
- Further details on the meeting to be supplied to members

### **PRESENTATION - Transport for the South East – Freight Study**

- Members received a briefing from Morag White from WSP on freight and logistics challenges being addressed by the Transport for the South East

**AOB**

- Members were informed of the next UK Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and the chair and officers present were asked about their attendance
- Members were informed that the next South East Freight Council will be taking place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the FTA offices in Tunbridge Wells

## ATTENDANCE LIST

### Chairman

Mike Sutton Lime Logistics

### Council Members

Steve	Allard	Gavigan Paving Ltd
Daren	Chandler	Brakes
Tom	Clubb	Pinden Ltd
Chris	Cooling	Day Aggregates
Simon	Croft	Day Aggregates
Shea	Duggan	Kindertons Accident Management
Zoe	Easters	Brewers
Paul	FitzPatrick	P&O Ferrymasters Ltd
Paul	Goss	Southern Water Services
Ronnie	Helen	Gravesham Borough Council
Andy	Higgs	Hailsham Roadway
Kelvin	Hilman	Southern Water
Gavin	Horsfall	Natiowide Platforms
Ian	Humphrey	Newham Council
Carl	Leader	Swain Group
Ian	Martin	Truline
Martin	Mittin	Southern Water
Clive	Nash	GIST Ltd
Peter	Pearce	ADM Milling Ltd
Kevin	Pritchett	Gate Gourmet
Chris	Rodwell	Post Office
Bill	Sedgeman	BTS Consultancy
Clive	Soper	FSB
Martin	Taylor	Clancy Docwra
Jerry	Ward	John Lewis Partnership
Ralph	Wilcox	Oaks Plant Hire
Jon	Williams	Kent Frozen Foods

### FTA staff and Guests

Heidi	Skinner	Policy and Public Affairs Manager
Becki	Kite	Policy Manager
Morag	White	WSP