

Minutes of South West Freight Council – 23 January 2019

Minutes of the South West Freight Council held on 23 January 2019
Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, Somerset

Chair

Brian Lomas

Breedon Southern Ltd.

Members

Ian Fortune

Bristol Waste

Mark Foster

Biffa

Gary Purps

DPD

Andrew Banks

Stone King

Martin Ware

Bath + North East Somerset Council

Paul Chesterton

Somerset County Council

Hayden Davies

Exeter City Council

Paul Willis

Gregory Distribution

Eddie Farley

Jefcare Services

Sam Hay

Backline Logistics

Martin Neal

Barratime Ltd.

Tom Yelland

Taunton DAF

Debs Hart

Truronian Coaches

Lee Horrocks

Truronian Coaches

Keith Pound

Ryder Ltd.

Gemma Lohmeyer

Always Cleansing Ltd.

Lois Robinson

Dave Robbins Transport Consultants

Guests

Sam Landrigan

Highways England

Jon Rosenthal

Portland (FTA Fuel Price Info. Service)

FTA Staff

Chris Yarsley

Secretary

Sally Gilson

Gino Falco

Apologies and Minutes

Apologies were recorded, and the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as the true record of the meeting. The meeting was reminded of FTA's policy on the conduct of meetings on commercial confidentiality.

Matters Arising

Members were given a report on the discussions at UK Council on Thursday 7 February.

Secretary's Report

Members were given an update on the following points:

- MAC Webinars – members were informed that Webinars would now replace Free Briefings through the year.
- MRN Review – members were given an update on the latest developments, following FTA submission to consultation paper.
- FORS Review – members were given an update on developments as the concession for FORS comes up for renewal and what FTA has fed into the review, to ensure real separation between standard setting and commercial operation of the scheme.
- Direct Vision Standard (DVS) – members were updated on the latest on implementation of DVS in London.
- HGV Testing – members were updated on the latest developments between FTA and DVSA on the issue of vehicle testing and how well DVSA is performing.
- EU rules for vans – members were updated on news that elements of Operator Licensing will be extended to vans operating greater than 2.8tonnes, following amendments to the EU Regulation.

Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL) – Priorities for development

Members had a discussion on the VOL system and what they would like to see change to improve it.

Members would like to see improvements in updates available to operators if documents are sent back in paper form. Members would also like to see an end of the paper disc but recognise that there might be issues for roadside inspections when using hired vehicles. There were issues around feedback from Leeds, that it could come back in paper or electronic form or sometimes both. The caseworker in Leeds might not be of a senior enough level to authorise a completed dossier so amendments might be re-sent back to the Operator and thus causing delays.

Ultra-low and zero emission roads/zones

Members reported that they were not aware of any of these zones being implemented in the South West area.

Bristol is looking to replace their refuse fleet but are experiencing delays in supply of vehicles (up to 4 years) as manufacturers target their resources into other vehicle types to cope with extra demand for E6 vehicles. DAF reported they are launching a new vehicle type for retail distribution that is circa 10-12 times cost of diesel equivalent. One member reported they received a quote for £75,000 for electrical infrastructure upgrade but as they are in a leased building, it is not sure they will have ROI on any investment. Members in the South West remain convinced that diesel will remain the sole way to propel vehicles in the area as the network isn't dense enough for charging in rural areas.

Highways England

Sam Landrigan gave a short presentation on Highways England and answered a few questions from members.

Coastal Shipping and port disruption

Members were given an update on the item but there was no further discussion on it.

Brexit preparedness

Members were asked about their levels of preparation for Brexit. DAF reported that they operate at maximum capacity at all times and parts arrive on the day of construction of that specific vehicle, and around 95% of parts arrive from a non-UK distribution centre.

Elections of representatives for UK Council

Members were asked to submit names for election as representatives of the Council at UK Council meetings.

AOB

One member asked about tachograph calibration with the forthcoming roll-out of the new 'smart tachographs'. There could be issues as vehicles arrive to have the Vehicle Unit (VU) fitted some three months before they become legal but there has been a delay in VU production by the manufacturers. The chassis of the vehicle might not be able to be certified due to a delay in the VUs being available.

Date and time of next meeting

1000 on 10 April at Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford.