

Road Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 08 February 2024 at One Great George Street

ROAD/24/01 Chair's Welcome

Apologies were received and noted.

The Chair asked Council for a formal note of thanks for Dave Rowlands, who has stepped down as the Chair of the West Midlands Freight Council.

ROAD/24/02 Meeting conduct and competition law compliance

Council was directed to the relevant page in the Policy Report.

ROAD/24/03 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 November were adopted.

Members were informed of the pause in work on Traffic Commissioner Function review.

Guest Speaker Grace Shaw – Senior Policy Advisor – National Infrastructure Commission

The NIC informed Council of the initial stages of a Connected and Autonomous Mobility study, which could last for a year, that would focus on areas where government has a role to play on this subject. The study would focus on private motorists but there might be use cases for freight and PSVs.

Members then held a Q&A session with the NIC covering topics:

- Questioned why focus of study on private cars when freight and logistics is more organised and uses more fixed routes. Private cars spend most of the day parked and not utilised as opposed to commercial vehicles.
- Freight would be able to derive increased benefits, especially from level 4 autonomy zero tail pipe vehicles, as fleet use can be optimised, especially if no driver is needed.
- Infrastructure would need to be of a sufficient standard to permit use of CAVs; and would need greater alignment between national and local governments due to split ownership. Night closures for maintenance would need to be factored in.
- The role of the person in the vehicle needs to be addressed. Will regulators allow a 44tn vehicle on the road network with no driver aboard?
- Not all vehicles will become AVs, and not all delivery patterns will change with AVs, some movements will remain the same and this shouldn't be forgotten.

Guest Speaker Simon Cordery – Places for London (PfL)

PfL, TfL's property management arm, reported on their proposals for a study of the land owned by TfL which could be used for electric vehicle charge points for commercial fleet use.

Comments from members were on following points:

- The reservation of charging places would be key to developing future subscriptions and a dynamic reservation system is under consideration.

- The local infrastructure has known challenges in certain areas, e.g. west London, and Pfl is discussing with DNOs on grid upgrades.
- The cost differential, due to differing VAT rates, from home charging to on-street charging, will need to be looked at if this market were to grow.
- Pfl would need to offer cast-iron guarantees to the logistics sector as confidence with TfL is very low at present.

ROAD/24/04 Secretary's Report

Members received updates on the Direct Vision Standard, the Budget submission. Members then received an update from the CEO on Executive Membership.

ROAD/24/05 Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness refresh

Members agreed to the positions put forward following regional Councils and decided on the following actions:

- 1) Engage with GTMR stakeholder group to discuss:
 - a) Options to raise communications of the revised version.
 - b) Emphasis its legal position.
 - c) Obligations on 3rd party maintenance providers.
 - d) Adding guidance on AdBlue monitoring.
 - e) Adding 5th wheel maintenance.
- 2) Look to clarify wording issues – brake testing.
- 3) Discuss with DVSA version control, for revised versions.

ROAD/24/06 Operator Licensing – Post Implementation Review (PIR)

In advance of a PIR submission on operator licensing, members held a discussion on how they felt the GB o-licence regime worked, and if there was a need for future change. It was not a decision-making discussion.

Comments from members covered:

- The syllabus could be refocused on maintenance and servicing, and away from, for example, financial issues, including encouraging the ability to read a brake test report. A Transport Manager (TM) does not need to know everything but should know where to go for an answer.
- The Statutory Documents offer a strong signal as to what Traffic Commissioners are looking for, and the syllabus should reflect these more.
- The TM CPC could be split into National and International, as per pre-2009, which could create space in the syllabus for more relevant subjects.
- On Financial Standing, members have not been able to use other methods of proof as Traffic Commissioners still prefer to see bank statements.
- The TM CPC requires no formal CPD, although it is *de facto* required, so this could be addressed in future.

ROAD/24/07 Road Safety priorities

Council agreed the following priorities:

- Championing and showcasing best practice
- Building relationships with stakeholders (Police, National Highways, charities, other membership bodies)
- Detailed work with van operators
- Incorporating safety 'asks' into national infrastructure campaigning
- Monitoring road safety data

ROAD/24/08 Election priorities for nations and regions

Members were given a presentation on the launch of the various manifestos for regional and national elections in 2024.

ROAD/23/20 Any Other Business

- None submitted

ROAD/23/21 Date and time of next meeting

09.30 Thursday 06 June 2024 at One Great George Street.

Attendees

James Adcroft (Chair)

Karl Wilshaw

Kevin Barcroft

Pip Bains

Carl Hughes

Andrew Woolfall

Ian Jarman

John Burbridge

Adam Purshall

Norman Harding

Mark Smith

Chris Paul

Mark Sutcliffe

David Owen

David Wilson

Justin Laney

Simon Allitt

Paul Needle

Jim Valentine

David Brown

Darren Wilson

James Adcroft

Karl Wilshaw

Kevin Barcroft

Pip Bains

Carl Hughes

Tesco

Travis Perkins

CMS Supatrak

Pip Bains Consulting

Hughes Driver Training

Backhouse Jones

Owens Group

Turners (Soham) Ltd.

Menzies Distribution

L.B. Hackney

Aldi Stores

EH Smith Builders Merchants Ltd.

Marshalls Fleet Solutions

Royal Mail

DW Consulting

John Lewis Partnership

AB Agri Ltd.

Smith & Son (Bletchington) Ltd.

JRV Consultants on behalf of The British Shop

MRCT

DPD

Tesco

Travis Perkins

CMS Supatrak

Pip Bains Consulting

Hughes Driver Training

Logistics UK staff

Chris Yarsley

David Wells

Secretary

Chief Executive

Jonathan Walker
Michelle Gardner
Phil Lloyd
Ben Garrett

Head of Policy - Infrastructure
Deputy Director - Policy
Head of Policy – Engineering
Deputy Director - Public Affairs