* **Introduction**

Council Chair, Peter Woodhouse, opened the meeting, welcomed members and the Traffic Commissioner, Kevin Rooney (KR), and reminded members of the need to adhere to competition law at all times. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, following a request for one amendment, which has now been reflected in the minutes from the January 2024 council meeting.

* **Secretary’s Report**

Josh Fenton (JF) gave an overview of the secretary’s report including Road Council, other Logistics UK councils and working groups. JF gave an update on national policy issues such as Border Target Operating Model – Common User Charge, EU Entry/ Exit Scheme (EES), National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) study on connected and autonomous mobility (CAM), driver CPC and manual entries on tacho.

* **External Presentation – Kevin Rooney, Traffic Commissioner for the West of England.**

The Office of the Traffic Commissioners (OTC) for Great Britain is moving. Hillcrest House has been sold and OTC is moving to central Leeds in July/August.

KR discussed review of the Transport Manager Qualification. TM CPC syllabus – overview of work done in background to push for the changes that are now being worked upon. Make it more relevant to knowing what to ask.

KR gave an update about the changes being made to the VOL system. VOL – Top 75 Government Service; Mandating digital continuations; messaging functionality (to be switched on soon).

KR discusses his work with stakeholders on the Workshop Rating Scheme, which is now going to be trialled. The Commercial Vehicle Workshop Rating Scheme was born out of Logistics UK TM session. KR considered the progress to be really good news.

KR gave a West of England update. Home to school transport issues, some awful things being seen and revocations taking place; insolvencies, definite uptick in new licences as bust companies have gone into administration etc; Limited drivers; Devon & Cornwall and Dorset police joint commercial vehicle unit.

* **Regional items**

Members are made aware of the roll out for 20mph in Cornwall. Some concerned that it could make the journeys take longer, but members were happy that Cornwall has not followed the approach taken in Wales.

* **Agenda Items**

**Transport Manager CPC syllabus**

Chris Yarsley (CY) gave an overview of this item, and the Chair posed the set questions to the council.

Q1 Industrial relations – tedious, one question but many different slides. This could have its weighting reduced. Self-employed drivers; manual entries. Members mentioned the importance of the guide to maintain road worthiness, and how the information within that is the most important. Road safety and fair competition should take top billing. Some transport managers have not done the Driver CPC, so will lack the practical experience.Need to know where to go and find the information. More practical application of real-world situation in the questions would be beneficial to applicant.

Q2 Rules for specialised transport – members felt this didn’t need to be part of the core Transport Manager syllabus.

Q3 – Some members liked the split between National and International. But the majority were against the split. TM split – general support for holding status quo. Issues with splitting highlighted, however.

Q4 – Members struggled to see the need for a restricted license. Members do not think this will work. Restricted – same obligations but no requirement for qualified person, strange situation.

**Safe System and Vision Zero**

JF gave an overview of this approach and system and how it is now part of road safety. The Chair posed the set questions to the council.

Q1 – Yes, members felt they understood the Safe System/ Vision Zero approach, however members felt that they don’t really form part of the process just follow it closely as road safety is key to industry.

Q2 – Currently, members only follow it, but they would like to be more involved at earlier stages at a local and regional level.

Q3 – Yes, members agreed that the measures introduced to follow Vision Zero were fair for some network improvements, however some members felt that there has been too much pressure placed on commercial vehicles and the logistics sector for safety equipment which is not fair.

**Removal of requirement for Plating Certificates**

CY gave an overview of this item, and the Chair posed the set questions to the council.

Q1 – Yes members agree to digitise plating certificates. Members felt this is the direction the industry needs to go.

Q2 – Members asked would there be some form of access requirement for ‘general public’. Tyre fitters would like to see this if called out to a vehicle – so access to the information would be rightly required but checks and balance is good. Member comments that plating information is being included into in-house driver app information.

Q3 – Member raises issues in the scenario that a third-party trailer pick up takes place in the middle of the night? What would happen here? Driver pack could still retain the copy of the document. How third parties access the information would need to be clear.

**Skills priorities**

JF gave an overview of this item, and the Chair posed the set questions to the council.

Q1 - yes members felt that there were still issues in recruiting, training and retaining both HGV drivers and vehicle technicians.

Q2 – Members have to pay their staff more. For both driver and non-driving salaries.

Q3 – Members also mention there is a struggle for non-HGV drivers. These tend to be older drivers. Shortage of tire fitters and vehicle technicians. Members felt there are not enough logistics courses offered in the area. There is a shortage of trainers to offer the courses.

Q4 – There are not enough senior people to pass on knowledge for alternative fuel vehicles. In the medium and long terms this needs to be addressed.

Q5 – Members thought that it was surprising but agreed to the proposal the requirement to hold a provisional bus, coach or HGV license to undertake the theory and off-road modules of the DCPC test could be removed.

* **AOB**

Julie Richards (Logistics UK, MRM) gave an update on upcoming events for members such as the South West of England Transport Manager.

**The date of the next South West Freight Council is Wednesday 2 October 2024.**

**Attendees**

Peter Woodhouse (Chair) – Stone King LLP

Josh Fenton (Secretary) – Logistics UK

John Phelps – Grundon Waste Management Ltd

Dave Roberts – M Group Services Plant & Fleet Solutions Ltd

Louise Barnes – Wessex Water Services Ltd

Derek Jennings – Day Aggregates

Dominic Palmer – Corserv Solutions Ltd

John Walsh – Smiths News Trading Ltd

Martin Caddick – Bradfords Building Supplies

Mark Davis – Ford Fuels Ltd

Mark Hope – AB AGRI Ltd

Paul Willis – Gregory Distribution Ltd

Dave Robbins – Dave Robbins Transport Consultants

Lois Robinson – Dave Robbins Transport Consultants

Kevin Rooney (Guest Speaker) – Traffic Commissioner

Dan Crutchington – Logistics UK

Martin Candish – Logistics UK

Chris Yarsley – Logistics UK

Julie Richards – Logistics UK