

East Midlands Freight Council Minutes

Thursday 2 February 2023, 08.00 – 11:30

Holiday Inn Derby Nottingham, Bostocks Lane, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5NJ

INTRODUCTION

- The meeting was chaired by Allison Kemp MBE of A. I. M. Commercial Services Ltd.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- New attendees were welcomed.
- Members were reminded about the competition law compliance guidance on page 4 of the Policy Report.

UK MODAL COUNCILS & SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Members received a report from the Road Council meeting held on 3 November 2022 and updates from the Rail, Water and Air Councils, forums and working groups. Members were also updated on the progress of other issues including the Senior Traffic Commissioner's clarification around the specifying of vehicles on VOL; the Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness; Direct Vision Standard phase 2; the UK Government's Chief Medical Officer's report on air quality and Logistics UK's new Policy Team structure.
- The Chair asked if Kate Jennings could attend the next East Midlands Freight Council

ACTION: DB agreed to forward the invitation to Kate Jennings.

ACTION: Members with concerns about the Senior Traffic Commissioner's consultation directed to send to Chris Yarsley cyarsley@logistics.org.uk.

- Members reported concerns about MOT certificates and differing number plates when cherished number plates are used; guidance from MOT engineers stating this is acceptable as long as the VIN matches.

REGIONAL ITEMS

Members were updated on the A46 Newark Bypass consultation, Sheffield CAZ, Cambridge Road User Charging Proposals and A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet.

Members expressed concern about the way CAZ areas are publicised.

EXTERNAL PRESENTATION

Chris Douglas, Technical Director of Freight at WSP UK and Alexandra Dodds, Principal Policy Officer at Midlands Connect gave a presentation on their Freight and the Economy Programme and a discussion followed covering:

- Access to transport energy and recognition that energy networks will be as important as roads.
- Availability and suitability of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoint spaces for vans.
- Many public chargepoints are broken or unsuitable for vans.
- Differences in energy prices when using the cost of private charging network versus the public charging network. Members reported differences of up to £1 per unit price variation.
- Minor accidents for EVs resulting in insurance write-offs.
- Midlands Connect are running a large EV infrastructure project with 5 local authorities to provide more cost-effective public charging and with greater coverage.
- They are also building a forum of more senior influencers for the key strategic national issues.

The research and analysis will be completed by end of April and members were encouraged to engage to support the research. Engagement with members was welcomed.

ACTION: DB to circulate slides to members and facilitate contact between WSP, Midlands Connect and members who wish to participate in the research.

AGENDA ITEMS

ROAD TRANSPORT (WORKING TIME) REGULATIONS

Views were sought from members on the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005, which implement European Directive 2002/15/EC, and limit the total amount of work (driving and other work) that can be carried out by drivers in-scope of the retained EU drivers' hours rules. This piece of legislation is specific to mobile workers who were excluded from the main horizontal Working Time Directive (WTD):

- The rules should be left the same but clarified.
- Important to retain WTD to ensure drivers that do other work, take breaks as members felt that without WTD, some drivers would try to work very long hours.
- The new rules for casual drivers did not seem to be fully understood. There was also concern about what would happen for drivers operating domestically and internationally.

TRAILER REGISTRATION

Members' views were sought on the subject of trailer registration, which has been mooted regularly, despite there being no mandatory requirement for trailers used solely within the UK to be registered:

- Trailer registration was opposed by members and individual infringements should be dealt with and prosecutions pursued by VOSA through the operator in charge of the truck rather than introducing an industry wide regulation.
- There were concerns about the costs involved and additional administrative burdens.
- Members did not want to see trailers specified on VOL.

DECARBONISATION – TRANSITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

Members discussed the third topic for the net zero standing agenda item at Freight Councils. Feedback was sought on transitional fuels and technologies that can support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on the journey to net zero by 2050:

- Member report that plans to move to biodiesels have been shelved due to increased costs of the fuels.
- Supply shortages were problematic.
- Acknowledgement that manufacturers have put in a lot of new engine technology to enable use of biofuels. Most members felt that regardless of increased costs of fuels, there were still benefits to introducing them into their operations.
- Consistent pricing and taxation are required to support business planning and transitions, also to encourage resilient fuel supply.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIC ROAD INVESTMENT IN ENGLAND

To shape Logistics UK's response to the House of Commons Transport Committee call for evidence on how well Government/National Highways has managed strategic road investment under RIS2 and what the priorities should be for future investment, members were asked to provide their views:

- A4/A6 was now very good, despite problems for one member with a depot in the area of the roadworks.
- Roundabouts on the A52 between the M1 and Nottingham have been well designed for trucks.
- Members complained about the A5 cancelled work; many HGVs take that route and there is currently a lot of queuing.
- A38 crossing at Jct 28 of the M1, leading to vehicles diverting to Clay Cross and causing problems when exiting the M1 at that junction north and southbound.
- Mansfield to Sutton is a problem route with a lot of junctions where the layout changes from two lanes to one lane at traffic lights.
- M6 jct 10 (Walsall/Wolverhampton now has very poor flow away from the roundabout.
- Members asked if the consultation about the A1 from Newark northwards is likely to be included in RIS3.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- At the West Midlands Freight Council meeting held on 1 February, Pip Bains had expressed a wish to attend Road Council as an East Midlands Freight Council representative. He had been as unable to attend the East Midlands FC meeting. Members agreed to his request and looked forward to seeing him at the next meeting of the East Midlands Freight Council in May.

ACTION: DB to let Pip Bains know his request to attend Road Council as a representative of the East Midlands Freight Council was confirmed.

- Attendees for next Road Council meeting on 5 May were confirmed as:
 - Allison Kemp MBE, A. I. M. Commercial Services Ltd
 - Carl Hughes, Hughes Driver Training
 - Bob Sands, Prompt
 - Pip Bains, LinkLine
- Members were unhappy with the venue for the meeting. It was not big enough and there had been problems prior to and during the meeting with set up, furniture and power supply. It was agreed the next

meeting should be held at a different venue if possible. Suggestions were made including Morley Hayes Golf Course or the Hilton at East Midlands Airport.

ACTION: DB agreed to contact Logistics UK's events team to pass on the comments and concerns about the Holiday Inn Derby Nottingham and provide members' venue suggestions.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4 May, 08:00 – 11:30, followed by a member briefing 12:30 to 14:00 – venue to be confirmed.

Meeting concluded at 11:35

ATTENDEES

Chair

Allison Kemp MBE

A. I. M. Commercial Services Ltd

Members

Mark Bailey

TIM Commercials

Ross Baxter

Sciensus Pharma

Richard Black

PPRS Ltd

Steve Brunt

Bolsover DC

Dale Clark

Forterra Building Products Ltd

Carl Hughes

Hughes Driver Training

Craig Kimberlin

EVRl

Mark Lee

Kal Tire

Leanna Miles

AS Miles Consulting

Adam Revitt

Longcliffe

Bob Sands

Prompt

Kevin Smith

GXO Supply Chain UK

Nicky Smith

Broxtowe BC

Wayne Stroud

Encore

Stuart Tideswell

TIM Commercials

Mick Tucker

Noble Foods

Adrian Wanford

Balfour Beatty

Staff

Denise Beedell

(Secretary) Senior Policy Manager

Josh Fenton

Policy Manager - Trade, Customs and Borders