

Greater London Freight Council minutes

Tuesday 23 January 2024
09:30 – 12:30
18 Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ

INTRODUCTION

- Norman Harding opened the meeting.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Members were reminded by the Secretary about the competition law compliance guidance.

GUEST SPEAKER – JORN PETERS – GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

- Jorn Peters, as principle strategic planner, for the GLA gave an overview on the work being undertaken within the GLA on the review of the London Plan, expected to begin after the London Mayoral election in May 2024, which will look at, *inter alia*, protections afforded, in the planning system, to industrial land. The GLA holds the strategic role in the discussions with the London boroughs in setting the overall policy, and ensuring that all outputs are joined up.
- The role of definitions will play a key part of one section of the London Plan – with the question of what is the function of industrial land and how can its demand be managed.
- Members were asked to consider the question ‘Why do they need to be in London?’, as this is where the GLA will need evidence from members as to why industrial land should need future protections from other sectors, most notably residential. The role of the strategic planner is to create balance in the competing demands on land.
- Members were able to offer their examples which included subjects such as following:
 - The further distance express parcels need to travel increases the challenge of using EVs and cargo-bikes.
 - Use of the Agent of Change principle to defend existing industrial land in case of new residential development.
 - Construction firms, such as cement deliveries, need short and frequent journeys, rather than longer, given the nature of the load carried.
 - There was general concern given about recent ministerial announcements about the use of brownfield land and what those announcements could mean in the future.
 - Electrification needs to be brought out more in the review of the London Plan, given the sheer nature of legacy logistics land that is unsuitable for large-scale electrification.
 - Class E in the planning system. This is a relatively new classification to enable speedy changes in use in land in town/city centres, but which could see industrial land converted into office land without resorting to the planning system, so could result in a reduction in industrial land.

Secretary’s report

- Members discussed the meeting of Road Council on 9 November and recent meetings of modal councils and working groups. Updates on other issues including Driver CPC, the Budget, and Direct Vision Standard, including TfL indicative programme for DVS up to 2030.

AGENDA ITEMS

A2 Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness (GTMR) refresh

- Members were given an update on all recent changes to the Guide and what the 2024 refresh is designed to do, in preparation for the 2025 introduction of mandated laden brake testing. By and large, members were satisfied

that the document is fit for purpose given level of input from Logistics UK in the planning meetings. There was an appeal for the document to remain available in a PDF version but this could be ending in near future as government moves to the use of HTML gov.uk for all publications.

- One addition that would be welcomed would be an explanation as to what has been changed, and maybe text is highlighted to be easily identified as having been changed.

A3 Road Safety priorities

- Members held a discussion over the road safety priorities that were explained at the start of the piece. Most comments related to standards of van driving, and drivers, given that it is a mostly unregulated sector that has expanded greatly over the last number of years.
- Comments about what could be done to combat poor driving ranged from offering incentives for better performing drivers to encourage them to increase their standard, through to lowering the regulatory threshold from above 3,5 tonnes to a lower figure to bring them into scope of regulatory oversight.
- One member commented on the role of the insurance market and if it was prepared to continue to pay out for vehicle repairs over the longer-term or if it would raise premiums to such an extent it forced van drivers to change their behaviours.

A4 Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) refuelling and recharging

- The role of DNOs was highlighted as one of the keys to unlocking work to help members install EV equipment at their base of operations.

GUEST SPEAKER – PHILIP LAPCZUK AND DELLA READ – DVSA ENFORCEMENT POLICY TEAM

- The DVSA officials outlined the London Freight Enforcement Partnership and how this cross-agency initiative works to target the non-compliant operators on London's roads.
- There was a brief discussion on the future of laden brake testing and the role of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 plays in determining what needs to be tested and how.

A1 Election priorities for nations and regions

- Members were presented the draft London Manifesto which will be launched at the beginning of February. One comment for consideration of inclusion was to reference the 2025 end date for the EV exemption in the central congestion charging zone and the ULEZ and to call on the Mayor to push back this date to continue to give an incentive for people/operators to switch to EVs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- None was notified.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 15 May 09:30 – 12:30 (finishing with lunch). Location to be confirmed.

ATTENDEES

Chair

Norman Harding

LB Hackney

Members

John Saunders

Constantine Ltd.

Sarah Bell

UPS

Tony Lenihan

Wilson James Ltd.

Attehea Iqbal

Wilson James Ltd.

Vlad Lakvell	LB Tower Hamlets
Sarah Maxwell	City of London
David Wilson	DW Consultancy
Ben Hodgson	DHL
Chris Cassley	Construction Plant Association
David Smith	Construction Plant Association
Robert McIlveen	Mineral Products Association
Steven Willis	DPD Group UK
Jim Chappell	TRL
Robert Constant	Company of Watermen & Lightermen
Kevin Dell	EH Smith Builders Merchants
Andy Miles	AS Miles Consulting Ltd.
Jim Valentine	Consultant - The British Shop
Mark Robinson	WFL – Watson Fuels

Guest Speakers

Jorn Peters	Greater London Authority
Philip Lapczuk	DVSA
Della Read	DVSA

Logistics UK

Chris Yarsley	Secretary
Michelle Gardner	Deputy Director of Policy
Edward Jones	
Ellis Shelton	
Natalie Chapman	
Mariefi Kamizouli	