

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 – Wrightington Hotel, Wigan

Welcome and Introductions

Carl Milton chaired the meeting

The Chair welcomed members and asked for attendees to introduce themselves.

Minutes of last meeting

No comments or feedback from members regarding minutes from the previous council meeting.

Guidance on conduct of Logistics UK meetings (competition law compliance)

Members were advised to familiarise themselves with the guidance for conduct of Logistics UK meetings involving members.

Guest Speaker

The Chair advised members that the intended guest speaker, Lucy Hudson from Transport for the North (TfN), was unable to attend the meeting as planned due to illness.

In the speaker's absence, Jonathan Walker gave a brief overview of TfN's work to date in developing a new Strategic Transport Plan for the North of England and Logistics UK's involvement. Members were encouraged to keep an eye out for the launch of the consultation relating to this plan and to provide feedback to the Logistics UK policy team.

Secretary's Report

Jonathan Walker updated members on various items including:

- Decisions taken at the last Road Council
- Updates on recent multi modal councils and working groups.

Members who wish to know more about the groups should contact the following:

Rail, Water and Air Councils: Ellis Shelton eshelton@logistics.org.uk

Warehouse Working Group: Jonathan Walker jwalker@logistics.org.uk

Customs & Trade Council and Shippers Council: Nichola Mallon nmallon@logistics.org.uk

Van Policy Working Group and Environment Working Group: Denise Beedell dbeedell@logistics.org.uk

Innovation Working Group: Emily Wood ewood@logistics.org.uk

Scottish Skills Group: Jonas Keat jkeat@logistics.org.uk

A question was raised regarding the implementation of new Direct Vision Standards (DVS) in London and the difficulty this was causing in planning new fleet investment. Jonathan Walker advised of the latest developments in that process and a further update will be provided in due course.

ACTION: update on DVS to be provided at the next NW Freight Council

Regional Items

Full details of regional items can be found in the policy report.

[A9 Dualling](#)

Further to the summary given earlier, Jonathan Walker also updated members on attendance at the Transport for the North annual conference in Newcastle.

Agenda Items

A1 – MOT testing for earned recognition operators

Phil Lloyd gave an overview of potential proposals to introduce new MOT testing options for earned recognition operators. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. Members questioned whether Traffic Commissioners would be supportive of these changes, particularly in relation to extended testing periods, or would continue to enforce existing standards. Delegated testing was the most popular option presented. Improving DVSA's service level seemed vague.
2. There would be significant economic benefits to delegated testing given the current difficulties in securing slots. There is also a need for a better, aggregated ATF system for booking tests.
3. Members were unsure as to whether this would encourage more Earned Recognition applications, especially as Traffic Commissioners appear to be using ER standards as the norm.

A2 – Compliance standards for lighter trailers

Phil Lloyd gave an overview of the paper, which sought to develop Logistics UK's position on standards for lighter trailer maintenance, following interest in the issue from an All-Party Parliamentary Group. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. Most operators follow a scheduled maintenance and inspection programme for their lighter trailers at around 12-13 weeks, alongside daily safety checks. This should be sufficient to maintain the safety of the trailers.
2. Members raised concerns over any potential MOT-type test for small trailers. Reasons included the likely need to implement trailer registration to track results and the potential cost implications.
3. However, there was some support for stronger formal guidance on best practice for trailer maintenance and a desire to see better enforcement of existing safety rules by the police and DVSA to improve standards.

A3 – Smart motorways

Jonathan Walker gave an overview of the paper, which sought to update Logistics UK's position on smart motorways, following recent announcements. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. Overall members supported Logistics UK's stance on smart motorways with some refinements. Members raised concerns regarding response times to incidents on these roads and the speed with which lanes are closed. There was also a desire for better, more frequent driver information systems and overall safety improvements.
2. Members would like to see a more widespread public education campaign, alongside better enforcement of the rules to improve driver behaviour.

A4 – Retained EU Legislation

Jonathan Walker updated members on the progress of the Bill which is intended to deal with EU-derived legislation which has remained on the UK statute books since Brexit.

Members were asked what (if any) legislation they would like to see removed during this process and what areas of improvement they could identify.

Overall, members highlighted the UK's role in a much larger EU market and the need for inter-operability to ensure continuity of business. There were also concerns raised regarding divergence between UK and EU regulations and whether this would harm competitiveness over time, as well as the risks of new regulations needing to be 'tested' in courts and tribunals.

A5 – 'Last mile' urban logistics

Jonathan Walker gave an overview of the paper, which is the early stages of Logistics UK developing its position on issues relating to the decarbonisation of urban logistics. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. The cost effectiveness of electric vehicles is difficult to justify at the moment, especially with concerns over range. Charging infrastructure must improve in terms of both quantity and reliability to give businesses confidence to invest.
2. Infrastructure spreads beyond DfT, with power supply to depots and other facilities a major issue for those looking to develop larger EV fleets.
3. There is a need to align policy far better – ADR was given as an example whereby EVs cannot be used. The UK must develop a long term strategy.

AOB

Members requested that the Traffic Commissioner is invited to a future meeting. **ACTION: Logistics UK to issue invitation**

Date and venue of next meeting:

Wednesday 4 October

13:00 – 16:00 (Lunch from 12:00)

Wrightington Hotel

ATTENDANCE LIST

Present	Also in Attendance
<p>Carl Milton – Cemex UK Ltd Peter Heston – Travis Perkins Tony Greenhalgh – Sutttons Alan Robertson – DX Freight Phil Donnelly – DX Freight Craig Fisher – EMR Ltd Darren Scott – EMR Ltd Paul Bozward – Abbey Logistics Group Andy Wilkinson – Warrington Borough Council Neil Shacklady – Warrington Borough Council Karl Williams – AO Andrew Woolfall – Backhouse Jones David Smith – Warrington Borough Council Peter Jardine – Westmorland & Furness Council Andrew Johnson – Cumberland Council Dan Bestwick – Bunzl Craig Duddle – Bunzl Steven Lightfoot – B&M Retail Syd Parkinson – Fresh Start Waste Services Lisa Robertson – Chemical Business Association Philip Samosa – Ribble Valley Borough Council David Owen – Royal Mail</p>	<p>Phil Lloyd – Logistics UK Jonathan Walker – Logistics UK Ally Salter – Logistics UK Martin Candish – Logistics UK</p>