

### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2023 – Wrightington Hotel, Wigan

#### Welcome and Introductions

John Thomas 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

John Harker MBE, General Manager at Veterans into Logistics, spoke to members about the important work the charity does in supporting forces leavers to enter careers in the industry. Members heard about the services Veterans into Logistics can offer to businesses, including recruitment and selection, training and ongoing support.

Darren Wright, founder, also shared his personal journey from leaving the army, through working in logistics, to setting up the charity.

Members who had worked with the charity spoke positively about the quality of candidates they had employed and the loyalty demonstrated by forces leavers when given a chance to start a new career. A copy of the presentation will be distributed with the meeting minutes.

#### 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](mailto:eshelton@logistics.org.uk)

Warehouse Working Group: Jonathan Walker [jwalker@logistics.org.uk](mailto:jwalker@logistics.org.uk)

Customs & Trade Council and Shippers Council: Nichola Mallon [nmallon@logistics.org.uk](mailto:nmallon@logistics.org.uk)

Van Policy Working Group and Environment Working Group: Denise Beedell [dbeedell@logistics.org.uk](mailto:dbeedell@logistics.org.uk)

Innovation Working Group: Emily Wood [ewood@logistics.org.uk](mailto:ewood@logistics.org.uk)

Scottish Skills Group: Jonas Keat [jkeat@logistics.org.uk](mailto:jkeat@logistics.org.uk)

Following an action raised at the last meeting, Jonathan Walker updated members on the introduction of new Direct Vision Standards in London. A set of technical specifications for the Progressive Safe System have been published, but concerns remain over the cost to businesses and the readiness of the market to supply and fit new technologies. Members reported that it was a challenge finding installers to do the work and were worried that this may cause a problem in being able to be compliant in time.

Members were also invited to provide feedback on the guidance covering the introduction of longer semi-trailers and Smart Tacho 2.

## **Regional Items**

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

Jonathan Walker updated members on the recent announcement by the Prime Minister that the Birmingham-Manchester leg of HS2 would be cancelled, with a series of local transport investments promised in its place. Members broadly shared Logistics UK's disappointment with this announcement and raised concerns about the likelihood of the promised 'Network North' projects coming to fruition.

## **Agenda Items**

### **A1 – Windsor Framework and Border Target Operating Model**

Jonathan Walker gave an overview of new trading arrangements between GB-NI and EU-UK. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. There is still a great deal of uncertainty as to how these arrangements will work in practice and how they will be enforced.
2. Members queried whether these arrangements would lead to a distortion in the market and make it more attractive for companies to use Republic of Ireland-based hauliers.

### **A2 – Parking restrictions**

Jonathan Walker introduced the agenda item, which was intended to stimulate a discussion and gather member feedback as Logistics UK considers its position on parking issues. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. Members recognised the issues set out in the report and agreed that in many areas restrictions are placing barriers on their operations and parking some way from the delivery point, requiring a lot of manual handling, is causing issues.
2. Many businesses working in London and other cities have come to see parking fines as an unavoidable cost of doing business and reaching their customers. Operators' responsibility to employees in relation to health and safety and manual handling is understandably given greater weight.
3. Logistics UK should work to understand where responsibility lies for new restrictions on housing developments and should call for a planning system that enables companies to make deliveries effectively.

### **A3 – Statutory role for Fleet Engineers**

Phil Lloyd presented the item to members, which sought to explore the changing role of the Fleet Engineer and whether, as autonomous logistics becomes a reality, this role ought to be become statutory within the licensing regime. Members responded to the questions posed in the Policy Report:

1. Members appreciated the greater demand for this from the PSV sector and questioned whether this would be more a case of upskilling Transport Managers, as well as warning of the risk of unintended consequences by seeking greater levels of regulation. However, there was a recognition that autonomous and other technologies will require a greater degree of engineering expertise and knowledge.
2. Members employing fleet engineers recognised and appreciated the value they bring, particularly in relation to understanding and managing 3<sup>rd</sup> party maintenance providers.
3. Members were concerned that these proposals would be an additional burden on smaller operators and any changes would need to bear this in mind and potentially offset costs through amalgamating or amending alongside the role of the Transport Manager

#### **A4 – Schengen immigration restrictions**

Jonathan Walker updated members on the introduction of the new EU Entry/Exit System, which is likely to lead to increased enforcement of the 90-day maximum stay for UK nationals in the EU in any 180-day period. While no members felt they would be directly affected by this, they expressed concern about the implications for hauliers and other operators working in the EU. Members stated a desire for an exemption for drivers who are transiting through EU countries.

#### **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 (TBC):**

Wednesday 24 January

13:00 – 16:00 (Lunch from 12:00)

Wrightington Hotel

## ATTENDANCE LIST

Present	Also in Attendance
John Thomas - Sellafield Mat Smith – Sunbelt Rentals Tony Greenhalgh – Suttons John Blane - TIP Paul Bozward – Abbey Logistics Group Andy Wilkinson – Warrington Borough Council Neil Shacklady – Warrington Borough Council Andrew Woolfall – Backhouse Jones Dave Lea – Bunzl Craig Duddle – Bunzl Philip Samosa – Ribble Valley Borough Council David Owen – Royal Mail Liz Thompson – Asda Neil Merrifield – Veolia Dave Seddon – Polyflor	Phil Lloyd – Logistics UK Jonathan Walker – Logistics UK Ally Salter – Logistics UK Darren Wright – Veterans into Logistics John Harker – Veterans into Logistics Ian Battersby – Veterans into Logistics