

South East Freight Council minutes

Tuesday 15 October 2024
09:30 – 11:30
On TEAMS

INTRODUCTION

- The meeting opened with a roundtable of introductions.
- Members were reminded by the Secretary about the competition law compliance guidance.

Secretary's report

- Members discussed the meeting of Road Council on 6 June and recent meetings of modal councils. Updates on other key national policy issues including developments on the Maintenance Provision Rating Scheme; the Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness; the EU EES and ETIAS.

GUEST SPEAKER – Emily Kingston and Laura Carleton – TfL Land for Logistics

Members received a presentation from Transport for London (TfL) and the Places for London, the property arm of TfL, project on unlocking land owned by TfL for logistics that is not suitable for conversion to residential land. This land will enable safer, cleaner and more efficient freight within the capital.

The presentation contained a sample selection of parcels of land across central, inner, and outer London and sought members views on what they would need to bring similar sites in London online for logistics use.

Member feedback:

- Members asked which form of transport operation was being targeted, with reply being all sizes and types of operator being encouraged to participate.
- Would the sites have restrictions placed upon them? This would only be known at the end of the process.
- Replenishment issues: EV charging capacities.

TfL asked members to get in contact with them to set up 1 to 1 meetings where much deeper discussions could take place. The slide deck and contact details will be circulated with the minutes.

South East issues

- London Lorry Control Scheme: members welcomed the announcement of a new campaign to be launched in early 2025 to push for a review of the Scheme, given the high negative externalities it causes. Members will be encouraged to supply data sets on routing plans in London. If the scheme cannot be scrapped, then look to exemptions for electric vehicles and/or a review of the restricted network.
- Direct Vision Standard Phase 2: members were given an update on the latest lobbying on DVS, including on bulk grace period applications, doubling of grace period, and obligations on TfL for any Phase 3 development.
- Lower Thames Crossing DCO: members were informed of Logistics UK negative view of the postponement of the decision to proceed with the LTC until May 2025.

AGENDA ITEMS

A1 4.25tn Call for Evidence

Members were presented with what Logistics UK believed was an imminent Call for Evidence on the regulatory threshold of 4.25tns that was expected until the election. This would be in addition to legislative work needed to fulfil the OZEV announcement on the repeal of 5 hours of mandatory training, and a prohibition on towing a vehicle.

Possible policy subjects would include drivers hours rules; digital tachograph rules; MOT testing at N2 level instead of N1.

Member feedback:

- There are significant costs to install a digitach into a van, circa £11-1400 per vehicle plus the costs of calibration.
- There would be considerable challenges both operational and financial in educating drivers with retained EU Hours rules.
- The road worthiness rules on testing will be a significant challenge to overcome, with HGV testing already being a tight market.
- Logistics UK policy position of reviewing the 3.5tn threshold was supported once more.
- Members are primed for a request of evidence should the Call be released by the DfT in the near future.

A2 Impact of Zero-Emission Vehicle Mandate on fleet renewal

Members received a presentation from on the zero-emission mandate and the possible implications for fleet operators in procurement decisions and discussions with OEMS. Vehicle manufacturers now face a target of 10% of sales being zero-emission at the tailpipe this year, or face fines. This mandate increases each year to reach 70% by 2030.

Member feedback:

- Member felt there was increasing pressure from the OEM to purchase ZEV even if it doesn't fit business model.

A3 Road User Charging (RUC)

Members were presented with the new draft Policy Position on road user charging that seeks to update the 2021 policy statement, this can be found in the Policy Report.

Member feedback:

- Members agreed with the statement of principles contained in the document.

A4 Member feedback on Councils

Members then had a discussion on their views on the current set up for Freight Councils and what suggestions they would offer to help increase attendance; what they would wish to see on agenda; who they would wish to see as a guest speaker.

Member feedback:

- Member would like more information on internal movements with staff at Logistics UK.
- Traffic Commissioner or Deputy always draw a crowd for attendance.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- None was notified.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 29 January 09:30 – 12:30. Location to be communicated.

ATTENDEES

Members

Warren Rowe	M Group Services
Eugen Iliuta	Thames Water
Sally Dixon	Manston Airport (representing)
Ken Bianchi	Ocado
Ian Laughlin	Calor
Jerry Ward	John Lewis Partnership
Lazar Uchkunev	WB Chambers
John Steward	Smith News
Peter Pearce	ADM Milling
Matthew Stratton	Birketts LLP
Paul Fitzpatrick	P&O Ferrymasters

Guest Speakers

Emily Kingston	TfL
Laura Carleton	TfL

Logistics UK

Chris Yarsley	Secretary
Chris Lipscombe	
Natalie Chapman	
Nik Pettifor	