

## South East member meeting minutes

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Wednesday 29 January 2025

09:30 – 12:30

Salomon's Estate, Broomhill Rd, Tunbridge Wells

### INTRODUCTION

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

### Secretary's report

- Members were updated with details from Road Council on 7 November 2024 and recent meetings of modal councils. Updates on other key national policy issues including the open consultation on regulatory thresholds for BEVs up to 4.25tns.

### GUEST SPEAKER – Mark Valleley – Transport for the South East (TfSE)

Mark Valleley gave members a presentation into the work and organisation of TfSE, and how it fits into the national scene of Sub-National Transport Bodies. There is a significant amount of reorganisation of local government, through devolution settlements, which will see changes in the south east region, and elections in coming years to the new authorities.

TfSE recently opened a public consultation into its Transport Strategy for the region and members were encouraged to complete their own replies. The draft strategy sets out the vision for the region, which is supported by three goals: economic; social; environmental. These goals will be achieved through work on five pillars: strategic connectivity; resilience; integration and inclusion; decarbonisation; sustainable development.

Logistics UK offered the possibility for a future meeting on their work on freight awareness in planning, and this will be followed up in due course.

### MAC Update

Martin Candish presented an introduction of, and an update from the MAC, with a horizon scan for the next three months. Members were shown an analysis of what calls the MAC has been receiving in last months, with drivers hours being the subject most members asked questions about.

### South East issues

- London Lorry Control Scheme: members were informed that an industry meeting will take place on 6 February as the first step in obtaining the data required to lobby London Councils for a change in the restrictions.
- Direct Vision Standard Phase 2: members were asked to send in any comments they have from the initial period of Phase 2, from October 2024.
- Members were reminded about the need to register their vehicles, in advance, for the autopay facility for the new river crossings in London.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A1 Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review**

Members received a presentation on what took place in the 2024 Budget and a forward look to the Comprehensive Spending Review to be held later in 2025.

#### **Member feedback:**

- Employer NI rise will subdue any recruitment activity and will ripple down the supply chain, as third parties absorb the increase and could exit business.
- NI would lead to a hiring freeze which could have implications for ability of firms to conduct operations safely.
- Inheritance tax changes will negatively impact on smaller, family run firms.
- The CPA highlighted need for full expensing on hire/lease investments.
- Lessons from HS2 need to be learnt on Lower Thames Crossing decision.
- Administration costs of working with DVLA could be minimised through digitisation.
- Government should move forward with self-testing for ER operators, and trust industry more.

### **A2 Speed limits**

Members held a discussion on speed limits, prompted by recent changes in different limits in Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall.

#### **Member feedback:**

- Members deal with speeding drivers when picked up through telematics, rather than a roadside enforcement measure.
- Lower speeds equates to increased journey times and also possibly increased number of vehicles on the road.
- An imposition of a blanket 20mph, compared to a targeted zone around sensitive areas, led to overall compliance dropping.

### **A3 Graduated driving licences (GDL)**

Members discussed the subject of GDL, among recent public discourse, and the possibility that it could emerge in any future road safety strategy. It was made clear to members there were no firm proposals on the table for discussion.

#### **Member feedback:**

- Members agreed that vocational licence holders should not face restrictions placed upon newly qualified drivers, except on alcohol in blood, but rather have better oversight.
- Members felt that newly qualified drivers could be offered the Pass Plus, or equivalent, course to gain experience.

### **A4 Domestic drivers' hours (DDH)**

Members held a discussion on the domestic drivers' hours regime and if they would wish to see a possible review of the definitions used within it. This was the result of discussions with DVSA which is looking at the subject, members were informed that there were no concrete proposals at the time.

#### **Member feedback:**

- Members felt there would be a benefit in clarifying the definitions used in the DDH regime, such as 'adequate rest'.
- Members held different views as to the use of a rolling work period, compared to a fixed calendar day, with some preferring the flexibility this offered, and others stating that a fixed day would be easier to understand.
- All would prefer to see the ability to log DDH on an app based system, rather than continue to use the logbook.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- None tabled.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 22 May 09:30 – 12:30 (finishing with lunch). Logistics UK HQ, St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells.

## ATTENDEES

### Name

Paul Goss

### Company

The Clancy Group – Chair

### Member

Gary Canning

G. Canning Consultant TM

Warren Rowe

M Group Plant + Fleet Solutions

Daren Chandler

Brakes

Danny Rollins

BOC

Ian Laughlin

Calor

Jerry Ward

JLP

Lily-Peach Roberto

Lime Logistics

Martin Taylor

The Clancy Group

Chris Cassley

CPA

Suki Jassal

Calor

### Speaker

Mark Valleley

TfSE

### Staff

Chris Yarsley

Sarah Watkins

Sally Scarlett

Rob Smith

Dom Fawls