

West Midlands Freight Council Minutes

Wednesday 1 February 2023, 09.00 – 12:00

Best Western Plus Windmill Village Hotel, Birmingham Road, Coventry, CV5 9AL

INTRODUCTION

- The meeting was chaired by Dave Rowland of Wincanton.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- New attendees were welcomed.
- Members were reminded about the competition law compliance guidance on page 4 of the Policy Report.

UK MODAL COUNCILS & SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Members received a report from the Road Council meeting held on 3 November 2022 and updates from the Rail, Water and Air Councils, forums and working groups. Members were also updated on the progress of other issues including the Senior Traffic Commissioner's clarification around the specifying of vehicles on VOL; the Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness; Direct Vision Standard phase 2; the UK Government's Chief Medical Officer's report on air quality, the new Policy Team structure and relocation of Leamington Spa office to Cubbington in Coventry.
- A discussion followed about the Senior Traffic Commissioner's statutory documents consultation. As more information became available it would be published in enews. Members asked if information could be obtained about relevant prosecutions, reasons and appeals results.

ACTION: DB agreed to look into whether information about relevant prosecutions, reasons and appeals results could be obtained.

ACTION: Members with concerns about the Senior Traffic Commissioner's consultation directed to send to Chris Yarsley cyarsley@logistics.org.uk.

REGIONAL ITEMS

Members were updated on the A46 Newark Bypass consultation, the new Charging Zone in Bath City Centre and the current status of the Manchester Clean Air Zone.

Members commented that charging zones charges cannot easily be passed on to customers.

EXTERNAL PRESENTATION

Chris Douglas, Technical Director of Freight at WSP UK and Jason Cooper, Strategic Plan Programme Delivery Sponsor at Midlands Connect gave a presentation on their Freight and the Economy Programme and a discussion followed covering:

- The need to provide key milestones on the programme for decarbonising transport up to 2050
- The discussions taking place between WSP and Midlands Connect, and consigners, freight buyers, energy networks (for road and rail infrastructure) and connections to transport energy supply.
- WSP and Midlands Connect links to DfT, other sub-regional transport bodies and local authorities across England and eventually Scotland and Wales.
- Areas that suppress growth, such as skills, workforce and infrastructure

The research and analysis will be completed by end of April and members were encouraged to engage to support the research. Engagement with members was welcomed and members agreed that a list of companies represented at the meeting be shared with Midlands Connect.

ACTION: DB to circulate slides to members and facilitate contact between WSP, Midlands Connect and members who wish to participate in the research.

ACTION: DB to send list of companies attending the meeting to Chris Douglas.

AGENDA ITEMS

ROAD TRANSPORT (WORKING TIME) REGULATIONS

Views were sought from members on the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005, which implement European Directive 2002/15/EC, and limit the total amount of work (driving and other work) that can be carried out by drivers in-scope of the retained EU drivers' hours rules. This piece of legislation is specific to mobile workers who were excluded from the main horizontal Working Time Directive:

- Members agreed the regulations need to be reformed and should be rationalised into a single set of rules.
- The 6-hour rule, statutory holidays and 48-hour average should be kept. WTD provides some checks and balances and there was a moral and ethical obligation to do this properly.
- The August 2020 amendments which require full records to be kept, were a problem for casual drivers and discussions indicated that some of the changes may not be fully understood across the sector.

TRAILER REGISTRATION

Members views were sought on the subject of trailer registration, which has been mooted regularly, despite there being no mandatory requirement for trailers used solely within the UK to be registered:

- There was no consensus about whether it should be introduced.
- Additional costs and the need to change the regulations about displaying a registration on a trailer could be challenging as a trailer is not necessarily owned by the tractor operator.
- The VOL system would need to be kept up to date to allow for frequent short notice transfers of responsibility.
- There was uncertainty about how a trailer could be SORN'd in the yard and also general concerns about how trailer registration could work in practice. A suggestion was made to find out how this was managed in Germany.

DECARBONISATION – TRANSITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

Members discussed the third topic for the net zero standing agenda item at Freight Councils. Feedback was sought on transitional fuels and technologies that can support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on the journey to net zero by 2050:

- Price parity would encourage investment – currently additional costs are being absorbed by businesses.
- Hydrogen fuel supplies are difficult to obtain.
- Electric capable cranes are running on diesel at Tilbury docks due to a lack of available power.
- General consensus that the refuelling infrastructure, pricing and taxation must be in place and set up in a consistent manner.
- Heavier vehicle weights are necessary to maintain payload. Local issues such as weight carrying capacity on bridges will need to be resolved.
- 6 members at the meeting were using HVO.
- Members requested information about how to claim carbon-credits, acknowledging that this was not yet available for road vehicles yet.
- It was reported that the earliest that Mercedes Benz will bring a hydrogen vehicle to market is 2027.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIC ROAD INVESTMENT IN ENGLAND

To shape Logistics UK's response to the House of Commons Transport Committee call for evidence on how well Government/National Highways has managed strategic road investment under RIS2 and what the priorities should be for future investment, members were asked to provide their views.

- Members requested more time to study the details.

ACTION: Members to feed back comments to Jonathan Walker on jwalker@logistics.org.uk.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Julie Davies of Amey, asked members about their eye-sight policies excluding screen work policies.

ACTION: Members to send details to dbeedell@logistics.org.uk

- Attendees for next Road Council meeting on 5 May were confirmed as:
 - Dave Rowlands, Wincanton
 - Colin James, DPD
 - Mark Smith, Aldi Stores Ltd
 - Karl Wilshaw, Travis Perkins
 - Chris Paul, EH Smith

Pip Bains expressed a wish to attend Road Council as an East Midlands FC representative. He was unable to attend the East Midlands FC meeting due to be held on 2 February.

ACTION: DB agreed to put forward Pip Bains' request to the East Midlands FC meeting on 2 February.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3 May, 9:00 – 12:00 Best Western Plus Windmill Village, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9AL, followed by a member briefing in the afternoon between 13:00 and 14:30.

Meeting concluded at 12:15

ATTENDEES

Chairman

Dave Rowlands

Wincanton

Members

Pip Bains

Sarah Batchellor

Sandra Cooksey

Julie Davies

Anna Griffin

Mel Harper

Alan Hurst

Colin James

Steve Kirby

Andrew Knight

Martin Linwood

Avi Mann

Nick Marshall

Linda McGlinchey

Chris Paul

Rob Preece

Daniel Price

Andy Ray

Jon Robbins

Aaron Shepherd

Mark Smith

Mark Walton

Karl Wilshaw

Linkline Logistics

NFU

The AA

Amey UK Ltd

Culina Group

Wayfair

National Grid

DPD

Morgan Sindall

DX Network Group

Severn Trent Water

TLP Recruitment

Cobley Transport

Sainsburys

EH Smith Builders Merchants

One Stop Stores Ltd

One Stop Stores Ltd

European Metal

Rivus

Nene Warehouse Solutions

Aldi Stores Ltd

Severn Trent Water

Travis Perkins

Staff

Denise Beedell

Josh Fenton

Hannah Gowlett

Phil Lloyd

Laura Windridge

(Secretary) Senior Policy Manager

Policy Manager - Trade, Customs and Borders

Membership Relationship Manager

Head of Engineering Policy

Membership Relationship Manager