

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport

Thursday 25 November 2021, 13:00

Draft Minute

Present

MSPs

Graham Simpson MSP (chairing)
Sarah Boyack MSP
Liam Kerr MSP
John Mason MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Brian Whittle MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Calum Fisher (office of Neil Bibby MSP)
Josh Hill (office of Graham Simpson MSP)
Hollie Cameron (office of Paul Sweeney MSP)
Olivia Pullman (office of Evelyn Tweed MSP)
Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland)
Colin Howden (Transform Scotland)
David Prescott (Allan Rail / Grand Union Trains)
Christina Jones (Centre for Scotland and Israel Relations)
Andrew Lindsay (CPT Scotland)
Paul White (CPT Scotland)
Jim Densham (Cycling UK in Scotland)
Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland)
Chris Day (Edinburgh Bus Action Group)
Richard Ardern (Friends of the Far North Line)
Ian Budd (Friends of the Far North Line)
Thomas Cornwallis (GoBike)
Frank Roach (Hitrans)
Ken Haig (Levenmouth Rail Campaign)
Heather Noller (Network Rail Scotland)
Denise Marshall (Pedal on Parliament)
Kerry Mosson (Quantum Communications)

Tom Dickson (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland)
Max Eaves (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland)
Stewart Leslie (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland)
David Giles (Scottish Association for Public Transport)
Arthur Homan-Elsy (Scottish Association for Public Transport)
Dave du Feu (Spokes)
Patrick Miner (The University of Edinburgh)
Suzanne Forup (Women's Cycle Forum Scotland)
Christine McGlasson (Xplore Dundee)
Marc Winsland (Xplore Dundee)

Apologies

Sue Webber MSP
Stewart Maxwell (CalMac)
Paul Tetlaw (Capital Rail Action Group)
Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland)
Jim Harkins (Light Rail Transit Association)
Edward Rowlandson (LNER)
Mike Harrison (Midlothian Disability Access Panel)
Ian McCall (Paths for All)
Chief Inspector Mark Patterson (Police Scotland)
Allison Cosgrove
Lawrence Marshall (Railfuture)
Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland)
Steven Stewart (Stagecoach)
Peter Knight (Stagecoach Bluebird)

Welcome and introductions

Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland) opened the meeting at 13:00, and handed over to the meeting chair, Graham Simpson MSP, who welcomed those present.

Apologies for absence

These are noted above.

Purpose

The chair noted that this initial meeting had been convened in order to establish a new CPG in Session 6. The invitation to join had been issued to all MSPs as well as members of the Session 5 CPGs on Rail and on Cycling, Walking & Buses.

The new CPG still has to be approved by the Parliament, but he was confident that it would be confirmed. The chair was keen that this should not be a 'talking shop' as there was considerable concern about lack of progress in previous groups.

The chair proposed the following Purpose for the CPG:

“To raise the profile of sustainable transport, with a particular focus on cross-modal issues, within the Scottish Parliament, and to promote policies and priorities relating to sustainable transport.”

DECISION: To approve the CPG’s Purpose.

DECISION: To seek the formal approval of the CPG by the Parliament.

ACTION: Graham Simpson’s office to seek formal approval from the Parliament.

Officebearers

John Mason MSP proposed that the CPG have one Convenor, and then a Vice-Convenor from each of the other parties.

Graham Simpson MSP was proposed as Convenor.

Sarah Boyack MSP was proposed as Vice-Convenor.

John Mason MSP was proposed as Vice-Convenor.

Mark Ruskell MSP was proposed as Vice-Convenor.

Transform Scotland was proposed as the secretariat organisation.

DECISION: The CPG’s Officebearers & Secretariat were agreed.

Membership

The following were proposed for membership of the CPG:

Sarah Boyack MSP
Liam Kerr MSP
John Mason MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Graham Simpson MSP
Brian Whittle MSP
Allan Rail
CalMac
Capital Rail Action Group
CPT Scotland
Cycle Law Scotland
Cycling Scotland
Cycling UK in Scotland
Edinburgh Bus Action Group
Friends of the Far North Line
GoBike

Grand Union Trains
Hitrans
Levenmouth Rail Campaign
Light Rail Transit Association
LNER
Midlothian Disability Access Panel
Network Rail Scotland
Paths for All
Pedal on Parliament
Rail Action Group, East of Scotland
Railfuture
Ramblers Scotland
Scottish Association for Public Transport
Spokes
Stagecoach
Transform Scotland
Women's Cycle Forum Scotland

A number of others had expressed an interest in membership (this included: Sue Webber MSP, Evelyn Tweed MSP, Paul Sweeney MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Stagecoach Bluebird, Xplore Dundee); additions to the CPG membership from these or others would be considered at subsequent meetings.

DECISION: The CPG's membership was agreed.

Work programme

Colin Howden (Transform Scotland) indicated that it was a regret that the Session 5 CPG Cycling, Walking & Buses had had modest demonstrable impact. He saw the principal explanation being the lack of a focussed work programme, which led the CPG to head off into some rather irrelevant tangents.

It was proposed that the new CPG will:

1. Conduct significant pieces of work with demonstrable impact.
2. Develop an outline five-year work programme. This would include agreement on expected outputs from the group's work (e.g. the preparation of a report akin to those prepared by the Parliament's Committees).
3. Concentrate on scrutinising the Scottish Government's 20% traffic reduction target, as introduced in its Climate Change Plan update of December 2020. This would be the focus in year 1 and potentially into year 2.

The year 1 work programme will be implemented through:

1. Evidence sessions with experts on the topics of:
 - traffic reduction policy, generally

- traffic demand management
- modal shift: walk, cycle, bus, rail
- freight & logistics

2. The preparation of a report containing commentary on the evidence received, and to work with the MSPs to prepare a series of recommendations based upon this.

DECISION: The proposal from Transform Scotland was agreed as the CPG's work programme.

Discussion followed, and various suggestions were made regarding other topics that could be addressed; these included: ferries; rural transport; planning policy; parking policy; planning & investment at local level; micromobility.

Dates for subsequent meetings

Colin Howden proposed meetings in January, March, May & June 2022. The chair highlighted that this may need some revision in light of the May local authority elections. It was agreed that Transform Scotland would liaise with Graham Simpson's office regarding confirming a programme of meetings.

DECISION: To hold a series of meetings in the first half of 2022.

ACTION: Transform Scotland to prepare programme of meetings in liaison with Graham Simpson's office.

Close of meeting

The chair closed at the meeting at 13:30.

Minutes

Draft minutes prepared by Colin Howden on 06/12/21.