

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport

27 January 2022, 13:00

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Graham Simpson MSP

John Mason MSP

Brian Whittle MSP

Invited guests

Guest speaker Heather Cowan, Head of Climate Change and Just Transition for Transport, Transport Scotland.

Non-MSP Group Members

Ioanna Hadjicosta — attending on behalf of Mark Russell MSP

Calum Fisher — attending on behalf of Neil Bibby MSP

Josh Hill – Scottish Conservative Staff

Heather Cowan (Transport Scotland) — speaker

Phil McCluskey (Transport Scotland) — speaker

John White (Transport Scotland)

Steven Stewart (Stagecoach)

Alastair Dalton (The Scotsman)

John Yellowlees (Heritage Railway Association)

Mark Dowe (CoMoUK)

Claire Daly (Sustrans Scotland)

Helen Todd (Ramblers)

Mike Harrison (Midlothian Disability Access Panel)

Andrew Lindsay (CPT)

Valerie Davidson (SPT)

Bruce Kiloh (SPT)
Jim Harkins (Light Rail UK Group)
Thomas Cornwallis (GoBike)
Paul McKay (ScotRail)
Gavin Thomson (Friends of the Earth Scotland)
Ken Haig (Clear Fife)
Ian McCall (Paths For All)
Denise Marshall (Pedal on Parliament)
Paul Tetlaw (Capital Rail Action Group)
Dave du Feu (Spokes)
Jane Ann Liston (STARlink)
David Collins (Cycling Scotland)
Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland)
Ian Budd (Friends of Far North Line)
Richard Ardern (Friends of Far North Line)
Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland)
Rachel McFarlane (Transform Scotland)
Colin Howden (Transform Scotland)
Elspeth Wray (Transform Scotland)
Chris Day (Edinburgh Bus User Group)
David Giles (Scottish Association for Public Transport)
Vic McKinlay (Light Rail Transit Association)
Ed Rowlandson (LNER)
Andrea Thompson (SPT)
Chris Thompson (Living Streets Scotland)
David Kelly (Community Transport Association)
Iain MacDonald (Light Rail Transit Association)
Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland)
Tom Dickson (Rail Action Group East of Scotland)
Stewart Leslie (Rail Action Group East of Scotland)
David Hansen
Lynsey Shovlin (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland)
David Hunter (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland)
Rachael Murphy (CoMoUK)
Matthew Ledbury (CoMoUK)

Christine McGlasson (Xplore Dundee)

Jim Densham (Cycling UK)

Apologies

Sarah Boyack MSP

Mark Ruskell MSP

Liam Kerr MSP

Sally Hinchcliffe (Pedal on Parliament)

Suzanne Forup (Cycling UK)

Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland)

Isobel Leckie

Heather Noller (Network Rail)

Stewart Maxwell (CalMac)

Catriona Burness (RNIB Scotland)

Lawrence Marshall

Welcome and introductions

Graham Simpson MSP opened the meeting at 13:00, and handed over to the session's speaker, Heather Cowan.

Graham Simpson MSP noted that he met with the Standards Committee and the Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport is now an officially recognised CPG by the Scottish Parliament.

Approval of minutes and action points

The Convenor Graham Simpson MSP asked for the approval of the previous minutes from the 25th of November 2021 meeting. These were approved.

Apologies for absence

These are noted above.

Purpose

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.

The specific purpose of this meeting was to discuss Transport Scotland's 20% car km reduction route map.

Officebearers

At the previous meeting, 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 present as Convenor.

John Mason MSP was present as Vice-Convenor.

The remaining two Vice-Convenors, Mark Ruskell MSP & Sarah Boyack MSP, had sent their apologies for this meeting.

Transform Scotland was present as the secretariat organisation.

Membership

Members 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

The following were proposed for membership of the CPG:

Patrick Miner (individual)
Friend of the Earth Scotland
CoMoUK
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Disability Equality Scotland
St Andrew's Rail Campaign (StARLink)
Community Transport Association (CTA)
Heritage Railway Association
Light Rail UK Group
Mobility & Access Committee for Scotland (MACS)
Transport Focus
Sustrans Scotland
RNIB Scotland

DECISION: The CPG's additional members were agreed.

Speaker Heather Cowan:

Before Heather Cowan proceeded, it was noted by Graham Simpson that she would not be answering any political questions at the meeting.

Heather presented Transport Scotland's 20% car km reduction route map.

She first established the necessity for this policy, the benefits it would bring (e.g. climate mitigation, reduced air pollution, safer streets) and then considered how Transport Scotland sought to implement change.

As part of this, Ms Cowan talked about the importance of achieving behaviour change so that more people shift their travel usage to active and public modes. She discussed how this might be achieved through:

- Demand management (pricing)
- Sustainable travel hierarchies
- Journey avoidance
- Electric vehicles
- Just transition
- Perception change to insight change
- Support for change
- Policy intervention (through collaboration with CoSLA, and understanding that people's individual behaviours are shaped by their material and social environment)
- Understanding the nuances between national and local levels, and how the policy may be implemented differently depending on place and space (i.e. rural experience different from urban)

Q&A session

Graham Simpson MSP then invited comments and questions.

A range of questions were posed to Heather and her colleague Phil McCluskey.

The themes included:

Active travel

- Cycling couriers

- Access to public and active travel routes
- Accessibility

Public transport

- Covid recovery and the role played by bus within this
- How bus companies will be supported by the government to achieve this modal shift
- Access to public and active travel routes
- Cost of public transport
- Ticketing
- Trams & Metro systems (e.g. its success in Nottingham)
- Accessibility

Behaviour change

- Importance of adopting both carrot and stick methods to achieve change
- Importance of scale and speed of change that is needed

Cars

- Parking and the importance of communicating with local authorities about this
- Car parking spaces
- Road pricing
- Car sharing
- Reducing car usage overall, not just during rush hours

Other

- Town centre rejuvenation
- Vehicle type and the impact they have (e.g. SUVs being worse)
- 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Implementing a multi-modal approach for longer journeys (e.g. cycle to train station)
- Improving basic infrastructure such as pre-existing roads, pavements, and kerbs
- Just transition

Any other business

None.

Dates for subsequent meetings

Graham Simpson MSP invited Colin Howden (Transform Scotland) to advise the Group regarding dates for subsequent meetings. He advised that these would be:

24/02/22

31/03/22

26/05/22

Speakers would be confirmed in due course and advised to the group via the email list.

Close of meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14:00.

Minutes

Draft minutes prepared by Rachel McFarlane (Transform Scotland) on 28.01.22.