

## **APSE Transport & Mechanical Services Advisory Group**

**Wednesday 22 October 2014**

**Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow**

### **1. Introduction & Welcome**

The APSE Transport & Mechanical advisory group Chair Cllr Alistair Watson thanked all for attending today's meeting in Glasgow and briefly outlined the format of the meeting which would take the form of a number of discussions.

### **2. Attendance & Apologies**

See attached.

### **3. Minutes of**

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting on the 26 February 2014.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

### **5. Discussion Topics**

Following agreement at the meeting of the group at the Aviemore Fleet, Waste & Grounds event, this meeting would provide an opportunity for all to discuss and debate any issues which they wished to bring to the table. A number of topics were highlighted prior to the meeting and these included:-

- paying vehicle excise duty for vehicles and how different authorities handle this and with the changes coming on stream
- Procurement of fleet in bulk – currently exploring bulk purchase and phased delivery with short life then resale
- Taxi legislation – currently undergoing a review of vehicle type, private / general & meters
- Taxi/Hackney Mot's – Council in house service or external provider?
- Views on sweating assets through shift operations and implications for Maintenance, Roadworthiness and downtime
- Road Fund Licences – Effect of having no physical disc on display and setting up a PFA (Pre Funded Account)
- Web based MOT testing system – Effects of implementing this on IT infrastructure
- Social & Educational Transport Operations - Delivery models - current and in the future

- Tyre contracts: Pricing, kerbing bands & quality
- Benchmarking for vehicle groups
- ASL bus drivers - changes to driver working patterns to better reflect the needs of the service
- ASL bus drivers - generating new business to fill previously unproductive parts of the working day

A number of discussions were undertaken during the meeting and some of the main points raised included:-

### **Taxi legislation**

From those attending the meeting it was agreed that different areas/ local authorities all seemed to be doing things differently when it comes to taxi testing & specification. The group highlighted that perhaps it would be useful for a multi agency working group to be formed with the possibility of the group working towards an agreed set of specifications which all local authorities used.

The group also discussed the different enforcement rules for black cab and private hire as well as the different tariffs across local authorities which are set via licensing committees.

Emil Laiolo, Secretary of the APSE advisory group opened an invitation up to those in attendance to visit Glasgow's taxi centre.

There was also a discussion surrounding electric vehicle taxis. It was noted that Dundee currently have one but there is a possibility of this increasing to 30 and within Falkirk there were currently 3 in operation. The group agreed that other authorities were ready for this transition but at the moment it was felt that the uptake was not there yet.

It was also agreed that the group would like taxi legislation to be a future agenda item at one of their advisory group meetings.

### **Vehicle Excise Duty**

A discussion was held by attendees with regards to pre-funded accounts. It was noted that there was a charge attached to debit card payments but it was free to top up a pre-funded account for MOTs via a credit card. The group also noted that a V5 form must be sent and returned for a pre-funded account.

Scott Blyth, East Ayrshire Council agreed to report back to the group on the issue raised by FTA. Scott also noted that the FTA had produced a briefing on the Registered Keeper. You can request this briefing – '*Abolition of the tax disc – 1 October 2014*' – from the FTA press office. (FTA Press Office, Tel: 01892 552255, Email: [press.office@fta.co.uk](mailto:press.office@fta.co.uk) )

### **Sweating Assets – Shift Operations**

The group had a discussion about the shift patterns within their local authority. These included:-

## Fife

Workshop is open 7 days a week with shift patterns of 4 on 4 off.  
3 weekly inspections of bin lift (refuse collection).

## Glasgow

Shift pattern of 4 on 4 off.

This can wear the vehicle down quicker but tends to only be certain types of vehicles (due to terrain etc).

Street sweepers are now 70 hours per week previously this used to be 30/40 hours per week.

It was also noted during discussions that one of the biggest increases in costs was usually in tyres. The group also agreed it was important to get the correct residual value in relation to changing vehicles.

Scottish Borders Council updated the group on the electric refuse vehicles they are currently looking into.

There was also a short discussion on battery operated trimmers etc. Scottish Borders Council confirmed they were using these currently and were working well.

One point raised by the group was the possibility of these being unable to be used in the rain.

## **Social & Educational Transport Operations**

There was a general discussion with regards to what types of social and educational transport provided within local authorities. This ranged from school meal deliveries, lunch clubs, swimming clubs, school day trips and other term time/ seasonal work as required.

## **Benchmarking for vehicle groups**

A discussion was held within the group with regards to benchmarking. Following discussion on the potential development Performance Networks could provide through process benchmarking, it was agreed to ask Debbie Johns, Head of Performance Networks and Dave Knapman, IQ Associates to the next meeting of the advisory group to discuss these options further, with a view to the group completing some process benchmarking in particular areas within fleet including vehicle types.

## **6. AOCB**

There was no other competent business.

## **7. Future agenda items for next meeting**

It was agreed that some of the discussions today would be used for future meetings. The next meeting will include a demonstration of the Perth & Kinross Council IT fleet system as well as a discussion on process benchmarking with Debbie Johns, Head of Performance Networks & Dave Knapman, IQ Associates.

**8. Date & venue of next meeting**

The next meeting of the group will be Wednesday 28 January 2015 in Perth.

**9. Lunch**

**10. Performance Networks Working Group**

This item was covered within the topic “Benchmarking for vehicle groups” within agenda item 5.

**Transport & Mechanical Services Group**

**22-Oct-14**

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council</b>
Louise McMillan	APSE
Nigel Buchan	Aberdeen City Council
Ian Paisley	Aberdeenshire Council
Ronnie Dempster	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Gordon Bryce	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Ian Anderson	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Gary McRae	Dundee City Council
Scott Blyth	East Ayrshire Council
Paul Curran	East Dunbartonshire Council
Ian Dalgleish	East Lothian Council
John McElhinney	East Renfrewshire Council
Pat Taggart	Falkirk Council
Tom Henderson	Fife Council
Robin O'Connell	Fife Council
Emil Laiolo	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Alistair Watson	Glasgow City Council

Cllr Martin Bartos	Glasgow City Council
Trevor Docherty	Midlothian Council
Gordon Mitchell	North Ayrshire Council
Gerry Farrell	North Lanarkshire Council
William Greenshields	North Lanarkshire Council
John Martin	Scottish Borders Council
Grant Montgomery	Scotland Excel
Terry Hand	Scotland Excel
Bob Ritchie	Tayside Contracts

### **Apologies**

Shelley MacKay	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Danny Gibson	Stirling Council
Graeme Cunningham	Clackmannanshire Council
Jim Bradley	Inverclyde Council
Kerry Venters	Fife Council
John McWilliams	Inverclyde Council
Bill Morton	Perth & Kinross Council
David Burnie	Renfrewshire Council