

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport

24 January 2024, 13:00, Online

Draft minute

Present

MSPs

Graham Simpson MSP (Convener, chairing)

Sarah Boyack MSP (Deputy Convener)

John Mason MSP (Deputy Convener)

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Colin Howden (Transform Scotland)

Ros Browning (Transform Scotland)

Laura Hyde-White (Transform Scotland)

Abigail Fletcher (Graham Simpson's office)

Apologies

Liam Kerr MSP

Mark Ruskell MSP (Deputy Convener)

Introductions

Graham Simpson MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Election of office bearers

Graham Simpson MSP was proposed as Convener by Sarah Boyack MSP and seconded by John Mason MSP.

Sarah Boyack MSP was proposed as Deputy Convener by Graham Simpson MSP.

John Mason MSP was proposed as Deputy Convener by Graham Simpson MSP.

Mark Ruskell MSP was proposed as Deputy Convener, assuming in his absence that he would be happy to continue in this role.

DECISION: Graham Simpson MSP, John Mason MSP and Sarah Boyack MSP to be re-appointed as officebearers of the CPG in the roles of Convener, Deputy Convener and Deputy Convener, respectively.

ACTION: confirm with Mark Ruskell MSP whether he is willing to continue as a Deputy Convener (Graham Simpson MSP)

Transform Scotland was proposed to continue in the role of Secretariat for the CPG - nominated by John Mason MSP and seconded by Graham Simpson MSP.

DECISION: Transform Scotland to be re-appointed as Secretariat.

Annual Return

Laura Hyde-White presented the Annual Return for the CPG, which the members were happy to accept.

It was noted that MSP attendance for some meetings had started to decline (though the MSPs present were of the view that this is normal for any CPG). A discussion on how best to engage MSPs followed. It was noted that sustaining personal connections and getting the right time slot was key to getting MSPs to turn up.

It was proposed that a maximum of 3 or 4 sessions per year would improve MSP attendance. The deputy conveners agreed they would coordinate between themselves more frequently to ensure maximum MSP attendance.

ACTION: finalise and send Annual Return to Convener for sign off (Ros Browning)

ACTION: submit Annual Return & AGM minutes to parliament (Ros Browning)

Membership

The following were proposed for membership of the CPG:

- Aaron McHale (*individual*)
- Alexander Dennis
- Caledonian Marine Assets Ltd (CMAL)
- Community Energy Scotland
- Living Streets Scotland
- Lothian Buses
- Railway Industry Association (RIA)
- Technology Scotland

DECISION: approve CPG membership for the above listed organisations/individuals.

ACTION: advise Parliament regarding additional CPG members (Ros Browning)

Future work

Colin Howden presented the options paper prepared by Transform outlining potential topics for the CPG to work on. The three options proposed were (i) Health inequalities, health and transport, (ii) Micromobility, with a focus on e-bikes, and (iii) Integrated transport, with a focus on public transport-active travel interchange.

The paper recommended that the next policy focus for the CPG should contain active travel, wholly or in part. However, the paper also noted that, having built CPG membership and attendance from within the public transport sector and technology-focussed interests, a sole focus on active travel may risk losing interest from the Group's new members. In this case, pursuit of the 'Integrated transport' proposal would be compelling to all sets of interests and maximise engagement and attendance from the CPG's cross-sector membership.

Transform noted that involvement in the CPG 2024 was dependent on receiving sponsorship. Colin Howden noted he was confident that the 'Integrated Transport' focus would attract financial support.

John Mason asked that the inclusion of car clubs be considered for any integrated transport / interchange theme.

Graham Simpson MSP talked through the proposal on micromobility and e-bikes submitted by Cycling UK. The MSPs agreed that a one-off discussion forum on this topic would work well, and feed into a larger piece of work on integrated transport. If this was taken forward then an agreement that Abigail from Graham's office and Craig from John's office would lead the organisation (speakers, invites, minutes etc).

Ros Browning noted that a similar proposal on integrated transport could be developed to be presented to the Group. The Convener agreed that this would be helpful.

ACTION: draft proposal on integrated transport as a 2024 CPG theme once funding acquired (Colin Howden)

ACTION: follow up on Cycling UK on micromobility proposal including organising speakers (Abigail Fletcher)

Close of meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 13:35.

Minutes

Draft minutes prepared by Ros Browning on 02/02/24.