

CPG on Rail in the Scottish Parliament Minutes

Meeting at Holyrood 25th October 2016

The meeting began with the **AGM** prior to ordinary business.

Sederunt: Roderick McDougall (Railfuture), Allison Cosgrove (Railfuture), Barrie Forrest (RAGES), Don Barclay (Levenmouth Rail Campaign), Philip Mendelson (Transport Focus), Jim Sharkey (Renfrewshire), Mark Ruskell MSP, Jonathan Pue (Network Rail), Robert Drysdale (Campaign for Borders Rail), Trevor Roberts (West Coast 250), Rosemary Blumfield (West Coast 250), Iain MacDonald (Light Rail UK), Jim Harkins (Light Rail UK), Daniel Giblin (Independent Consultant), Vic Mackinlay (LRTA – Tram Forward), Robert Samson (Transport Focus), Nigel Mallan (Newburgh Train Station Group), Allan Maclean, Jane Ann Lawson (STARLINK), Maree Todd MSP

AGM: John Mason MSP in the Chair.

The proposed purpose of the CPG was read out to members at the meeting. The purpose was:

- "To encourage the development and extension of quality rail services for the people and economy of Scotland.
- To ensure that rail has a high profile in the Scottish Parliament.
- To influence Scottish Government policy on rail, including on connectivity.
- To liaise with Transport Scotland, Network Rail, franchise holders, trades unions, rail interest groups and other such organisations to ensure that MSPs are kept up to date on matters pertaining to rail in Scotland."

This purpose was agreed upon for the new CPG.

There was a brief discussion regarding what Office Bearer Roles would be needed for the CPG this year around and it was decided to keep with the current model of Co-conveners.

The group heard that ScotRail Alliance were willing to provide secretarial support and catering. After discussion it was decided to accept this offer.

John Mason was re-elected as one Co-convener and Pauline McNeill was elected as the other Co-convener after Neil Bibby had stepped down.

Group thanked Allan McLean for his work as CPG secretary over the past years and Neil Bibby for his work as Co-convener.

John Mason MSP moved meeting to normal business.

Previous minutes were discussed and agreed.

Phil Verster delivered a wide ranging presentation on the work of ScotRail Alliance.

Phil Verster then answered questions from the group. Topics raised included: Smart ticketing, the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Project (EGIP), Performance, Capacity on rail lines, modal switch, signalling on the network and fares.

The CPG discussed possible future subjects and the possibility of being more proactive with regards to taking action as a group, for example similar to earlier letters written to the Transport Minister on behalf of the CPG.

Next meeting: Was agreed that the Co-conveners and Secretariat would meet and agree on the date for the next meeting, the agenda and then circulate amongst CPG members and post on the CPG website at <http://www.parliament.scot/msps/rail.aspx>

Dates of future meetings will be agreed at next meeting and a list will then be circulated to members via email.