

## **Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Rail in the Scottish Parliament**

### **Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 5.30pm**

#### **Present:**

Neil Bibby MSP (Labour; West of Scotland); John Mason MSP (SNP; Glasgow Shettleston); Hugh Henry MSP (Labour; Renfrewshire South); Margaret McDougall MSP (Labour; West of Scotland); Michael Connelly (Abellio); Bill Forbes (RailQwest); Ken Sutherland (RailQwest); Lawrence Marshall (Capital Rail Action Group); Ross Williams (Pagoda PR); Vic MacKinlay (Light Rail Transit Association); Geoffrey Evison (Campaign for Borders Rail); Allison Cosgrove (Rail Action Group East of Scotland); Councillor Jim Sharkey (Renfrewshire Council); Jim Gray (RMT Union); Phil McGarry (RMT Union); Gordon Martin (RMT Union); Roderick McDougall (Rail Future Scotland); Jane Ann Liston (Star Link); Alex MacAulay (SESTRANS); Richard Carr (SAYLSA); Margaret Smith (Caledonia Consulting on behalf of Arriva Trains); Garry Clark (Scottish Chambers of Commerce); Roisin Milligan (Scottish Chambers of Commerce) and Norrie Innes (Rock DCM).

#### **Apologies:**

Ian Richard (RailQwest); Iain Wilson (First ScotRail); Dr Richard Simpson MSP (Labour; Mid Scotland & Fife); Karen Yeomans (North Ayrshire Council); Patrick Harvie MSP (Green; Glasgow); Mark Griffin MSP (Labour; Central Scotland); Cameron Buchanan (Conservative; Lothians); Clare Adamson MSP (SNP; Central Scotland) and John Scott MSP (Conservative; Ayr).

#### **Welcome from the Chair**

Neil Bibby opened the evening by welcoming members to the third meeting of the CPG on Rail. Neil explained that, unusually, the Scottish Parliament's decision time would take place later in the evening (approximately 6.15pm) and this might mean that MSPs would be required to leave the meeting for a brief period of time to partake in a division.

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were moved by Roderick McDougall and seconded by Allison Cosgrove.

#### **Presentation from Richard Carr of SAYLSA**

Richard Carr, Development Manager, at SAYLSA provided an extensive presentation on the work and aspirations of SAYLSA. It was agreed that a PDF copy of his presentation would be made available for anyone to request and refer back to.

### **Feedback from SAYLSA presentation**

Phil McGarry asked about the relationship with RMT and, in particular, what work SAYLSA is doing to enquire about more apprentices in light of the forthcoming ScotRail franchise. Richard Carr responded by saying that this issue has been raised with all bidders.

Allison Cosgrove asked about the political representation within SAYLSA and Richard Carr responded by saying that some local authorities have been better than others at getting involved, however, there is no political majority within the board at SAYLSA.

Further questions followed about rolling stock as well as connections with local history and cultural heritage. Ken Sutherland also raised a point about a lack of parking facilities at some stations too.

### **Presentation from Bill Forbes of RailQwest**

In the absence of Ian Richard who was currently on holiday, Bill Forbes provided an extensive presentation on the work and aspirations of RailQwest with a particular focus on Cross Rail. It was agreed that a PDF copy of his presentation would be made available for anyone to request and refer back to.

### **Feedback from SAYLSA presentation**

Councillor Jim Sharkey spoke of his own experience within the railway industry in the West of Scotland and commended the Cross Rail project which he considered would be of enormous benefit to Renfrewshire.

John Mason asked about plans for a Glasgow Cross Rail Station within his constituency and what this might be estimated to cost. Bill Forbes suggested that £80 million worth of work might be required.

Norrie Inness from Rock DCM / Action Barras Calton suggested that Cross Rail is

Margaret McDougall indicated her support for the Cross Rail project and spoke briefly about the benefits this would bring to the West of Scotland region.

### **Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Before closing the meeting, Neil Findlay reminded members that the next scheduled meeting of the Cross Party Group on Rail would take place on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at which Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Transport would be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 19.31 hours.