

Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group (SENSG)

Notes of Sixth Meeting – 16 June 2008 Room 3B03 Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Present:

David Wallace (DW) - Scottish Government and SENSG Chair
Duncan McNab (DM) - Scottish Government
Linda Story (LAS) - Scottish Government
Samantha Donald (SD) – Scottish Government
Linda Stewart (LS) – Scottish Government
Bernadette McKell (BM) – Hamilton & McGregor
Steve Williamson (SW) – Edinburgh City Council Chair and Edinburgh Working Group Chair
Drew Hill (DH) – Transport Scotland – Roads and Transport Chair
Martin Valenti (MV) – SEPA
John Stirling (JS) – REHIS
Alastair Brown (AB) – Glasgow City Council Chair and Glasgow Working Group
Victoria Colling (VC) - BAA
Mandy Wong - BAA

1. Apologies

Chair, Nick Evans (NE) – Scottish Government Planning, Jonathan Dennis (JD) - Scottish Government Economists

2. Introductions:

DW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new members. Noted that new members would review the need to attend every SENSG meeting but to attend as required.

3. Summary of Press Coverage

3.1 LAS reported that overall press coverage of the Noise Action Plan consultation had been fair. Some reports had contained inaccuracies but Noise Bulletin had given very good coverage. A number of interested parties had asked for input to publication or to give talks.

4. Reports form Working Groups.

4.1 SW reported that the he expects his report on the Edinburgh plan to go to committee at the end of the month.

4.2 DH reported that Directors in Transport Scotland were content with the Transport Plan as were his contacts in the Local Authorities. It was noted that a member of the Glasgow group had looked at the candidate areas in the transportation plan and there seemed to be some misunderstanding. (to note LAS have since explained that the CNMAs in the transport plan are out with the agglomerations)

Action to make it clear on the website that the transport plan covers road and rail out with the agglomerations.

4.3 AB reported that the Glasgow Plan is not controversial in Local Authority Terms and most are comfortable with it. Planning and Roads people are coming on board.

4.4 VC reported that the airports are looking at the actions with a view to putting in place a timeframe for delivery.

5. Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.1 Noted that the scoping report had been completed and the Environmental Report would be produced over the next few weeks taking into account comments received over the consultation period.

6. Candidate Noise Management Areas to Noise Management Areas.

6.1 Discussion took place on the need to commission research to fill gaps in our understanding. In particular the possibility of using quieter road surfaces. There is much research on the issue at EU level which makes claims of quite large reductions in noise levels. In Scotland we already use relatively quiet surfacing.

Action SG to develop a spec for a bid for research funding to look at Scottish focused surfacing.

6.2 Discussion took place on the timing of moving from CNMAs to NMAs. Some of the working group members had thought that the exercise could be carried out by the time the revised Action Plans were produced. Others particularly in Glasgow and Transportation felt this would take much longer essentially as a result of the numbers involved. It was agreed that consistency was important.

6.3 DW asked if all the working group chairs were happy to carry on with the working groups. SW and DH were happy to take the work forward. AB while keen to see the work progress advised that restructuring in his department meant that he could not continue to chair the Glasgow group, but would be able to nominate a member of staff in the next 2 to 3 months.

Action MV/BM/DH to devise a proforma for moving from CNMAs to NMAs and for Quiet Areas by the end of the following week.

7 AOB

7.1 BM asked if SG still wanted Leq Maps produced. It was noted that having two sets of noise metrics for Airports had caused confusion. It was agreed that she would get costings before a decision was made. It was subsequently agreed that the maps would not be produced.

8. Date for next meeting

Week commencing 1 September Victoria Quay Edinburgh date to be confirmed.

END