

Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group (SENSG)

Notes of Seventh Meeting – 29 August 2008 Room 1H 56 Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Present:

David Wallace (DW) - Scottish Government and SENSG Chair
Duncan McNab (DM) - Scottish Government
Linda Story (LS) - Scottish Government
Bernadette McKell (BM) – Hamilton & McGregor
Steve Williamson (SW) – Edinburgh City Council Chair and Edinburgh Working Group Chair
Henry Collin (HC) – Transport Scotland – Roads
Victoria Colling (VC) – BAA
Nick Evans (NE) – Scottish Government Planning
Alan Martin (AM) - Transport Scotland – Rail

1. Apologies

Jonathan Dennis (JD) - Scottish Government Economists, Martin Valenti (MV) – SEPA, John Stirling (JS) – REHIS, Alastair Brown (AB) – Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Working Group Chair.

2. Responses to Consultation - SG:

2.1 LS summarised the consultation responses, which were generally very supportive of the Draft Action Plans. The main themes being concern about quiet areas and the need for consistency in moving from CNMAs to NMAs. BM suggested that the technical comments were well made and felt that we should revise the prioritisation matrix to make it more user friendly. There are however no implications for the principles of how the matrix works in practice. NE circulated some notes from the SG planning perspective, and suggested that the responses had a bias towards Environmental Health. It was agreed that for the second consultation replies should be sought from a wider group of relevant stakeholders.

Action LS to ensure that responses are circulated to all. (all are now on the web under the consultation documents)

3. Responses to Consultation - Airports

3.1 VC reported that they had received 7 responses to the Aberdeen Plan, 11 to the Edinburgh Plan and 9 to the Glasgow Plan. The consultants report highlighted 3 main themes. 1. Residents want higher targets for noise reduction. 2. Altered flight paths, but noted that the airport operators have little control over flight paths. It is Euro control who control the airspace, and CAA regulate the flight paths. 3. Fines on aircraft are not working. VC reported that changes to the plan as a result of the consultation would be made in the next 3-4 weeks. It was noted that the question of who should be the Competent Authorities came through in the consultation responses for the Agglomerations as well as the airports.

Action VC to circulate consultants report and updated action plans to the group.

4. Candidate Noise Management Areas to Noise Management Areas.

4.1 Discussion took place on a proposal to produce technical guidance similar to that for Air Quality. The guidance would then be subject to consultation and approval thus resulting in a robust, consistent and transparent methodology.

Action To form a working group to prepare technical guidance.

5. Quiet Areas

5.1 Discussion took place on a proposal to set up a small working group to look at quiet areas with the emphasis on reviewing the data sources used to determine quiet areas. It was agreed that technical guidance should also be prepared for Quiet Areas.

Action SW and David Palmer to meet in Glasgow to look at data sources and review Quiet Area designations.

6. Timescales

6.1 LS explained the previously circulated draft timescales which although tight are timed to meet the deadlines set by the directive. The decision to produce technical guidance does however relieve some of the pressure allowing the guidance to be produced following the SEA. The draft timescales were approved with a small amendment.

6.2 Discussion took place on the proposed workshop to look at Technical Guidance. It was agreed that it should take place on 3 December 2008 and we should encourage planners and transport people to attend. This might be best achieved by sending out advance notice flyers.

Action SG to investigate availability of accommodation. (Conference rooms now booked at VQ for the afternoon of 3 December)

NE and HC to forward contact details for distribution of flyers to LS.

7 EPUK Leaflet

7.1 Discussion took place on the previously circulated leaflet. A number of comments were made on the day.

Action All to forward comments to LS by 8 September.

8 Mechanism for embedding Actions and NMAs within other plans and programs.

8.1 Agreed that good communication with Local Authorities and others was required and otherwise to rely on Regulation 19 which requires public authorities with responsibility for an action to use all reasonable endeavours to take that action.

9. Date for next meeting

Early October Victoria Quay Edinburgh date to be confirmed.

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