

Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group (SENSG)

Notes of Eighth Meeting – 25 November 2008 Conference Room 7 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
Victoria Colling (VC) – BAA
Nick Evans (NE) – Scottish Government Planning
John Stirling (JS) – REHIS
Drew Hill (DH) Transport Scotland and Transportation Working Group Chair
Sandra Dandie (SD) – Scottish Government Economist.

1. Apologies

Martin Valenti (MV) – SEPA, Alastair Brown (AB) – Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Working Group Chair. Steve Williamson (SW) – Edinburgh City Council and Edinburgh Working Group Chair Alan Martin (AM) - Transport Scotland – Rail

2. Planning and review of PAN56.

2.1 NE explained the background to the Delivering Planning Reform agenda and explained how Ministers are reshaping and speeding up the reform process. As part of the process they are looking consolidate planning policy documents and Planning Advice notes. The idea is to scale back on the amount of advice keeping it short and focused on key principles and allowing for local solutions. NE explained that he would have to seek consent for the review from Ministers.

2.2 Discussion took place on the importance of PAN 56 and its use as a point of reference by consultants, local authorities, and planning reporters. Discussion also took place on other ways to disseminate information. Eg annual workshops, use of consultants to review Local Authority documents, training days for reporters.

Action: BM to revise her scoping report in the light of the decision to review the PAN.

NE to run his submission past DW.

3. Summaries of Action Plans to EU

3.1 The draft templates for the Action Plan summaries had been circulated and these were generally agreed. It was noted that new guidance from the EU suggested that “Noise control programmes that have been carried out in the past and noise measures in place” should be reported separately. It was agreed that these should be pulled out of the Action Plans and we should report separate documents.

4. Technical Guidance.

4.1 It was noted that the SEA consultation was due to close on 19 December. Following this the plans would be finalised and sent to the Minister with the Action Plan summaries. There would be a slight delay with the Technical Guidance but this would not pose too much of a problem.

4.2 Discussion took place on the content of the Technical Guidance and it was stressed that Local Authorities need such guidance. It was agreed that this could be in two parts the process of moving from CNMA's to NMA's followed by part two mitigation and cost benefit analysis.

Action BM to produce draft of technical guidance part one for the w/c 19 January.

5. Airport Plans

5.1 VC reported that the airport plans now take on comments received from the consultation and she is now waiting on approval from the MDs.

Action VC to provide final plans and summaries to LS by mid December.

6. Speaker on Noise Management for SEPA Air Quality Event in March.

6.1 It was agreed that SW would be the best person to speak at this event.

Action LS to advise SW and to liaise with SEPA about requirements.

7 Transportation Working Group Report

7.1 DH reported that the transportation working group are regrouping and introducing new members to take forward the implementation phase. He reported that he still has to engage with the local authorities, he had intended to take forward the process of moving from CNMAs to NMAs on behalf of the LA's but working with them, however he was not getting the level of engagement envisaged. DW emphasised the important role of the LAs and that they need to be on board. DW said that he would be happy to chair a meeting with LAs particularly those in Dundee and Aberdeen.

7.2 a meeting with SCOTS on 5 December had gone well and was a good forum to share knowledge and best practice. Discussion had taken place on cost benefit analysis and research. The group was working with Ian Pearce Transport Scotland's internal economist.

7.3 DH reported that Research was ongoing into the use of new materials within Transport Scotland. In addition he noted that complaints are increasing as noise issues get into the public consciousness.

7.4 DW suggested that Ian Pearce should share his experiences with SD as they are working to the same ends. SD suggested that she have a meeting with Transport Scotlands economists.

7.5 DM asked about a meeting with Kent Farrell, DH reported that this was to discuss network rail, and BM would attend. DM asked DH to note that BM does not always represent SENSG and does not represent the Scottish Government.

8. Glasgow Agglomeration Working Group

8.1 DM advised that there was little to report that Nigel Kerr had been appointed as the new chair. The next meeting was scheduled for 10 December and would discuss changes to Action Plans.

9. Edinburgh Agglomeration Working Group

9.1 LS reported that the Edinburgh Group had been a catch up on where we are with Action Plans, that useful discussion had taken place on technical guidance and on quiet areas. It had also been noted that James Gary who is the SEA person in Edinburgh Council was happy with the Environmental Report.

10. EPUK Leaflet

10.1 Leaflet expected early next year.

11. Date for next meeting

January 2009 Victoria Quay Edinburgh date to be confirmed.

END