

LEZ Leadership Group Minutes

LEZ Leadership Group Meeting 14
09 March 2022
Via MS TEAMS



Attendees:

(MM) Ms McAllan – Minister for Environment and Land Reform
(JG) Ms Gilruth – Minister for Transport
(AL) Amy Liddell – Private Secretary to Environment and Land Reform
(LW) Lewis Wade – Private Secretary to Minister for Transport

Aberdeen

(SM) Cllr Sandra MacDonald
(DD) David Dunne

Dundee

(LS) Cllr Lynne Short
(EM) Ewan McNaughton

Edinburgh

(LM) Cllr Lesley Macinnes
(RW) Ruth White

Glasgow

(AR) Cllr Anna Richardson
(GS) Gavin Slater

SEPA

(JM) Janice Milne

Transport Scotland

(SL) Stewart Leggett
(VM) Vincent McNally
(LF) Lisa Freeman

Apologies:

(TM) Trevor McIlhatton – Transport Scotland
(GB) Gareth Barwell – City of Edinburgh Council
(TS) Tom Stirling – Dundee City Council
(GG) George Gillespie – Glasgow City Council
(CM) Carol McRae – Public Health Scotland

Subject	Discussion and actions
<p>Welcome and review of previous actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. MM extended a further welcome to JG in her first attendance of the Leadership Group Meeting. • Previous minute and actions were then reviewed. <p>Actions from 15 December 2021 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action M13_A1 – Correct meeting number at top of minutes – the previous meeting was Meeting 12. • Outcome – Complete. • Action M13_A2 – TS to update the Leadership Group on progress and arrange a presentation of the Blue Badge exemption website and how it will work. • Outcome – Ongoing – stakeholder workshops and consultation undertaken, EQIA completed will be published shortly. Arrangements are currently being made for a Blue Badge exemption website. Presentation to be given at a later LG meeting. • Action M13_A3 – TS will share a breakdown of BEAR/taxi grant/support fund by city. • Outcome – Complete – circulated to the 4 cities on 14/01/22. • Action M13_A4 – TS to provide word version of national website (including FAQs) to LAs who will review and provide comment based on their public engagement feedback and local issues. Outcome – Ongoing - Word version of city pages shared with LAs. • SM enquired if Aberdeen officers had sight of this. VM explained that this was shared with those attending the LEZ Communications Group Meeting and that Karen Allan or Will Hekelaar at Aberdeen City Council should have this. • Action M13_A5 – TS to share national comms forward planning to assist with local alignment. • Outcome – Forward planning/content planner document shared with LA colleagues within the LEZ communications group. Continued dialogue with LAs to identify appropriate uses of national campaign assets. • Action M13_A6 – Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) to be plugged into comms activity - TS to arrange. • Outcome – LEZ comms meeting invitation has been extended to RTPs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action M13_A7 – TS to arrange for local newspapers to have sight of news releases and key campaign pushes with local quotes from LAs. • Outcome - Ongoing. Key titles within each LEZ area also have advertising booked for next phase of the campaign (including digital/online). • Action M13_A8 – TS to give colleagues in LAs a heads-up re BEAR and allow comment and provide quote for press release. A local comment could be helpful for future communications. POST MEETING NOTE: Press release on BEAR 4 was released during the meeting. • Action M13_A9 – TS to progress a follow-up piece re BEAR 4 with LA input. Outcome - It was agreed that LAs would issue their own follow up piece. TS provided a localised quote for each LEZ. • Action M13_A10 – TS to revisit the communications strategy and formalise the national communications plan. TS to lead and to consult on timing at a local level with LA partners and support LAs to deliver in a joined-up, consistent way. Reaffirmed importance of championing health benefits locally and nationally. • Outcome – ongoing with LA partners to identify timing of local level campaigns. To champion the importance of LEZ health benefits, work to create guest blogs from health/charity organisations (such as Asthma UK, Living Streets, British Heart Foundation, British Lung Foundation, and Sustrans) is being compiled by our communications consultant (BIG Partnership) and various blogs are planned for the next 4 months. • Action M13_A11 – Scottish Government will work with partners to find a reasonable future funding solution that works. Outcome – Ongoing – discussions with LAs to ascertain the level of funding they are seeking have been taking place, this was discussed again at the LEZ Consistency Group on 23/02/22. However, more detailed substantiation is required from LAs before any recommendation can be made to the Minister on what an appropriate future funding profile may look like.
<p>2. LEZ National Progress and Risk Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM – provided an update on national progress and risks: Progress

- All four cities have completed their statutory notice period. Edinburgh, being the last city to close their objection period, which ended on 1 March 2022.
- Aberdeen and Dundee have formally submitted their LEZ Schemes for approval by Scottish Ministers. TS are reviewing these and will advise Ministers and LAs in due course.
- City of Edinburgh Council have submitted an early draft of their scheme for assessment and comment. **ACTION** - TS to provide feedback on Edinburgh's draft submission.
- Glasgow's submission is expected shortly. It is to be brought to their final committee by 11 March.
- TS colleagues continue to work with the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) to allow for the sharing of vehicle data with Scottish Government and LAs.
- A section 104 order agreement is expected to be set out with the UK parliament in the summer of 2022 to allow for the Secretary of State to share this data with the SG and LAs.
- Formal LEZ road signage has been agreed. Signage can now be used in any marketing and communications going forward.
- LAs have now all received capital grant funding for their LEZ enforcement schemes to be put in place. £3.4 million capital grant has been provided in 2021/22. A grant variation order has been given to allow LAs to carry the remainder of their funding into the following financial year.
- The LEZ support fund is now closed for 2021/22. £3.85 million of funds were allocated to small businesses and those in financial difficulty to help them comply with LEZs. The fund has removed over 1000 non-compliant vehicles from our roads. Notes of interest in the support fund are being registered for next financial year.
- TS have reached agreement with the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) to assist with the approval process for LEZ enforcement systems by Scottish Ministers.
- Currently the top 3 risks associated with introducing LEZs are:
 - a) The risk of not meeting the introduction timetable due to the as-yet-unknown need for statutory examinations of LEZ schemes. For example, the recent statements from Unite the Union regarding taxi operators in Glasgow has suggested legal action being taken.
 - b) The risk that Scottish Ministers do not receive LEZ scheme applications from Glasgow and Edinburgh with sufficient time for the review and approval process to be undertaken.

	<p>c) The risk that the euro required emission standard information, for vehicles where DVLA do not hold a record, is not available to allow for the operation of LEZ enforcement systems in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM asked if Aberdeen would be able to take some of the learning from the other cities and still meet the implementation deadline. SM also asked which of the risks identified posed the greatest risk. • VM explained that Aberdeen submitted an early draft to TS for comment and expected that the comments provided would be considered in the final Aberdeen submission. VM added that there is also legal requirement for a legal review to ensure that the proposals meet the regulatory legislation. • VM stated that the identified risks have been mitigated as much as feasibly possible, but there would always be the possibility of unknown challenges. • There was a further discussion regarding taxi compliance and retrofitting. VM highlighted that taxis do not have to be electric to comply with LEZs. He explained that the vast majority of taxis in the 4 cities would comply with LEZ standards by enforcement date (Euro 4 for petrol engines and Euro 6 for diesel engines).
<p>3. City specific progress</p>	<p>Aberdeen (Sandra MacDonald)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen have now submitted their LEZ scheme for approval by Scottish Ministers. • Aberdeen have received some unhelpful comments from interest groups on the data regarding vehicles returning to the roads after Covid restrictions being lifted. • Aberdeen City Council officers continue to work closely with TS officials and participate in the LEZ consistency group meetings. • There was a further discussion regarding the pre-election period and cross-party support for improving air quality within each of the LEZ cities. <p>Dundee (Lynne Short)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundee's scheme was passed at committee and has been submitted to TS. • Dundee have procured enforcement cameras. Installation is due in summer 2022. Procurement of the back office system is also due in summer 2022. • LS stated that that one of the biggest risks is that the LEZ does not go far enough. There is the desire for the LEZ to be more ambitious and to go further over time. <p>Edinburgh (Lesley McInnes)</p>

- LM praised the work conducted by SEPA at the end of 2021 that helped to address some of the concerns prior to the consultation period.
- Edinburgh's final objections report will go to committee on the 31 March
- There were a relatively low number of responses received, 26 were submitted by individuals and microbusinesses.
- Risk of legal challenge is considered to be low, as most of the objections have already been answered by officials.
- LM extended thanks to VM and his team for their comments and support. Edinburgh aim to submit their scheme shortly after committee (31 March) in the first week of April.
- Capital and revenue risks are being considered by Edinburgh. LM explained that some junction modifications will be required to help indicate the entrances of the LEZ.
- Revenue implications have also been considered by Edinburgh and are being shared with TS.

Glasgow (Anna Richardson)

- AR stated that Glasgow's scheme is being implemented quicker than other cities. Introduction of the LEZ begins in May 2022, with enforcement beginning in June 2023 (residents living within the zone will receive an extended grace period up until June 2024).
- The speed of implementation is the main issue of contention with taxi operators in Glasgow.
- Procurement of enforcement systems is currently on track.
- Access to funding and the capacity for retrofitting taxis are the greatest concerns for the council. Around 800 taxis within Glasgow would need to be retrofitted before enforcement begins.
- There are also concerns over the scale of funding required. Glasgow is keen to continue discussions with TS colleagues regarding this.
- Committee to be held on 10 March.
- AR stated that this would be her last LEZ Leadership meeting as she will not be standing in the elections.
- Official submissions are due by 1 April. VM stated that there may be discussion whether additional mitigations need to be considered. VM requested that a draft of the Glasgow submission prior to the deadline would be welcomed.
- It was noted that TS were aware of the concerns presented by Glasgow. SL advised that he is seeking confirmation on the budget for 2022/23. **ACTION** - TS to provide confirmation of the LEZ budget for 2022/23.
- VM stated that it was unfortunate that despite support funding having been available and promoted to operators

	<p>for nearly 3 years - uptake from taxi operators in Glasgow had been low.</p>
<p>4. LEZ Funding update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM – provided an update on LEZ funding. • All 4 LAs have confirmed that grant fund spending for 2021-22 is on track. • Capital grant funding variation of grant notice has been issued to each of the four LEZ cities which will allow LEZ capital grant funding to be rolled over into the following financial year. • Offers to bid for grant for 2022/23 to be issued to LAs shortly. ACTION – TS to send 2022/23 invitation to bid letters to LAs. • The Bus Emission and Abatement Retrofit (BEAR) programme has awarded £6.2 million in 2021/22 to the bus sector which will see 379 buses retrofitted. • The LEZ Support Fund awarded £3.85 million in grants for 2021/22. The fund has been welcomed by many groups and individuals with positive feedback received. Over 1,000 non-LEZ compliant vehicles have been disposed of since the fund opened. • The LEZ Support fund is taking registered notes of interest for 2022/23. • All four cities have raised concerns over the ongoing operational costs associated with delivering LEZs. • LM welcomed the funding support for LEZs. Edinburgh colleagues will be providing further breakdown of projected costs and additional capital spend. Estimated revenue costs for Edinburgh have been projected at £400k per annum. • SM stated that ongoing revenue costs are still to be estimated for Aberdeen.
<p>5. LEZ Communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM – provided an update on the LEZ Communications activities. • Increased media interest in LEZs from the publication of statutory notices. • It is clear from the enquiries received that there is more to be done. • Communications at a local and national level remain critical. • LEZ campaign currently being run on social media, on-street, TV and radio. • Myth-busting activities being run to address some of the misconceptions. Including the belief that only electric vehicles can enter a LEZ or payment for entry. • The LEZ communications strategy has been shared with LAs. VM explained that it was a live strategy and TS welcomes LA input and suggestions through the LEZ communications group.

- At the request of the previous Transport Minister, guest blogs from organisations such as Asthma UK, Living Streets, British Heart Foundation, British Lung Foundation will be included on the national LEZ website.
- A supportive blog regarding taxi retrofitting is also being created for the website.
- VM stated that LAs should be encouraged to do more to promote their LEZs and raise awareness at a local level.
- The national campaign aims to promote LEZs across Scotland rather than just in the LEZ cities. In England there has been no national campaign that covered areas outside the Clean Air Zones. Therefore we expect better awareness of LEZ beyond the enforcing cities.
- Further funding for communications from TS will be made available next financial year and it is important that LAs utilise this funding to promote their schemes.
- MM welcomed the campaign coverage across Scotland to capture those out with the LEZ cities and offered her support in promoting the campaign further if required.
- JG asked how those in other LAs will be targeted by comms strategy (e.g. those travelling from her own constituency in Fife to Dundee), and asked what more could be done. She also suggested linking in with COSLA to ensure that LAs promote the messaging. **ACTION** – TS to make contact with COSLA and provide information on the national LEZ communications campaign.
- JG requested feedback on how stakeholder guest blogs had progressed. She also welcomed the proposed positive taxi retrofit case study to be included on the LEZ website.
- VM explained that the guest blogs were scheduled to appear on the LEZ website over the next four months. **ACTION** -TS to provide information on which organisations will feature and when they will be published on the LEZ website.
- VM added that LAs are interested in looking at potential Ministerial announcements or visits to the cities once final approval has been given by Scottish Ministers. Once the approval process has concluded, TS will discuss potential announcements with TS Comms colleagues.
- SM suggested that Regional Transport Partnerships would provide another channel to promote LEZs and welcomed that Nestrans and other RTPs were invited to the LEZ communications meetings. She added that they could also be used to promote alternative modes of travel and park and rides.
- LM asked if there was a possibility in the national campaign to engage national carriers and freight companies. As an example, Amazon are trialling cargo-bike deliveries in Edinburgh.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM explained that TS have engage extensively with the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association and have a good working relationship with them. ECO Stars and Environmental Protection Scotland are organisations that have also been engaged for supportive comment. VM stated that he would welcome any local feedback or their experiences going forward. • VM added that there is a European website detailing LEZs across Europe. He added that it was an advantage that Scotland had named them LEZs to avoid confusion in terminology. • SM asked if LEZ be visible on GIS/Google maps etc. • VM stated that it was possible and that there had been interest in access to LEZ maps.
6. Summary and way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM provided a round-up summary and next steps. • TS to review LA submissions Glasgow and Edinburgh now require to submit these by 01/04/22. • Confirmation on future funding requests. • LEZ promotion and awareness raising.
7. AOB/Date of next meeting	<p>Next meeting will be held on 1 June 2022.</p> <p>As it was ARs last LEZ meeting, MM extended the group's thanks to AR for all her hard work on LEZs and passed on the group's best wishes for the future.</p>

Actions from this meeting:

M14-A1	TS to provide feedback on Edinburgh's draft submission.
M14-A2	TS to provide confirmation of the LEZ budget for 2022/23.
M14-A3	TS to send 2022/23 grant bid offer letters to LAs.
M14-A4	TS to make contact with COSLA and provide information on the national LEZ communications campaign.
M14-A5	TS to provide information on which organisations will feature and when they will be published on the LEZ website.