

## Corporate Scotland and Infrastructure Implementation Group

Thursday 12 July 2007, Scottish Executive (Victoria Quay), Edinburgh

### *Present*

Marjory Rodger, Confederation of Passenger Transport (acting chair)  
Penny George, Scottish Executive (Secretariat)  
John Brown, Deputy Director, Tourism, Scottish Executive  
Richard Arnott, incoming Head of Tourism, Scottish Executive  
Janet Hood, BII  
John Loudon, Lindsays  
Iain Limond, JAC Travel  
Julie Hepburn, Federation of Small Businesses  
Ian Kelly, Graham and Sibbald  
Julie Franchetti, Scottish Enterprise  
Bill Carcas, Scotland's Best B&Bs  
Eva McDiarmid, ASVA

### *Apologies*

Jeanette Wilson, BHPA  
David Smythe, Association of Scottish Self Caterers  
Steve Hunt, SNH

<p>1. <i>Welcome and Apologies</i></p> <p>Marjory Rodger (MR) welcomed the group and explained that she is acting chair until Iain Herbert, new Chief Executive of the Scottish Tourism Forum, takes up his post later this year.</p> <p>Apologies were given and PG informed the group of a number of changes. Gavin Ellis has now become Chair of the TFFC Monitoring Group and will therefore stand down from the CSI Group. Barry Laurie of McCabes has taken the decision to stand down from the group due to work pressures. In addition, this was to be Julie Hepburn's last CSI meeting, as she is leaving the FSB and moving to a new post elsewhere. She explained to PG that unfortunately the FSB is somewhat under-resourced at present and will be unable to field a representative for the group for the moment.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Minutes of Last Meeting</i></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 were accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p>3. <i>Update on Executive targets and actions from TFFC</i></p> <p>John Brown (JB) started by giving the group an overview of the new administration following May's election. He stressed that overall the new Executive is very business-focused, with the primary objective of growing the economy. Both John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, and Jim Mather, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and</p>	

Tourism, are very knowledgeable about tourism, and are committed to continuing the good work laid out in the TFFC. Jim Mather has already met with key individuals from the Energy sector, at a seminar which he led himself, mind-mapping participants' ideas and comments on his laptop as he went – and has arranged for a similar event with key tourism representatives. This event is scheduled for 27 August.

Ian Kelly (IK) commented that although it is positive that the Minister is knowledgeable and involved, he is still functioning at a very high level – and it is still difficult to see any real changes at the local level. The group agreed that one of the CSI Group's key objectives should be to ensure that we see high-level decisions coming through at the local level.

JB went on to use the minutes of the last meeting as a guide for updating on progress since then:

### **Transport**

- Access Development Fund (as proposed by Alan Rankin, ex-CE of the STF) -Ministers want to take this forward, and although JB was unable to share too much detail at this stage, he explained that a proposal is being developed for replacing the Air Route Development Fund, and that it will involve different forms of transport for accessing Scotland, rather than just air.
- A9 Upgrading – the SNP have committed to incremental improvements to this road.
- Forth Road Bridge – a new bridge is a priority for the Executive.
- High speed rail link between Edinburgh and London – unlikely!
- Marjory Rodgers went on to say that the last 4 points under transport (from the previous minutes) are all happening.
- VisitScotland have also set up a series of high-level meetings with transport operators from across the transport sector to ensure better alignment between tourism and transport. MR can provide the group with updates on these meetings as they take place.
- MR informed the group that her organisation, the Confederation for Passenger Transport, are holding a 3-day conference at Gleneagles on 24-26 September. Philip Riddle will be in attendance to represent tourism interests, and Marjory would welcome anyone else interested.

### **Planning**

- The main issue is to get changes implemented at the local level.
- The group agreed that one way of presenting the issues to key people at the higher levels (e.g. within the Executive) might be in the form of case studies. JB suggested using an example that Peter Lederer recently gave in a speech, of an Edinburgh hotelier's experience of submitting planning applications here and in France. PG is to find out who this hotelier is, and more detail if possible. John Loudon also suggested a similar example where the planning application process differed widely just between Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- IK agreed to put together these case studies, and submit them to PG for distribution and discussion with Executive planning colleagues.

**PG to find out details of hotelier referred to in PL speech**

**IK to develop case studies**

<p><b>Legislation</b></p> <p><i>Regulations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers are committed to looking at better regulation under the new administration. Officials are currently undertaking a sweep round the Executive to consider what could be improved regulation-wise, and this issue is likely to go out to public consultation at a later date.</li> <li>The group agreed that it would be sensible to collate a document on what regulations members feel could be improved vis-à-vis the tourism industry. All members to send input on this matter to PG by the end of July. PG to collate document for future submission to Ministers.</li> </ul> <p><i>Licensing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new licensing regulations will impact in certain ways on the tourism sector. The Executive has already put together a Q&amp;A document outlining the main issues and changes that the regulations will introduce – this is hosted on the STF website (<a href="http://www.stforum.co.uk/">http://www.stforum.co.uk/</a> - under 'news updates' in right hand column).</li> <li>The group agreed though that using case studies in this instance might also be a useful way of presenting the issues as seen by the tourism industry. John Loudon and Janet Hood agreed to develop these case studies and submit them to PG by the end of July.</li> <li>Eva McDiarmid (EM) raised the point that the regulations will also affect venues which apply for temporary licences (e.g. wedding venues).</li> </ul> <p><i>Fire Regulations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG has been heavily involved in discussions with Fire Branch colleagues in the Executive to ensure that potential impacts on the tourism industry are recognised and considered. The group suggested the case study approach for this too, but PG explained that Fire Branch colleagues are fully aware of the issues here and discussions are probably beyond the need for case studies here.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers are reviewing how well HIE, Scottish Enterprise and VisitScotland work together. In keeping with the objectives of the new administration, there is an emphasis on 'de-cluttering' the public sector landscape.</li> <li>Julie Franchetti (JF) informed the group that a lot is also happening on the ground to align the work of the 3 agencies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>on planning and tourism issues.</b></p> <p><b>All members to submit suggestions for improving regulations on tourism to PG by end July.</b></p> <p><b>JL and JH to submit case studies on licensing issues to PG by end July.</b></p>
<p>4. <i>Update on CSI Action Plan</i></p> <p>The 5 TFFC Implementation Groups are currently working towards putting together action plans. However, it was agreed that the CSI Group is slightly different from the others, in that virtually all of the targets and actions</p>	

<p>allocated to the group are for the public sector, and primarily the Executive itself. It therefore seems clear that any action plan need not take exactly the same form as those of the other groups.</p> <p>The CSI Group will rather act as a conduit for communication in relation to key infrastructure and corporate issues, both outwards to the wider tourism industry, and inwards through Executive representatives and to Ministers.</p> <p>PG will prepare a full update on the allocated targets and actions by the end of July for distribution to the group.</p>	<p><b>PG to prepare update targets on by end July.</b></p>
<p>5. <i>Next Steps</i></p> <p>Covered in previous section.</p>	
<p>6. <i>AOB</i></p> <p>No other business was tabled.</p>	
<p>7. <i>Date of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Monday 1 October 2007, at 2pm.</p>	