



Lochaber, Skye, Small Isles and Raasay Ferry Stakeholder Group

Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, 1130 on Monday 4th December 2017.

Minute

Present

Cllr Ben Thompson, Highland Council
Neil MacRae, HITRANS
Robert Morrison, CalMac Ferries Limited
Demi Wyllie, CalMac Ferries Limited
Camille Dressler, Small Isles CC (Via Telecon)
Alan McCabe, Transport Scotland
Brian Gordon, Transport Scotland
Douglas Ellis, Transport Scotland
Scott Dingwall, HIE
Rob Ware, Sleat Transport Forum
Tim Shone, Sleat Transport Forum
Kevin Hobbs, CMAL

Apologies

Kevin Hobbs, CMAL
Lorna Spencer, CMAL
Cllr Alan Henderson, Highland Council
Des Bradley, ScotRail
Cllr Calum MacLeod, Highland Council
David Summers, The Highland Council
Ker Corbett, Scottish Citylink
Chris Taylor, VisitScotland
Daniel Lafferty, Transport Scotland

Neil MacRae, HITRANS, chaired the meeting and welcomed Members to the meeting and invited a round of introductions.

1 **Minute of Meeting held on 25th April 2017 and Matters Arising**

Minute approved as an accurate reflection of the discussion.

Action - CalMac agreed to provide Sleat Transport Forum with winter only statistics as per previous Action from meeting of 25.04.2017.

2 **Finalised Ferry User Group Terms of Reference**

Neil MacRae introduced the report on the proposed updated Ferry Consultation Terms of reference which were approved by the HITRANS Board in September and invited Members to feed any comments so that they could be finalized. Neil MacRae said the aim of revising the terms of reference is to find a way of ensuring that the groups are fit for purpose and circulated feedback forms to all members so that they could provide suggestions as to how the Groups could be improved in the future.

The proposed amendments include:

- Renaming the groups Ferry Stakeholder Groups rather than Ferry User Groups
- Greater clarity of the roles and relationships that allow FUGs to coexist alongside without confusing the role of the ferry committees and other first point of engagement fora.
- Formalising the timetable consultation timeframe
- A proposal that an Independent Chair be appointed to provide a consistency across all 4 Ferry User Group meetings. This individual would provide a link to the CalMac Communities Board.

3 **Marketing / Commercial Update**

Robert Morrison updated Members on progress being made to introduce improve the booking arrangements for commercial vehicles to avoid situation where they unnecessarily book up space that could otherwise be used by private vehicles.

Robert Morrison also offered to work with local tourism organisations to improve marketing onboard Loch Fyne while it was laid up in Mallaig. Camille Dressler requested that similar opportunity was taken for Loch Nevis and Small Isles and to ensure that there was good dialogue between the booking office and the Islands during peak periods or events when visitor demand meant that there may not be capacity for local journeys.

4 **Ports / Harbours Update**

Rob Ware advised that CMAL had recently announced dates for the next round of public consultations for the Infrastructure works and new vessel for the Uig – Lochmaddy / Tarbert routes in February 2018.

5 **Audit Scotland Ferries Performance Audit**

Neil MacRae introduced a report on the outcome of Audit Scotland's report on Transport Scotland's Ferry Services and tabled a copy of the presentation provided by Audit Scotland which summarized the report findings. Neil MacRae advised members that the report was currently being reviewed by the Scottish Parliaments Public Audit Committee.

6 **National Transport Strategy Update by Transport Scotland**

Neil MacRae advised members that a representative from Transport Scotland had sent apologies for not being able to attend. Neil MacRae introduced HITRANS report on the National Transport Strategy advising members of the extensive consultation and data gathering that Transport Scotland were undertaking in support of developing a new National Transport Strategy.

7 **Transport Scotland Update**

Nothing to report beyond the other items covered within the agenda

8 **Transport Integration Update**

Demi Wylie provided a presentation on her recent work since taking on the post of Timetables and Transport Integration Manager and the positive work taking place between Cal Mac and other operators in terms of timetable planning.

Rob Ware asked if progress had been made on replacing / upgrading the ferry information signage on the A830 trunk road and other similar signs at Kyle etc. Neil MacRae reported that HITRANS had funded the original signs but that they were maintained by CalMac.

Action – Transport Scotland / CalMac / HITRANS to identify responsibility and provide update or resolve in advance of next meeting.

9 **Timetables Overview**

Robert Morrison provided a summary of the timetable requests which they had received from Ferry Committees or Community Councils.

Cllr Ben Thompson asked if they had received a request from Small Isles parents for amendments to the Friday timetable so that children could home return every weekend rather than fortnightly at present. Brian Gordon asked if this could be submitted so that this could be considered as part of the timetable review.

10 **Unresolved Issues from Ferry Committee for Resolution**

No unresolved issues reported

11 **AOCB**

No other items were raised

12 **Date of Next Meeting**

Action – HITRANS to advise Members of dates at the earliest opportunity. Demi Wylie confirmed that the first week of June had been identified within the revised consultation timeline. Camille Dressler requested that future winter meetings of the Group be held on a Tuesday as that was the only day of the week which would permit attendance in person from the Small Isles