

Minute of Meeting of the
Hebrides Ferry Users Group
Meeting held in the Council
Chambers, Stornoway on
Thursday 18 September 2008
at 11.00am.

PRESENT

Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Chairman)
Mr Murdo Gray – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr John Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr David Smart – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr D R Macleod – Road Haulage Association
Mr Kevin Peets – Harbourmaster (Ullapool Harbour)
Mr Peter Brown – Outer Hebrides Tourism Association
Mr Laurie Sinclair – Caledonian MacBrayne Limited
Mr David Taylor – Caledonian Macbrayne Limited
Mrs Mary Ann Campbell – Caledonian Macbrayne Limited
Mr Phil Preston – Caledonian Macbrayne Limited
Mr Alasdair Henderson – Caledonian Macbrayne Limited
Mr David Cairns – Caledonian Macbrayne Limited
Mr Mike Deans – Citylink
Mr Cameron Kemp – Highland Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Gerry Macleod – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

APOLOGIES

Mr Dave Duthie – HITRANS
Mrs Morag Munro – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Ranald Robertson - HITRANS

MINUTES

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| Ferry Users Group | 1 | The Minute of Meeting of 23 January 2008 was approved . |
| Matters Arising | 2 | <p>The Group was informed that Highland Council was currently investigating the options for provision of a bus shelter at Uig Pier but space constraints at the site made it difficult to provide suitable bus bays.</p> <p>The Group also considered problems with the interchange at Invergarry and onward connections from Uig to Inverness and Mike Deans confirmed that Citylink were looking at options for re-routing and discussions with Scotrail were ongoing in relation to through ticketing.</p> |

FERRY SERVICES

Scottish Government Review	3	Mr Ranald Robertson submitted a Report in relation to the Scottish Government's National Ferries Review. The Report detailed the scope and methodology to be covered within the Review and indicated that Regional Transport Partnership's and Local Authorities would be involved as stakeholders.
		It was agreed:
		(1) that Members would pass any comments in relation to the Scope and Methodology for the Scottish Governments National Ferries Review to HITRANS; and
		(2) to recommend that HITRANS request that the Hebrides Ferry Users Group be represented on the National Ferries Review Steering Group.
RET	4	Mr Phil Preston informed the Group that the new range of fares under RET had now been published and reservations could be made. Mr Preston indicated that there were a number of issues to deal with, including fares for concessionary holders and discussions were ongoing with the Scottish Government. Members raised concerns that disabled users would be paying higher fares under RET.
		It was agreed to note the update on the introduction of RET.
HITRANS Ferry Connections Study	5	Mr Ranald Robertson submitted a Report in relation to the HITRANS Ferry Terminal Modal Integration Connection Study. The Study proposed to evaluate the quality of integration between modes at ferry terminals across the region. The Study would consider both summer and winter timetables in order to identify how the change of season affected the opportunity to travel by sustainable modes of transport to and from the island and peninsular communities served by ferry networks.
		It was agreed to note the Report.
Caledonian Macbrayne – Operational Update	6	Mrs Mary Ann Campbell and Mr David Taylor informed the Group of Caledonian Macbrayne Limited's performance in relation to the reliability and punctuality of services for Western Isles Ferry Services. Reasons for cancellation of services were detailed together with details of passengers and vehicle numbers.
		The Group was informed that Caledonian Macbrayne Limited would be moving to using heavy oil for ferry services and this would add fifteen minutes to each turnaround. Citylink had adjusted their timetable to take account of the additional turnaround time. Members were further informed of timetable changes which would be introduced during November 2008 to allow for the refits for the Isle of Lewis and Muirneag.
		It was agreed :
		(1). to note the update in relation to Caledonian Macbrayne Limited Services; and
		(2). to recommend that Caledonian Macbrayne Limited bring forward the morning sailing over the Sound of Barra by fifteen minutes in order to improve connectivity.
Public Transport Operational Update	7	Members were informed that there was nothing to Report in relation to this item.
Mallaig to Lochboisdale Ferry Services	8	Mr Murdo Gray provided the Group with an update in relation to the consultation exercise in respect of the proposed Mallaig to Lochboisdale Ferry Service. Mr Gray indicated that meetings had taken place with the Scottish Government and Storais Uibhist and information was awaited from the Government.
		It was agreed to note the Report.

Lochmaddy Ferry
Terminal

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Mr Murdo Gray informed Members that the works to the Lochmaddy Ferry Terminal were now complete.

It was agreed to note the Report.

Date of Next
Meeting

10

It was **agreed** that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday 19 March 2009 (time and venue to be confirmed).