

Minute of Meeting held in the
HITRANS Office, Inverness
Airport on Friday 23 March
2007 at 10.00am.

PRESENT
Mr Charlie King (Chairman) – Highland Council
Mr Robert Sclater (Vice Chairman)– Orkney Islands Council
Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mrs Roma Hossack – Moray Council
Mr Donald MacNeill
Mr Wilson Metcalfe
Miss Louise Smith

IN ATTENDANCE
Ms Naomi Coleman – Orkney Islands Council
Mr Sandy Ritchie – Moray Council
Mr David Summers – HIPTF
Mr Sam MacNaughton – Highland Council
Mr Howard Brindley – HITRANS
Mr Dave Duthie – Argyll and Bute Council
Mr Frank Roach – Highland Rail Partnership
Mr Andrew Capes - HITRANS
Ms Jenny MacPherson – Platform PR
Mr Murdo Gray – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Jim Macreath – INTRANS

APOLOGIES
Mr Duncan MacIntyre – Argyll and Bute Council
Mr Iain Duff – SCDI
Mr Douglas Forson – Scottish Executive

MINUTES

HITRANS 1 The Minute of Meeting of 23 February 2007 was **approved**, subject to the following amendments:

- (1) delete “Louise Smith” and “Andrew Capes” ;
- (2) at Item 1 property at delete “Inverness Airport” insert “all HIAL airports”;
- (3) at Item 3 after the words the costs insert “HITRANS Permanent Advisors Time”.

The Chairman advised that Wilson Metcalfe would be available to meet with HIAL, if necessary, from 26 March 2007 until after the May election period.

It was noted that this arrangement would not affect the relationship between Local Authorities and HIAL, in relation to Local Authorities making representations direct to HIAL on issues within their area.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a document entitled Regional Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands Final Report 2007. Deborah Andrew, Steer Davies Gleave and Howard Brindley addressed those present on the Regional Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands and responded to questions. Following detailed consideration it was agreed that the following amendments be made to the document namely:

- (1) add in paragraph on roadex European Project in the context section;
- (2) figure 3.3 reverse colour shading;
- (3) figure 3.6 amend figure to reflect 5 mainland ferry link the Western Isles;
- (4) amend paragraph 3.22 with new text from Frank Roach in relation to Invernet;
- (5) remove paragraph 4.28;
- (6) page 45 remove "on services" from first aim of costs of transport and travel sub strategy;
- (7) remove 3.20;
- (8) paragraph 4.17 – move to top of section entitled Strategic Policies;
- (9) include new policy H33M on DRT and Innovation;
- (10) table 4.4 remove safety tick against Aberdeen-Inverness rail line, add in tick to reduce journey time from Stornoway sea crossings;
- (11) table 4.5 add tick for days business/commute from Luing etc;
- (12) paragraph 5.14 update description of review of RTS to reflect first year assessment of additional options;
- (13) appendix A1 remove S6E dual carriageway A96 (and in A2);
- (14) improve phrasing in Appendix A5 to assessment of options stated in first year only not a commitment to progressing them;
- (15) A5 – add in those requested for assessment by Orkney and Moray stated at the meeting and HIAL Wick GPS;
- (16) A5 – refer to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar not Western Isles Council and ensure that this change is made consistently throughout the document;
- (17) Appendix B1, policy H27 B, add in reference to audit of infrastructure for people with disabilities.

It was further agreed that it would not be appropriate to change anything else of significance in the Regional Transport Strategy, at this stage, particularly in terms of how options were assessed in Appendix A1.

It was agreed that Deborah Andrew and Howard Brindley be authorised to amend the Regional Transport Strategy, including those amendments referred to above and taking account of points made during the discussion of the document and to circulate the amended document to Members of HITRANS and Officers.

It was further agreed that a press launch for the Regional Transport Strategy would be held on 2 April 2007 and that Howard Brindley be authorised to make arrangements for a seminar on the Regional Transport Strategy for MSP candidates.

The Meeting further considered correspondence concerning the "Caithness Transport Vision" together with associated documentation. It was noted that specific reference was made to the "Caithness Transport Vision" at paragraph 2.8 page 6 of the strategy and to make no further amendments to the Strategy in relation to the aspirations contained within the "Caithness Transport Vision".

It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange for a letter to be sent to Cllr John Green, Chairman of the Caithness Transport Forum advising him of the HITRANS position.

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday 13 April 2007 in Nairn.