

Minute of Meeting held
in the Council
Chambers, Orkney
Islands Council Offices,
Orkney, on 4 June 2010
at 9.30am.

- PRESENT**
- Mr Duncan Macintyre (Chairman) - Argyll & Bute Council
 - Mr John Laing (Vice Chairman) - The Highland Council
 - Mr Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council
 - Mr John Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
 - Mr Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council
 - Mr Okain McLennan
 - Mr Wilson Metcalfe
- IN ATTENDANCE**
- Mr Dave Duthie – HITRANS
 - Mr Ranald Robertson - HITRANS
 - Mr Frank Roach – HITRANS
 - Mr Sam MacNaughton – The Highland Council
 - Mr Donald MacRae – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
 - Mr Gordon Holland – Moray Council
 - Mr Tony Jarvis – Highlands & Islands Enterprise
 - Mr Robert Pollock – Argyll & Bute Council
 - Mr Derek Mackay - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
 - Mr Pip Farman – General Health Advisor
 - Mr Mike Mitchell – The Highland Council
 - Mr David Summers – Highlands & Islands Transport Coordinating Officers Group
 - Ms Iris Hawkins – ZetTrans
 - Mr Ken Duerden - ZetTrans
 - Mr David Flear – Caithness Transport Forum
 - Mr John Green – Caithness Transport Forum
- APOLOGIES**
- Mr Gareth Williams – Scottish Council Development & Industry
 - Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
 - Mr George Macintyre – Moray Council

MINUTE

- Minute of Meeting 9 April 2010
- 1 The Minute of Meeting of 9 April 2010 was **approved**.

- Matters Arising 2 The Partnership Director updated Members in relation to progress with implementation of the actions from the Minute of 9 April 2010. it was intended that Mr Alex A MacDonald, President of CPMR Islands Commission together with Mr Jean Didier Hache would attend the September meeting and representatives from Transport Scotland would attend a future meeting to discuss progress on the delivery of the Strategic Transport Projects Review. Members discussed the maintenance of cycleways and it was confirmed that Highland Council's policy position was to maintain cycleways on the Council road corridor but not on trunk road corridors.

It was agreed:

- (1) to note the update;
- (2) that the Partnership Director would raise the issue of introducing a Scotland wide policy for the maintenance of cycleways at SCOTS and the meetings of the Chairs of the Transport Partnerships.

FINANCE

- Provisional 3 The Partnership Treasurer submitted a Report detailing the
Outturn the provisional outturn revenue monitoring position from 1 April 2009 to
Revenue Budget 31 March 2010. The Report stated that, based on financial
Monitoring performance to date, the provisional outturn showed an overall
Report – 1 April overspend of £18,434 which could be carried forward into the 2010/11
2009 to 31 financial year. The Report commented on the variances within
March 2010 budgets.

It was agreed to note the Report and the provisional outturn revenue monitoring position for the year ended 31 March 2010.

- Travel Plan 4 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report detailing progress with
Development the delivery of the Travel Plans Programme 2009/10. The Report
stated that the Scottish Government had awarded a ringfenced
allocation to Regional Transport Partnerships to develop Travel
Planning within public sector organisations from 2006-2010. This
ongoing activity has now been absorbed into the core activity of the
Partnerships and HITRANS have allocated a budget of £15,000 from
within the Business Plan to support this work. The Report provided
an update on the "Get Healthy, Get Active" sustainable travel grant
scheme and promotion of the "If You Care Share" website.

It was agreed to note the Report.

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Renewable
Energy
Transport
Infrastructure
Study

- 5 The Partnership Director gave a presentation on the outcomes of the Renewable Energy Transport Infrastructure Study. Members were informed that the objectives of the Study were to review the transport infrastructure requirements of the offshore renewable energy sector; identify the investments needed to improve transportation infrastructure to those key port sites which could serve the sector as appraise the options for this investment and recommending most appropriate option to fit with Scottish Enterprise/HIE Spatial Strategy. The Report highlighted the findings of the Study.

It was agreed:

- (1) to refer the Study findings to the Scottish Government's Renewables Delivery Group;
- (2) that local routing strategies are developed by Councils for each key port to avoid sensitive areas and local traffic management measures be developed; and
- (3) that needs for access to Tiree, Scapa Flow at Houston and Lyness should be further developed with the industry.

Ferry Service
Development
Through the Uig
Hub

- 6 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report detailing a summary of the key findings from the Ferry Service Development Through Uig Study. It was stated that the Study comprised the development of an evidence base on the socio-economic characteristics of the islands and existing transport provision, consultation with a large range of organisations, and desk based analysis. Three options for development of ferry services were appraised at a high level:-

Option A - Dedicated vessels for each of the Harris and Uist services;
Option B – A new landfall on Skye to replace Uig; and
Option C – Improved passenger facilities at Uig.

The Study commented on each of the options.

It was agreed to:

- (1) note the Report;
- (2) approve the Ferry Service Development through Uig Study for publication on the HITRANS website; and
- (3) approve the Study as a source of information to be used in the preparation of HITRANS response to the Scottish Ferries Review consultation.

Arising from consideration of this item it was agreed to consider a draft response to the Scottish Government's Ferry Review at the September Board Meeting and the Partnership Director would invite the Scottish Government's Ferry Review Group to present their Consultation to the Meeting.

Freight Capability Study 7 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report detailing the outcomes of the Rail Freight Capability Study which looked at the capacity of the rail network within the HITRANS area. It was stated that the Study had been well received by key industry stakeholders, including Network Rail and had prompted them to initiate similar work across Scotland. The outputs from the Study would be a vital tool in developing rail freight capability and services across HITRANS area.

It was agreed to note the output from the Study and the very positive response it had received from the rail industry.

Rail Update 8 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report providing an update on actions taken by HITRANS to promote development in the rail sector across the HITRANS area.

It was agreed to note the Report.

Active Travel Update 9 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report in relation to progress with the Active Travel Audit Programme. The Report stated that Halcrow were continuing to undertake a programme of audits of key settlements as identified in the Regional Transport Strategy.

It was agreed to note the Report.

PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2009/10 10 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report detailing the proposed structure of the HITRANS Annual Report 2009/10. The Report would highlight HITRANS activity and progress during the year. Copies of the Report would be placed on HITRANS website and printed copies would also be sent out on request.

It was agreed to:

(1) note the Report; and

(2) approve the allocation of £4000 from the Publicity budget to meet the graphic design and printing costs of the Annual Report.

Consultation Group's Round Up 11 Mr Wilson Metcalfe provided an update on the work of the Aviation Group. Mr Metcalfe indicated that discussions had taken place on the disruption caused by volcanic ash and the impact on industry was highlighted. It was indicated that Government were considering means of procuring Twin Otters for subsequent use on the Glasgow – Barra, Campbeltown and Tiree services, and briefings on the Air Discount Scheme and Air Passenger Duty based on discussions within the Group would be passed to Highland and Islands MSP/MPs.

Mr Ranald Robertson provided an update on the Regional Bus Forum and indicated that the next event would be held in September/October 2010. Mr Robertson further provided an update on the ongoing round of Ferry User Groups.

It was to note the updates.

The Chairman, on behalf of all Members, thanked Mr Jim Foubister and Orkney Islands Council for the excellent hospitality and tours which had been arranged for Members during the visit to the Islands.