



**Minute of Argyll Ferry Users Group Meeting (FUG)
(Oban, Colonsay, Iona, Lismore, Coll, Tiree, Barra, South Uist)**

**Held at the HIE Boardroom, Kilmory, Lochgilphead
13:30 on 4 February 2015**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Ranald Robertson
Katy Cunningham

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&B)

Cllr Alistair MacDougall
Cllr Iain Angus MacDonald
Pippa Milne
Martin Goringe

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Cllr Donald Manford
Cllr Ronnie Mackinnon (Teleconference)
Iain Mackinnon (Teleconference)

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CaIMac)

Matthew Harrison
Eric Smith
Bill Main
Karen Milliken

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND (Ferries Division)

Graham Laidlaw
Cheryl Murrie
Allan Malone

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Lorna Spencer

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE)

Sue Gledhill

FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Alan Parker

VISIT SCOTLAND

David Adams McGilp

PRESENT **By Teleconference**
Stewart MacLennan (Observer)
Mrs MacLennan (Observer)

APOLOGIES Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Councillor Robin Currie
Billy Nelson
Des Bradley

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ranald Robertson (Chair) welcomed Members to the meeting.

ITEM 1: Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of 30th July 2014 was approved with rewording to reflect Cllr Donald Manford comments under item 7 that the detail be expanded to cover Cllr Manford's point that "arrival/departure times to coincide with other public transport."

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

a)Light Goods Vehicles – Ministerial Correspondence
Chair advised Short life working group has met and they have exchanged correspondence with the Minister as per the letters included in the meeting pack.

b)Graham Laidlaw advised that the Freight Fares Consultation will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to input into the future process.

ITEM 3: Caledonian MacBrayne Events Calendar 2015 (for noting)

Mathew Harrison presented the Events Calendar and offered the opportunity for stakeholders to provide details of additional events to be included on the Calendar.

ITEM 4: Ferry Demand Capacity Forecasting

PowerPoint presentation given by Karen Milliken and Bill Main on the CalMac Vessel Replacement Strategy.

Karen provided background to the CalMac vessel replacement strategy across the CHFS network which is a tripartite project also involving Transport Scotland and CMAL. The work has been supported with independent forecasting undertaken by Reference Economic Consultants. The Strategy is designed to compliment the Ferries Plan covering acquisitions and disposal of vessels to create a refined and repeatable process which could facilitate annual review,

Bill Main provided the detail on statistics on the model which will help decide a replacement vessel programme. Looking at the entire network, forecasting demand on each route/model for capacity utilisation.

Action – Details of the VRS would be circulated to all FUG Members.

ITEM 5: Caledonian MacBrayne Digital Projects Platform Update

Mathew Harrison gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new online ticketing and reservation/booking system that CFL are in the process of implementing under the project title of Titan. Matthew provided background on the new system highlighting that the benefits and functionality offered by the system will support -

- printing of boarding cards
- sms/email/ Smartphone/ipad compatible
- Smart Ticketing
- M Ticketing
- Improved intelligence on who is on board.
- Tracking who is going onto the islands, this will help with issue of block booking as will be able to see what other services people are booked on..

ITEM 6: Cal Mac Operational Update

Mathew Harrison reported on routes within the area and provided the group with performance reports providing information on reliability and punctuality of routes covered within the group area for the period 4 April 2014 – 31 December 2014.

Donald Manford highlighted the impact of cancelled sailings on key sectors including fishing / shellfish. There would be merit in looking at the incidence of cancellation on other routes to understand performance suggesting it might be interesting to see a comparison for Northern Isles sailings.

ITEM 7: CHFS Contract Procurement Process

Allan Malone of Transport Scotland provided a verbal report on CHFS Contract Procurement Process.

Allan advised his main responsibility is to have CHFS contract in place by October 2016, with award made summer 2016.

Information to tenderers will be out within the next few weeks, with Invitation to tender this summer. The contract specification will be drawn from the Ferries Plan and this has already been subject to significant consultation. However communication with communities must continue. FUGs to be informed of engagement, with communication through RTPs. All Information will be placed on Transport Scotland Ferries page website and recommends group members to visit site to keep informed.

Allan advised once the contract period starts CalMac cannot be involved in discussions regarding tender. CalMac will have to leave the room when any discussions regarding tender/contract are taking place.

Chair thanked Allan for his presentation

ITEM 8: Ferry User Group Review

Ranald Robertson outlined review of the remit of these groups to improve membership to reflect user and island communities, and to strengthen consultation going on, on a more strategic level. For members information on how these groups will go forward with the contractor. This should lead to better communication, and more operator led meetings.

Actions to be issued following on from meetings

Action – Local haulier input to the Argyll FUG to be sought. Additional Community Council representation on condition that the CC representative continues to act on behalf of all CCs in the area.

ITEM 8: AOCB

Chair introduced email circulated ahead of meeting from Ian MacIntyre regarding vehicle ferry link with Northern Ireland which had been sent to the Chair for information.

A short discussion followed where it was agreed that the FUG supported the current Ardrossan to Campbeltown trial and this trial should be completed and evaluated to understand its long term potential.