



THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

**Minute of Clyde Ferry Users Group Meeting (FUG)
(Arran, Bute, Cumbrae, Cowal, Dunoon)**

Held at the **Victoria Hotel, Rothesay, Isle of Bute,**
11:00 on 28 November 2012

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Mr Ranald Robertson (RR)
Mrs Katy Cunningham (KC)

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Councillor Christopher McEleny (Chair)

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT (SPT)

Mr Allan Comrie (AC)

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Councillor Robert MacIntyre (RM)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor John Bruce (JB)

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND (FERRIES DIVISION)

Mr Paul Linhart-Macaskill (PL-M)

ScotRail

Mr Des Bradley (DB)

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CalMac)

Mr Brian Fulton (BF)
Mr Robbie Brown (RB)

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (NFU)

Mr Ninian McAllister (NM)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor John Semple
Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld
Councillor Denis McKenna

Mr Mike Dean
Mr Donald Bannatyne
Mr Guy Platten
Mr Douglas Blades
Mr Douglas Ellis

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

RR welcomed members to this first meeting of the group since the local government elections. Background was provided on the role and remit of the Group including the different approach this group had previously taken on the election of a Chair from the other Ferry User Consultation Groups. This reflected the multi Council, multi RTP area geography of the Clyde FUG.

RR asked if Members were interested in Chairing the Group.

After some round table discussion Councillor Christopher McEleny agreed to take on the role and was duly installed as Chair of this group.

ITEM 1: Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of 16 March 2012 was approved as a correct reflection of the meeting

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

RR – advised the group that the last meeting of this group was a special meeting solely to prepare a response to the Scottish Government draft Ferries Plan consultation. Randal informed the group that this response was completed, circulated, signed off and submitted ahead of the consultation deadline. The response is available to view and download from the HITRANS website.

ITEM 3: Ferry User Group Terms of Reference

RR – A copy of the Ferry User Group Terms of Reference was included within the meeting papers. RR gave a brief outline of the Ferry User Groups and background to their establishment. Interest has been expressed at previous meetings for the remit of the Groups to extend to encompass all ferry services in the geographic area of the Group including those operated under contract to (or by direct operation by) local authorities and commercial services.

After some round table discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Group Membership would be happy to see the remit extend to non-public funded services.

Agreed – That RR would update the Terms of Reference to reflect the agreement of the Group.

ITEM 4: Milk Transportation from Bute Creamery

RM reported that since the closure of the Bute creamery milk is still being produced at similar levels which suits the island well. Milk is going to a dairy in Stirling. Producers are not currently receiving enough to cover costs at the moment.

NM commented that if dairy farming ceased on the island it would be disastrous for the Bute economy. Farmers need all the support they can get.

Agreed: Members agreed to keep this as a live item on the agenda with updates as they occur

ITEM 5: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update

CFL Regional Manager Robbie Brown reported on routes within his area and provided the group with performance reports on reliability and punctuality of routes covered within the group area for the period April-20 October 2012. Performance reports and statistics were issued prior to meeting.

There followed a general discussion on the detail of the report with the following requests made for consideration:

That cycle figures be included in stats provided to future meetings.

ITEM 6: Public Transport Update

Des Bradley, ScotRail, provided rail update:

From December 9th new timetables to reflect changes in infrastructure but all connections will be maintained. Des provided updated timetables for those who would like them

RR – asked how connections are working with the Argyll Ferries service.

DB - confirmed all working well

BF - confirmed connections working well

Allan Comrie, SPT, provided a public transport update covering the following areas:

Kilcreggan ferry service.

Arran bus service.

ITEM 7: AOCB

JB –asked BF for update on the Gourock – Dunoon service

BF –Argyll flyer particularly good at the moment, providing a good service but Argyll Ferries accept there are critics of the service.

RM – asked by constituent to raise the issue of 6.25am train won't accept £1.20 ticket before 8am

BF – confirmed that this ticket type is accepted on ferry but not on train

AC – confirmed not valid during the morning peak period on trains

JB – added no restrictions with ferrycard.

BF – asked RM to send contact details to RB and they will contact constituent with information

AC– proposals at Brodick for new terminal, proximity of bus stand with new terminal, does this make it too far for passengers to walk, and will this mean some passengers will miss their connection.

BF – doesn't think so, will be a covered walkway but not fully sure at this stage.

ITEM 8:

Date of Next Meeting

Gourock on 27 March 2013.