

Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group

Tuesday 2nd June 2020 MS Teams Meeting

Present:

Cllr Timothy Billings, North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Anne Horn, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr John Armour, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council
Caroline Connelly, Transport Scotland
Richard Hadfield, Transport Scotland
Alan McCabe, Transport Scotland
Kevin Hobbs, CMAL
Andrew MacNair, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Blair Moglia, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Don McKillop, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Tommy Gore, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Robert Morrison, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Demi Wylie, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Ker Corbett, Scottish Citylink
David Heriot, CalMac Communities Board
Nicky Sobey, HIE
Lucinda Gray, HIE
Gordon Smith, Visit Scotland
Ranald Robertson, HITRANS
Neil MacRae, HITRANS
Sarah Compton-Bishop, HITRANS
Alan McCabe, Transport Scotland
Michael Kean, Transport Scotland
Caroline Connelly, Transport Scotland
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Bill Calderwood, Arran Ferry Committee
Islay McEachern, Islay Community Council
Jim Porteous, Islay Ferry Committee
Allan Comrie, SPT

Apologies:

Cllr Ellen McMaster, North Ayrshire Council (due to IT difficulties)
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council (due to IT difficulties)

1. Minute of 2 December 2019

Minute approved as an accurate note of discussion.

2. Matters Arising

Blair Moglia presented the Action Tracker which noted all matters arising from the previous meeting were designated green as having been dealt with.

The Group were asked if the new format of action tracking should be retained and the group were in agreement that this was a good step forward.

Jim Porteous updated that there has now been engagement between Gordon Ross and the Islay Ferry Committee on an Islay Freight Service. At this stage Western Ferries were awaiting a response from Transport Scotland on the proposal and Gordon confirmed things were currently in limbo on the WF proposal due to the COVID-19 crisis.

3. Covid-19 Transport Transition Plan

Ranald Robertson introduced this item making reference to the new guidance published on 26th May by Scottish Government for passengers and operators in Scotland to help prepare for the lifting of some lockdown restrictions. This travel guidance is published as part of the [Transport Transition Plan](#)

It follows the publication of a detailed route map by the Scottish Government regarding next steps last week: [COVID-19: Scotland's route map for transitioning through and out of the crisis](#) [The guidance advises passengers](#) about when and how to safely access public transport through good hand hygiene, respecting physical distancing, using face coverings and avoiding busier times.

The plan is clear that continuing to work from home should be the default position where possible, flexible start and finish times and making more active travel choices will be vital in easing the number of people accessing public transport.

RR explained that there will be a Transport Transition Plan National Advisory Group and Transport Scotland would be undertaking mode specific work including for Ferry Services.

Richard Hadfield outlined the steps taken by Transport Scotland and CalMac in earlier stages of the Pandemic and the forward planning that has been a feature of the response throughout the crisis and now as we move to changes in the level of movement that people can make. The essential emergency timetable will remain in place and will be expanded in time as we move to new phases of travel that is permitted.

Current modelling suggests that vessel passenger capacity could reduce to as little as 17 or 18 per cent of normal passenger capacity.

The Group asked for a timeline for publication at a wider level of what the carrying capacity on each ferry will be and more detail on actions towards foot passenger booking.

Robert Morison confirmed that CFL are well on with capturing vessel specific capacity and that should be available publicly soon. CFL will need to continue to work on this alongside planning for timetable levels which might be closer to a winter timetable level of frequency / operation.

Bookable servicing will be important to manage social distancing and this will help manage public expectations.

4. Transport Scotland Update

Richard Hadfield presented the Transort Scotland update that covered the following topics:

- COVID – 19 Response and Support to Essential Ferry Services.
- RET Evaluation
- Timetables
- Fares
- Major Infrastructure Projects
- VRDP
- OH STAG

In addition to the above Richard provided an update on the Islands Connectivity Plan which will aim to update on the previous work of the Ferries Plan and provide more context on a wider range of island connectivity scope.

CLlr Reid asked if any progress has been made on introducing RET on the two routes to Dunoon.

Richard Hadfield advised that there is no fixed timescale for introducing RET on the Dunoon routes but it is in the Feries Plan and is something that TS are hoping to wrap up in their Fares review work.

5. Caledonian MacBrayne Operational and Performance Presentation

Robert Morrison introduced the item which would have input from colleagues.

Tommy Gore (for Clyde area) and Don McKillop (for Argyll area) provided an overview of the performance and operational reporting which was set out in detail in the CFL operational update report.

The discussion covered a range of topics including:

- Vessel Capacity with Physical Distancing in Place

Andrew MacNair provided the Commercial and Marketing update. This presentation referred to the detailed report prepared by CFL for the meeting.

- Andrew underlined that promotional activities and encouragement to travel will not take place until it is clear that island communities are open again for visitors and actively seeking to open up to more visitors.

Blair Moglia provided a Stakeholder and Engagement update which referred to the detailed report prepared for the meeting and covered the following key topics:

- FSG Survey Monkey Results
- Socio-economic Report

Western Ferries update

Gordon Ross provided a verbal report on WF operational performance and carryings which were meeting expectations against previous years up until March. Due to COVID-19 the service was reduced to an hourly service to provide a key conduit to key workers, essential workers and the NHS. With increased demand through the return of more workers in sectors such as construction the timetable was increased at peak travel times. Carryings remain at about 85% of normal year on year carryings. As lockdown guidelines change WF will change services as required. In passenger lounges social distancing has been implemented

6. CMAL Update

Kevin Hobbs presented the CMAL update report which covered the following items:

- 3 Year Corporate Plan
- Vessels – 801 / 802
- Islay Ferry SoR / Feasibility
- Tiree Linkspan Replacement
- Tiree marshalling area and land purchase from Argyll and Bute Council
- Small Vessels Replacement Plan
- Clyde Ferry Replacement Plan
- Future Vessels
- Port Infrastructure
 1. Current Projects
 2. Future Projects

7. Scottish Islands Passport

RR introduced the update on progress in delivery of the Scottish Islands Passport which is LEADER funded and led by HITRANS who have appointed Sarah Compton-Bishop and Kirsten Gow on a job share basis based in Jura. The Islands Passport a Scottish Government Programme for Government commitment.

Action – The Secretariat will circulate details of the Scottish Islands Passport webinar and in case Zoom bars Webinar attendance a Presentation on the project to Members.

8. Communities Board Update

David Heriot provided an update on behalf of the CalMac Communities Board (CB). This covered:

- CB refresh has been completed with new members joining the CB.
- Sub group activity continues including the establishment of a social media presence for the CB.
- Unmet / unmeasured demand remains a concern and it looks as if Ar Turas will not be the answer to this.
- CB continues to lobby for a reduction in the cost of school travel.

- CB continues to lobby for vessel and infrastructure investment.
- CB to meet with Visit Scotland
- It is hoped that Fran Pacitti and Chris Wilcock can join the next meeting.

9. Confirm Date of Next Meeting

The meeting date will be set by seeking stated preference via a Doodle poll.