

Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group

**Monday 7th December 2020 MS Teams Meeting
1400**

Present:

Cllr Ellen McMaster, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)
Cllr John Armour, Argyll and Bute Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Timothy Billings, North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Anne Horn, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council
Alan McCabe, Transport Scotland
Atena Avratidis, Transport Scotland
Laurence Kenney, Transport Scotland
Michael Kean, Transport Scotland
Caroline Connelly, Transport Scotland
Richard Hadfield, Transport Scotland
Laurence Kenney, Transport Scotland
Brian Gordon, Transport Scotland
Eric Lesley, Transport Scotland
Richard Holburn, Transport Scotland
Kevin Hobbs, CMAL
Don McKillop, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Tommy Gore, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
Finlay MacRae, Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL)
David Heriot, CalMac Communities Board
Jim Martin
Margaret McGunnigal
Gordon Smith, Visit Scotland
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Bill Calderwood, Arran Ferry Committee
Islay McEachern, Islay Community Council
Jim Porteous, Islay Ferry Committee
Allan Comrie, SPT
Nicky Sobey, HIE
Scott Dingwall, HIE
Lucinda Gray, HIE
Scott Dingwall, HIE
Jane MacLeod, Business Community Representative
Ranald Robertson, HITRANS
Neil MacRae, HITRANS

Apologies:

Marie Garvie, Transport Scotland
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Ellen McMaster was nominated by Cllr Armour and seconded by Cllr Horne and duly elected as Chair.

Cllr John Armour was nominated by Cllr McMaster and seconded by Cllr Currie and duly elected to the role of Vice Chair.

2. Minute of meeting - 2 June 2020

The minute was approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting discussion.

3. Matters Arising

An action tracker was circulated in the meeting pack which updated on actions from the previous meeting.

4. VRDP

Richard Hadfield provided an update on the VRDP process with reference to the relevant section of the Transport Scotland update report that was included in the papers. The update confirmed that the programme for government has finance for the coming 5 year period of £580M that will have a focus on below but case will need to be made for individual projects:

- Existing Infrastructure and Vessel Commitments
- Islay Vessel
- Small Vessel Programme

The discussion included questions regarding:

- 801 / 802 update
- Value for Money
- Interoperability of vessels
- A83 Rest and be Thankful – including potential to support traffic to divert via Western Ferries and / or Campbeltown service – Gordon Ross has written Transport Scotland inviting them to consider former.

5. Transport Scotland Update

Laurence Kenney spoke to the Transport Scotland update report covering the following areas:

- Covid-19 Response
- Fares
- RET Evaluation and Outer Hebrides STAG
- Major Infrastructure projects at non CMAL ports.

- Small Vessels Programme

Brian Gordon took the group through an update on the planning for Summer 2021 timetabling and capacity constrained operational planning. Will be continually reviewed with an initial review in March.

Transport Scotland confirmed that increases in fares across network in line with inflation which had been delayed because of Covid would be introduced in summer 2021.

There followed a group discussion that covered:

- Outcome of Freight Fares review
- Pricing structure for Campervans
- RET Evaluation
- Cllr Alan Reid enquired about status of request for RET on Western Ferries and Cal Mac Routes to Dunoon

6. Operator Updates

CalMac update

Finlay MacRae presented the Calmac update report taking the group through the sections of the report related to commercial and marketing aspects of the business.

Tommy Gore and Don McKillop provided the regional route update for the Argyll, Lochaber and Skye FSG area routes.

The route summary is reproduced below:

Clyde & Kintyre Group - FSG Report - Summer 2020 27 March 2020 to 18 October 2020

Variance on Previous Period

Route Name	Passengers	Cars	Coaches	CVs
Ardrossan - Brodick	-68%	-55%	-97%	-33%
Ardrossan - Campbeltown	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Claonaig - Lochranza	-62%	-58%	-98%	-49%
Colintraive - Rhubodach	-56%	-48%	-99%	-12%
Gourock - Dunoon	-77%			
Gourock - Kilcreggan				
Kennacraig - Islay	-71%	-63%	-96%	-32%
Kennacraig - Islay/C'say/Oban	-86%	-83%	-100%	-72%
Largs - Cumbrae Slip	-53%	-35%	-21%	8%
Tarbert LF - Portavadie	-56%	-46%	-87%	-58%
Tayinloan - Gigha	-52%	-41%	0%	-15%
Wemyss Bay - Rothesay	-61%	-49%	-96%	-29%

Periods

Current Period: 27 March 2020 to 18 October 2020

Previous Period: 27 March 2019 to 18 October 2019

The follow up discussion included:

- Concerns around waiving of fee for private bookings – Changes to medical appointments cited as example.
- Meeting to discuss parking issues at Largs on 17th December

- Catering provision on vessels during current restrictions

Action – Finlay MacRae to investigate why Campbeltown ferry users have not been consulted by CalMac as part of their timetable planning.

Action – Representation for Gourock – Kilchreggan at future FSG's

Western Ferries Update

Gordon Ross provided an update on Western Ferries operations. Overall carryings were down 20% over the period with passengers down 37% but Commercials down just 14%

7. Infrastructure update

7 (a). CMAL Update

Kevin Hobbs presented the CMAL update that covered:

- Net Zero
- Ferry Replacement Programmes
- Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow
- Port Infrastructure
- Harbours

Subsequent discussion included:

- Future proofing fleet for alternative fuels
- Internal review and masterplanning on shore side issues at Port Ellen to begin

7 (b). SPT Update

Allan Comrie provided an update for SPT that covered:

- Review of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme – Members invited to comment on consultation

8. Calmac Communities Board Update

David Herriot provided an update on behalf of the Communities Board. A significant amount of activity has been undertaken in the following areas:

- COVID-19 Community Response
- CB Sub Group Activity
- VRDP Early Engagement
- CMAL Engagement
- Quarterly Meetings
- Loose Freight Charges

- School Transport Cost Reduction Pilot – proposal has been rejected by Transport Scotland. Robin Currie raised issue at COSLA meetings. Cost of 18 month pilot on two routes (Ullapool-Stornoway and Islay to Kennacraig) estimated to be £5700

Action – David Herriot to share response to CalMac Communities board relating to School transport request to members

9. STPR2

Neil MacRae provided an update on the Strategic Transport Projects Review which has re-started after resources were diverted to Transport Scotland's COVID-19 transport transition response. Meetings of the regional transport working groups were held in late October. The next key stage will be publication of updated Case for Change Reports that will include option sifting information which Transport Scotland expect to have a mid-January publication date which will be followed by an eight week period of feedback.

Action – The FSG Secretariat will update the Membership when the STPR Case for Change reports are published to allow Members to participate in the feedback / consultation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 7 June 2021 at 1330.