

Minute of Meeting held in the
Aros Centre, Portree, Isle of
Skye on Friday 5 June 2009
at 9.30am

- PRESENT**
- Mr Duncan MacIntyre (Chairman) – Argyll and Bute Council
Mr John Laing (Vice-Chairman) – The Highland Council
Mr Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council
Mr George McIntyre – The Moray Council
Mr Okain MacLennan
Mr Wilson Metcalfe
- IN ATTENDANCE**
- Mr Dave Duthie – HITRANS, Partnership Director
Ms Naomi Coleman – Orkney Islands Council
Mr Mike Mitchell – The Highland Council, Partnership Treasurer
Mr Sam MacNaughton – The Highland Council
Mr David Summers – Permanent Adviser, Public Transport Co-ordination
Mr Robert Pollock – Argyll and Bute Council
Mr Gareth Williams – SCDI
Mr Donald MacRae – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Miss Margaret Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, sub Secretary
- APOLOGIES**
- Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Louise Smith
Mr Ranald Robertson – HITRANS
Mr Frank Roach – HITRANS
Mr Douglas Forson – Scottish Government
Mr Gordon Holland – The Moray Council
Ms Pip Farman – Permanent Adviser, Health
Mr Tony Jarvis – Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Mr Derek MacKay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Welcome**
- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular welcomed Mr Okain MacLennan to his first meeting as a Member of the HITRANS Board.
- MINUTES**
- HITRANS** 1 The Minute of Meeting of 3 April 2009 was **approved** subject to the amendment of the word 'regarding' to 'regrading' in the subject heading of item 12.
- Matters Arising** 2
- With reference to Item 7, the Vice-Chairman updated Members on discussions which had taken place between Highland Council and the Transport Minister regarding the Inverness Link Trunk Road and the development of park and ride facilities on the A96 corridor into Inverness. Mr George McIntyre intimated that Moray Council had been involved in similar discussions with the Minister on possible joint working on works in the Moray area.
- It was agreed:-**
- (1) **that representations be made to mainland constituent Local Authorities seeking a meeting of Council Leaders in order to coordinate efforts regarding progressing STPR interventions;**
- (2) **that Mr Sam MacNaughton provide an update at the next meeting regarding the Caithness Partnership Project at Berriedale.**

With reference to Item 5, Ms Naomi Coleman gave a presentation to Members on the Orkney Ferry Services Review. The difficulties faced by the Council-run ferry services were highlighted and it was indicated that the Orkney Inter-Isles Service was the least adequate of all the services in the Regional Transport Network for

the HITRANS area, with an ageing fleet, capacity issues and a significant shortfall in funding due to inadequate subsidies to meet changing circumstances.

Mr Jim Foubister expressed his thanks to HITRANS on behalf of Orkney Islands Council for the services of Mr Howard Brindley in undertaking the Review.

Mr Jim Foubister provided Members with a summary of the discussions at the Tier 2 Ferry Group Meeting in Shetland on Tuesday 2 June 2009 which he had attended with the Chairman.

It was agreed:-

- (1) to note the situation in relation to the future of the internal Orkney Ferry Services;
- (2) that HITRANS support the need for Government to work with the Council to achieve a sustainable solution and that Officers will make representations to the Scottish Government officials in relation to ensuring full consideration is given of the specific issues faced by Orkney in sustaining its local ferry network;
- (3) that a subsequent meeting would focus more specifically on the Scottish Ferries Review and its implications for the area.

FINANCE

HITRANS Revenue Budget 2008/09 3

The Partnership Treasurer submitted a Report setting out the provisional outturn revenue monitoring position for the year to 31 March 2009 which included details of a £6,891 underspend, this figure will however be subject to amendment in the final accounts once the full income and expenditure detail is available for 2008/09. The Partnership Treasurer also reported that in relation to the 2007/08 Travel Plan Grant, discussions with the Scottish Government indicate that the £70,000 shortfall would now be met 50:50 between HITRANS and the Government.

The Chair thanked the Partnership Treasurer for his hard work and extended the thanks to the Partnership Director and Managers for the delivery of the programme within budget.

It was agreed to note the Report.

Travel Plans Programme 2009/10 4

The Board considered a Report by the Partnership Manager in relation to the final year of Travel Plans funding under the designation *Mainstream SMART Measures by Local Authorities and Health Boards*. The Report proposed that this year's reduced funding of £35,000 be allocated as follows:-

1. Get Healthy, Get Active! the Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme promoting better travel - £10,000;
2. www.IfYouCareShare.com, the journey sharing web portal - £5000;
3. Active Travel Regional Audits Match Funding, assisting in identifying and overcoming barriers to active travel - £20,000.

It was suggested that HITRANS engage with organisers of large events like Rock Ness in encouraging active travel and there was also the possibility of promoting sustainable travel planning with large private sector companies including the whisky distilleries in the area.

It was agreed:-

- (1) to note the Report;
- (2) to approve the expenditure as detailed in the Report;
- (3) to promote the use of Traveline through the HITRANS and Partner websites;
- (4) that the Principal Advisers would promote active travel and the www.IfYouCareShare.com website within their respective Local Authorities and Community Planning Partners.

RESEARCH

Orkney Smart Card Enabled Integrated Ticket Pilot 5 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report updating Members on the progress of the Integrated Ticketing Pilot Project being undertaken by Orkney Islands Council in partnership with Transport Scotland and HITRANS. The links between ticketing systems on the buses and ferries was currently being worked on. In discussion it was noted that in the event the pilot proves successful it could in time be extended throughout the Highlands and Islands, and that it would also be useful as a pilot which would provide input into the integrated ticketing initiative being promoted to support the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

It was agreed:-

- (1) to note the Report;
- (2) that the Partnership Manager and Orkney Islands Council Permanent Adviser will report back to the Partnership at the next critical phase of the project.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

Research/Strategy Development Programme 2009/10 6 The Partnership Director submitted a Report informing Members of the progress of the Delivery of Transport Services and Air Services Reviews which had now been commissioned. The Report set out a proposed amendment to the Research/Strategy Development Programme to include research of the necessary transport interventions in relation to the developing off-shore wind sector. As the renewables sector was a growing industry it was recognised that HITRANS should engage in research to establish the necessary infrastructure which would be needed to support opportunities for economic benefit within the Highlands and Islands from the implementation and operation of off shore wind in the short term, and other renewable energy sources in the longer term.

It was agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress on the Delivery of Transport Services and the Air Services reviews;
- (2) to approve the amendment of the Research/Strategy Development Programme to include a study into Off-Shore Wind Energy Development – Necessary Transport Interventions.

PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2008/09 7 The Board considered a Report by the Partnership Manager regarding proposals for the publication of HITRANS third Annual Report, covering the 2008/09 financial year period.

It was agreed:-

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) to approve the allocation of £5000 from the Publicity budget to meet the graphic design and printing costs of the Annual Report.

RTP Chairs' Meeting Update 8 The Partnership Director updated Members on the RTP Chairs Meeting which took place on Wednesday 3 June 2009. In addition to a presentation on the Scottish Ferries Review, the meeting included discussion on the options for funding of major infrastructure projects and the lead being taken by COSLA, the partnership approach being taken by RTPs and their constituent Councils in supporting Government in delivering the STPR, the potential programme to revise Regional Transport Strategies, the case for High Speed Rail between Scotland and London, and a report on progress on the Review of Air Services in the Highlands and Islands.

It was agreed to note the update.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

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| Single Outcome Agreements – Update | 9 | <p>The Partnership Director updated Members on the Single Outcome Agreements developed by Community Planning Partners within the HITRANS area and indicated that all the SOAs have now been reviewed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Single Outcome Agreements developed by Community Planning Partnerships within the HITRANS area, including the further developed Outer Hebrides Partnership SOA, be signed off by HITRANS.</p> |
| Scottish Planning Policy | 10 | <p>The Partnership Coordinator submitted a Report in relation to the Scottish Government's proposal to consolidate current planning policy documents into one Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) which would result in SPP17, the current policy document on planning for transport, being superseded by this new document. The new policy document did not include provision for coordination between Regional Transport Strategies and other planning documents; rural area transport needs and the important role they have to play; and the new policy stated that new railway stations would not normally be supported except in specific circumstances. There was concern that the Dalcross rail link could potentially be questioned in light of this new planning policy. The issue around setting maximum parking standards for developments in remote areas was also discussed and should be included in the response to Government.</p> <p>It was agreed that HITRANS should respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on their proposed Scottish Planning Policy in order to ensure that the provisions of SPP17 as included in the Report and discussed by the Partnership are included as appropriate.</p> <p>AOCB</p> |
| Concessionary Travel Schemes | 11 | <p>Mr Jim Foubister enquired regarding the proposed cutbacks to concessionary travel schemes. The Partnership Director intimated that a Government review was now complete and was now in the public domain. It appeared that the only recommendation for immediate action was in relation to the extension of eligibility conventions. The Partnership Director agreed to look further into this matter.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Partnership Director would provide an update on concessionary travel schemes for the next meeting.</p> |
| Multi Modal Freight Study | 12 | <p>Mr Gareth Williams informed the Board that the Multi Modal Freight Study was due for completion at the end of June 2009 and would be published shortly thereafter.</p> <p>It was agreed to note the update.</p> |
| Fixed Links Conference | 13 | <p>The Chairman intimated that a Fixed Links Conference was due to take place in Norway in July with a focus on renewables and it would be appropriate for HITRANS to be represented.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Jim Foubister would attend the Fixed Links Conference on behalf of the Partnership.</p> |