



**Minute of Ferry Users Group Meeting
(Barra, South and North Uist, Harris, Lewis)**

**Held in the Council Chambers, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
12:30 24 April 2007**

IN ATTENDANCE

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR (CNES)

Councillor Norman MacDonald
Councillor Angus MacDonald
Mr David Smart, Transport Officer

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Mr Dave Duthie, Head of Transportation

HITRANS

Mr Randal Robertson, Transport Development Officer

CALMAC FERRIES LTD (CFL)

Mr Lawrie Sinclair, Managing Director
Mr Phil Preston, Operations Director
Mr Hugh Dan MacLennan, Head of Community and
Customer Care
Ms Mary Ann Campbell, Regional Manager
Mr David Taylor, Regional Manager

HIE INNSE GALL

Mr Archie MacDonald

STORNOWAY PORT AUTHORITY

Mr Torquil MacLeod, Harbour Master

ULLAPOOL HARBOUR TRUST

Mr Kenny MacKenzie, Depute Harbour Master,

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Donald Manford, CNES
Mr Murdo Gray, Head of Transportation Services, CNES
Mr Sam MacNaughton, Head of Transport & Infrastructure

ITEM 1: Appointment of Chair

Mr Duthie welcomed all to the meeting, if all in agreement he would Chair this meeting, that Chair would be appointed by full committee once this convenes.

ITEM 2: FUNCTIONS OF THE GROUP

Chair explained background of consultation process of Tier 1 and Tier 2, that the Ferry Users Groups would operate under the auspices of the Regional Transport Partnerships.

2.1 Mr MacLennan reported that CFL was in process of Bid Tender, that document is almost complete for submission to the Scottish Executive. Within the document, they are to include the provision of an Area Ferry Forum, which will effectively act as a first point of contact with community groups for CFL to filter out any day to day, local issues as they arise.

2.2 Councillor Norman MacDonald voiced his concerns with 3 levels of consultancy, lack of clarity surrounding the consultancy structure. Mr Duthie re-iterated that local issues to be dealt with the operator, where no resolution issue then taken to Tier 1, who take issue to Tier 2 for resolution.

2.3 It was agreed:

Routes to be covered by group shall be:

1. Oban to Castlebay
2. Oban to Lochboisdale
3. Sound of Barra
4. Lochmaddy to Uig
5. Tarbert to Uig
6. Sound of Harris
7. Stornoway to Ullapool

2.4 Mr Sinclair warned the group that there is a major flaw in the ITT in that it does not refer to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 arrangements.

It was agreed:

Any change in terms of consultation on any operating circumstances made by the operator is that the Minister must refer these variations to the Tier 1 (and/ or Tier 2) committee within the 40 day period for setting such a change

ITEM 3: MEMBERSHIP

It was agreed:

- HITRANS to nominate a single representative
- Councils – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to nominate 5 members. And one Council officer to advise
- CFL to have 2 Regional Managers, Operations Director, with Hugh Dan MacLennan to be day-to-day point of contact.
- Local Enterprise – HIE will consider their representation and that of the Local Economic Forum and will advise if one or both should attend meetings
- FTA/RHA - HITRANS to write to both to request nominee.
- Scottish Crofting Foundation – HITRANS to write to Scottish Crofting for nominee.
- Tourism – HITRANS to write to Outer Hebrides Tourism Federation for nominee.
- Bus Operator – HITRANS to write to Citylink for nominee.
- Port Authority – HITRANS to write to Stornoway Port Authority, Ullapool, Port Authority, Highland Council Head of Harbours, CNES Marine Operations Manager, and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd to each for nominee.

3.1 Councillor Norman MacDonald commented a concern for TIER 2, that people sitting on this important committee simply because they have a role in a national organisation despite having little knowledge or interest in ferry services.

ITEM 4: Date of Next Meeting

Councillor Norman MacDonald due to elections would need to wait on council nominating transport representatives. It was agreed next meeting of group would take place at the end of June

ITEM 5: CalMac Consultative Arrangement

Covered under item 2.1

Action - HITRANS to write to the Minister to request last dates for input into timetables.