



**Minute of Ferry Users Group Meeting
(Small Isles, Skye, Raasay, Kilchoan, Lochaline)**

**Held at Lochaber College, Fort William
13:00 18 April 2007**

IN ATTENDANCE

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Mr Sam MacNaughton, Head of Transport & Infrastructure
Mr David Summers, Transport Development Officer

HITRANS

Councillor Charlie King, Chairman
Mr Ranald 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
Mr David Taylor, Regional Manager

HIE LOCHABER

Mr Scott Dingwall

FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Mr Gavin Scott, Head of Policy

APOLOGIES: Mr Ian Fox, Regional Manager, CFL

ITEM 1: Appointment of Chair

Councillor King welcomed all to the meeting, he advised he would Chair this meeting, and emphasised that HITRANS representative to chair all future meetings.

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 It was agreed:

Routes to be covered by group shall be:

1. Mallaig to Small Isles
2. Mallaig to Skye
3. Sconser to Rassay
4. Kilchoan to Tobermory (also proposed to be included in Oban group)
5. Lochaline to Fishnish (also proposed to be included in Oban group)

2.3 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 – Highland Council to nominate 3 members, Argyll & Bute to nominate a member to represent Mull. An officer from each Council will also attend to advise.
- CFL to have Regional Manager, Director, with Hugh Dan MacLennan to be day-to-day point of contact.
- Local Enterprise – HITRANS to write to HIE Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross for nominees.
- FTA/RHA - HITRANS to write to both to request nominee.
- Scottish Crofting Foundation – HITRANS to write to Scottish Crofting for nominee.
- Community Councils – HITRANS to write to the Chairs of Small Isles, Morvern, West Ardnamuchan, Raassay, Sleat, Mallaig Community Councils inviting them each for a single representative but expect any real issues to be dealt with in their area forums.
- Bus Operator – HITRANS to write to CPT for nominee.
- Rail – HITRANS to write to FirsScotrail for nominee
- Port Authority – HITRANS to write to Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd for confirmation that CFL will represent them.
- Local Business – In the absence of Chamber of Commerce, HIE to Advise HITRANS who to contact for nominee, with a maximum of two

ITEM 4: Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed next meeting of group would take place on 20th June 2007, with later start time.

ITEM 5: CalMac Consultative Arrangement

Covered under item 2.1

Mr Preston suggested would be useful for CFL give presentations to groups at next meetings. Mr MacLennan to send paragraph summarising their position to Randal Robertson.