



**Minute of Argyll Ferry Users Group Meeting
(Oban, Colonsay, Iona, Lismore, Coll, Tiree, Barra, South Uist)**

**Held at CalMac Ferry Terminal, Oban
10:00 27 June 2007**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Chair
Mr Dave Duthie, Director
Mr Ranald Robertson, Programme Manager

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Mr Blair Fletcher, Transportation Manager

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Mr Sam MacNaughton, Head of Transport & Infrastructure

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE LTD (CalMac)

Mr Ian Fox, Regional Manager (Oban)
Mr David Taylor, Regional Manager (Fort William)

ARGYLL & THE ISLES ENTERPRISE (AIE)

Mrs Jane MacLeod

CONFEDERATION OF TRANSPORT (CPT)

Mr Mike Dean

APOLOGIES:

Murdo Gray, Head of Transport, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Phil Preston, Ops Director, CFL
Mr Donald McLean, Road Haulage Association (RHA)

ITEM 1: Appointment of Chair

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre welcomed all to the meeting, highlighting this and all future meetings would be chaired by the HITRANS representative. That as HITRANS Chairman he would chair future meetings, but that on this occasion, if no one had an objection, he would like Mr Dave Duthie to chair this meeting to explain the background to members. No objections were raised.

ITEM 2: Minute of Meeting 18 April 2007

Chair reported on the minute of the inaugural meeting held on 18 April, explaining the background to the new consultation arrangements in terms of Tier 1 and Tier 2 but also the CFL Ferry Forums. **Minute approved.**

Item 2.1 Sam MacNaughton advised that no Highland Council member had been appointed to the group due to elections as the Council have yet to appoint membership of committees.

Item 2.2 Ian Fox expressed a concern that mainland councillors might end up representing islands. The Chair agreed that we should look to councils to provide relevant members to represent island communities.

Item 2.3 It was noted that no representative for business groups was present at the meeting.

ACTION: Jane MacLeod to take the issue of business community representation back to AIE, who were formally asked to nominate a business representative.

ITEM 3: Minute of HITRANS Partnership Meeting 18 May 2007

Chair reported on minute of HITRANS Partnership meeting of 18 May, Agenda Item 2: Ferry Users Consultation Arrangements, decision taken by HITRANS board that:-

CFL Management representation be limited to one Senior Manager and relevant Regional Manager(s). Additional management may attend if a particular issue warrants this, that HITRANS must be notified ahead of meeting. **The minute was noted**

3.1: The Chair suggested working towards a Port partnership between Network Rail, FirstScotrail, CFL and bus operators to improve integration. Discussion followed with Mike Dean emphasising a need for integration.

It was agreed the way forward must be integration of all transport modes.

ACTION: Ranald Robertson to try to arrange a meeting involving FirstScotrail, CFL, Argyll & Bute Council, HITRANS, Highland Rail Partnership and Citylink to discuss the interchange upgrade at Oban.

ITEM 4: CalMac Ferries Ltd Winter 2007 Timetables

Ian Fox advised changes/enhancements have been made to timetables. This remains under discussion with the Scottish Executive and no decision has been received by CFL on the outcome of their proposals.

Item 4.1: Blair Fletcher reported on a letter received he from Mr Thyrrall regarding difficulties experienced with booking arrangements. Ian Fox reported on proposed new card option on 6 journey tickets

which will see greater control exercised as a plastic card will be issued to those requiring the tickets. The card will be debited in the event of a no show unless the journey is cancelled with at least one business day's notice. This will reduce the occurrence of no shows and should mean people get an accurate picture of availability when trying to book on a ferry.

ITEM 5: Draft Terms of Reference

The Chair advised that the draft terms of reference were for information only, as they were still to go before the HITRANS board for approval. Any issues/comments to be returned by second week of July to allow amendments to be made in advance of this meeting.

ITEM 6: AOCB

Duncan MacIntyre called for a Ferry Fare Discount scheme along similar lines to the Air Discount Scheme.

Blair Fletcher queried Lismore STAG, the Chair advised he had spoken with Graeme Laidlaw of the Scottish Executive who advised they are awaiting a decision on who will take responsibility for this and lead the study.

ACTION: Dave Duthie to continue to raise the Lismore issue with the Scottish Executive.

ITEM 7: Date of Next Meeting

No date set but should be midwinter, Duncan MacIntyre suggested September and hopes to have full representation present.