



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

**Held at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie
13:00 9 September 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Mr Ranald Robertson, Partnership Manager

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Cllr John Laing, (Chair)

Cllr Allan Henderson

Mr Cameron Kemp, Integrated Transport Manager

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Cllr Duncan MacIntyre

CALEDONIAN FERRIES LTD (CFL)

Mr David Cannon, Public Affairs Manager

Mr David Taylor, Regional Manager (Fort William)

Mr Brian Fulton, Regional Manager

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Mr Andrew Flockhart, Business Planning Manager

HIE LOCHABER

Mr Scott Dingwall

CONFEDERATION OF TRANSPORT (CPT)

Mr Mike Dean

Raasay Community Council

Donnie Oliphant

APOLOGIES: Cllr Gordon Chalmers
Cllr Roy Pedersen
Mr Dave Duthie

Mr Sam MacNaughton
Mr Blair Fletcher
Mr Lawrie Sinclair
Mr Phil Preston
Mr Des Bradley
Ms Rosemary MacLachlan
Mr Robert Muir,

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr John Laing, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting 16 January 2008

The Minute was approved as a correct reflection of the meeting.

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

Item 8: Cearcall na Gaidhlig.

Ranald Robertson advised that the launch went ahead in Glasgow on 14 March 2008 and the next meeting of the steering group is scheduled for October 2008

Item 9: Passengers' View

Ranald Robertson confirmed a letter had been sent to the Chairperson of this organisation as agreed but to date no response has been received.

ITEM 3: Scottish Government Ferry Review

Ranald Robertson introduced report on the High Level National Ferries review. The report is to inform the group to and raise awareness of detail, scope and methodology to be covered by the review. The review will be extensive and HITRANS are keen to ensure that the Ferry Users Groups be included to support the consultation elements of the review.

There followed a general discussion on the review

ITEM 4: Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) – update on pilot scheme and monitoring arrangements

David Taylor presented PowerPoint presentation to update the group on the RET Pilot scheme. David advised the Pilot commences in October when the winter timetables begin. The presentation included background on routes covered, fares and concessions with information now available on Caledonian MacBrayne website.

There followed a general discussion on study.

ITEM 5: HITRANS Ferry Connections Study

Ranald Robertson reported that HITRANS has initiated a small study to evaluate the quality of integration between transport modes at ferry terminals across the Region. Bob Barnes Watts an independent timetable consultant has been appointed to deliver the study. If

anyone would like to input to the study Ranald Robertson will forward on details.

Mike Deans responded "that it is important to act on the outcomes of the study but people must also appreciate that timetables cannot be changed overnight.

ITEM 6: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update

David Taylor provided the operational service update to the end of August. David reported there was a significant downturn in traffic, with north faring better than south, possibly due to weather/economic situation. All targets met in regard to punctuality, with some minor adjustments to timetables to integrate better with buses.

ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update

Cameron Kemp provided the group with an update to cover the Council public transport contracts.

Mike Dean provided the group with an update on the Scottish Citylink services and plans for the next period. The Inverness to Fort William seasonal reduction in service will happen as normal. Mike did not have performance information on the summer 2008 period as this was still being analysed but early indications are that passenger numbers will be down due to weather and capacity problems affected by Rapsons sale to Stagecoach. Previously Citylink had use of higher capacity vehicles from Rapsons to cope with high loads but these have not been made available by Stagecoach.

ITEM 8: Rassay Ferry Terminal Project Update by Highland Council

Cameron Kemp reported that the Council expected this project to be completed by the end of 2009.

ITEM 9: AOCB

No items raised under AOCB

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17th February 2009, at 1300 in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie