

Item:

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Report to Partnership Meeting 11 September 2020

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Fastline Faslane

Background

HITRANS was recently successful in obtaining Local Rail Development Funding from government funding to explore transport issues in and around the Faslane Naval Base, and in particular, consider the case for provision of a rail link. To this end, the client group have commissioned Stantec to undertake a Sustainable Transport Options Study in line with the Scottish Governments appraisal guidance (STAG) focused on access options to the area.

The initial process involves identification of problems and issues which affects workforce in both installations on a day to day basis. Stantec are currently analysing evidence of transport problems across the area, but it is critical to supplement our research with the opinions stakeholders who live, work and do business in the area. This short note presents a rationale for remaining engagement tasks.

Survey of personnel based at HMNB Clyde

Initially, Stantec had planned to undertake a wider public survey across the study area to understand the problems, issues and opportunities faced by members of the public. As the study has developed however it has become clear that the opinions of staff and service personnel who work and or live at HMNB Clyde are of critical importance to the study, affording the opportunity to capture the views of more than 5000 people who are effectively at the focal point of the study. To this end, a detailed survey has been developed for those who work at base which explores travel patterns and behaviours, transport problems and opinions on potential transport improvements.

The survey was developed by Stantec and approved by the client team. MOD have assisted in raising awareness of the survey across the base. The survey went live on evening of 16 July 2020. As of 1500 on 21 July the survey has attracted 412 responses – a very encouraging start.

Stantec propose to supplement the results of this survey by providing the MOD with a short survey aimed solely at MOD personnel and contractors based elsewhere in the UK who are required to travel to HMNB Clyde on a regular basis. MOD believe there are significant numbers (potentially in the thousands) of personal who are required to make this journey. It is anticipated that the majority will either fly into Glasgow Airport or travel by rail to Glasgow Central Station. From these locations, personnel still have to complete the journey to Faslane.

It is anticipated that engagement with transport operators, Argyll and Bute Council and Community Councils will provide a sufficient level of understanding of issues which can affect local people who have no business at HMNB Clyde.

Telephone Discussions

To date, a number of meetings have been undertaken with HITRANS, SPT, Argyll and Bute Council and HMNB Faslane. Due to the ongoing COVID situation it is not appropriate to undertake face to face meetings at this time however Stantec will replace these with telephone discussions and where appropriate use technology such as Microsoft Teams. The client team have now provided a number of contact details and the following organisations will be contacted to participate in these discussions:

- Argyll and Bute Council – wider team meeting
- Transport Scotland
- Abellio ScotRail and Network Rail – Joint discussion
- Sustrans
- West Dunbartonshire Council
- Clyde Plan

Briefing and Opportunity to Comment

Whilst key stakeholders will be offered telephone discussions, these will not be appropriate for all stakeholders, indeed some may prefer the opportunity just to be kept informed rather than comment. For this reason, a short briefing note will be provided which sets out the background to the study, and key findings to date. The note will offer structured questions that stakeholders can answer, should they wish to contribute. Questions will be based around problems with the local transport network and in particular connections to and from HMNB Clyde, and opportunities which exist to improve the offer. The following stakeholders will be contacted with briefing notes:

- Emergency Services
- MPs
- MSPs
- Elected Councillors
- Community Councils

Next Steps

The project was delayed while establishing contacts within the MOD, however it would appear that these issues have been rectified and the project can now move forward at pace.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Integration, mode shift

Policy

Impact –Efficiency of transport operations, emissions reduction, decongestion

Financial

Impact – The study is fully funded

Equality

Impact – Access to network

Recommendation

1. Members and Advisors are recommended to note the report.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
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