

**MINUTES of MEETING of CAMPBELTOWN FERRY COMMITTEE held in the AQUALIBRIUM,
CAMPBELTOWN
on THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

Attending: Councillor John Armour (Chair)
Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Stewart Clark, Marine Operations Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Simon Richmond, Area Operations Manager, Calmac
Angela Herd, Port Manager, Calmac
Kevin Lewis, Machrihanish Dunes
Neil Macalister Hall, Explore Kintyre and Gigha
Susi Lunn, Independent Traveller

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Gigha Port, 8699341 | h W n q 1 0 Port

The group gave consideration to a paper which outlined the scope of the audit to be undertaken by Audit Scotland to assess whether investment in lifeline ferry services is providing value for money. Members of the group noted that the impact of the audit is to improve public understanding of ferry services in Scotland and provide assurance to the Scottish Parliament and the public that Transport Scotland has appropriate arrangements in place to manage ferry contracts efficiently and effectively. It is hoped that the process will highlight good practice and lessons learned to help Transport Scotland improve the management, including future procurements of ferry services. The Area Committee Manager advised that it was anticipated that the Ferry Committee may be asked for its view.

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to

The group gave consideration to an update from the Area Operations Manager of Calmac outlining the proposals which are currently being considered by the Scottish Government in respect of the port for the Arran/Campbeltown Ferry Service. The Marine Operations Manager advised that both North and South Ayrshire Councils had made requests to meet with Argyll and Bute Council Members to put forward their proposals. Discussion took place in respect of the weather issues; transport linkages and the possible increase in sailing times.

The Marine Operations Manager agreed to chase up the meeting between North and South Ayrshire Councils and Argyll and Bute Council and keep the Ferry Committee up to date on progress. The Committee discussed the two options and noted that it would be useful to have a formulated view which can be fed into the consultation.

Outcome:

The Ferry Committee agreed that they favoured Ardrossan as their port of choice for the service.

6. VESSEL REPLACEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The group gave consideration to the vessel replacement and redeployment plan. Discussion took place in respect of the priorities of the plan; the impact of changing vehicle type against vessel capacity; investments in port infrastructure and the possibility of changes to the Summer 2019 Ardrossan to Campbeltown service as a direct result of the implementation of the new vessel on the Ardrossan to Arran sailing in August 2018.

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

(Ref: Vessel Replacement and Deployment Plan Annual Report 2015, Transport Scotland, submitted.)

7. DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2017

The group gave consideration to a list of forthcoming events provided by Iain Johnstone of Explore Kintyre and Gigha. The Chair, Councillor Armour enquired as to the possibility of additional sailings, specifically leaving Campbeltown on the Monday following the Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon and 10k race and Mull of Kintyre Music Festival.

Outcome:

The Area Operations Manager agreed to put this request to the Arran Ferry Committee at their next meeting for comment, and to provide feedback to the Committee as to the outcome of discussions with Transport Scotland in this regard.

8. FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Area Committee Manager reminded the group of previous discussions in relation to the future administrative arrangements of the group. She advised of the restructuring of the Governance and Law Department within the Council and noted that it would not be possible to continue to support the group going forward. Discussion took place as to the handover of information and the financial implications of booking meeting venues. The Chair suggested that it would be beneficial for the group to remain supported by the Council until such time as the outcome of the elections in May 2017 was known.

Outcome:

The Area Committee Manager agreed to feedback the comments of the Committee to the Head of Governance and Law and confirm by email, the arrangements going forward.

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Chair thanked all for attending and suggested that a date for the next meeting be agreed when the timeline for consulting on the Summer 2018 timetable was available.