

ARDROSSAN TASKFORCE

Eighth Meeting – 23 April 2019

Note of meeting

Attendees

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
Kenneth Gibson, MSP
Cllr Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Karen Yeomans – (NAC)
George Hunter – (NAC)
Julian Farrar – Ironside Farrar (Consultant to NAC)
Andrew Hemphill – Peel Ports Ltd (PP)
Gary Hodgson – Peel Ports Ltd (PP)
Bill Calderwood – Arran Ferry Committee (AFC)
Kevin Hobbs - CMAL
Graeme McGinty – CMAL (consultant)
Pauline Blackshaw – CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL)
Graham Laidlaw – Transport Scotland (TS)
Caroline Connelly – Transport Scotland (TS – Secretariat)
Richard Hadfield – Transport Scotland (TS)

Apologies

Doug Coleman – Peel Ports Ltd
Alastair Laurenson - NAC

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Mr Wheelhouse welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2 – Update on Actions from last meeting

1. There were no issues arising and actions were accepted as undertaken or covered in today's agenda.
2. An amendment to the previous minutes of the meeting of 13 August 2018 was requested by Kenneth Gibson MSP in reference to the commitment given by Mr Matheson on service continuity. This will be progressed by Transport Scotland and a revised version published on the TS website in due course.

Item 3 – Update on the work of the Ardrossan Steering Group

3. Richard Hadfield introduced the presentation with input from Julian Farrar on the Marine & Landside works, including updates on the work of the technical groups. The update covered:
 - Governance Structure
 - Progress Report

- Service Continuity, including current status of the Irish Berth
 - Communications and engagement strategy
 - Funding
4. Mr Wheelhouse acknowledged that the Steering Group had undertaken a detailed analysis of Technical Option 2, including through a robust Proof of Concept exercise, and thanked the group for their work on this. Mr Wheelhouse gave his approval for Option 2 to be progressed to the detailed design stage.
 5. The updated Governance and Statement of Sponsor Requirements (SOSR) papers were formally agreed by the Task Force.
 6. There was further discussion on service continuity, and it was noted that work on this aspect was ongoing. Mr Wheelhouse re-iterated the commitment made by previous Ministers in that services, where possible would continue to operate from Ardrossan when the Arran Berth was closed during the construction works, and acknowledged that Peel Ports Ltd had recently confirmed that the Irish Berth could accommodate a full scheduled service, subject to any adverse weather conditions. Mr Wheelhouse did note that no final decisions had been made on service continuity but was pleased to note that as part of that process, engagement with local communities would be undertaken in the near future.
 7. CFL confirmed LNG procurement issues including safety compliance which will be subsumed into the Ardrossan Harbour specification.
 8. CMAL confirmed that the LNG requirements at Ardrossan were being progressed; aligned with the Landside development works currently being undertaken by North Ayrshire Council.

Item 4 –Update on the new vessel construction from CMAL

9. CMAL confirmed that they have requested an updated timeline for completion of both ferries, and are awaiting a response from FMEL. This has not been forthcoming at this stage.
10. However, CMAL’s assessment was that the delivery date for MV Glen Sannox cannot be achieved.

Item 5 –Next Steps

11. The Task Force agreed the following work be taken forward –
 - Communications Strategy to be developed including public information events
 - Service Continuity plans
 - Governance structures to be refreshed
 - Funding discussions between TS and PPG
12. Communications Group is leading on comms for this project, with a programme being progressed with input from all members.

Item 6 - AOB

13. No items raised under AOB

Item 7 – Date of next meeting

14. Date of next meeting –to be scheduled around October 2019.