

ARDROSSAN TASKFORCE

Tenth Meeting –25 February 2020

Note of meeting

Attendees

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
Graham Laidlaw – Transport Scotland
Susan Malcolm - Transport Scotland
Caroline Connelly - Transport Scotland – Secretariat
Graeme McGinty – Project Manager
Ruairidh Campbell – CMAL Liaison Officer
Kevin Hobbs – CMAL CEO
Bill Calderwood – Arran Ferry Committee (AFC)
Louise Kirk – North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Alasdair Laurenson – North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Cllr Joe Cullinane – North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Karen Yeomans – North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Doug Coleman – Peel Ports Group Ltd (PPG)
Gary Hodgson – Peel Ports Group (PPG)
Kenneth Gibson MSP
Pauline Blackshaw – CalMac
Lauren McEwan - CalMac

Apologies

Frances Pacitti – Transport Scotland
James Anderson – CMAL
Danielle Neutgens – CalMac
Robbie Drummond - CalMac
Andrew Hemphill – PPG
Craig Hatton - NAC

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

1. Mr Wheelhouse welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

Item 2 – Last Meeting Overview and matters arising

2. The Minutes from the 20 November 2019 Task Force were agreed and published on the Transport Scotland website. Actions arising from the previous meeting, 20 November 2019: Funding and Service Continuity Planning would be covered in today's meeting as outlined in the accompanying papers.

Item 3 –Ardrossan Steering Group Update

3. Susan Malcolm introduced the presentation with input from Doug Coleman and Karen Yeomans on the Marine & Landside works, including updates on the work of the technical groups. The update and discussion 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 been progressing the design and planning phase for both the Marine & Landside works.
5. PPG confirmed that the tender for the marine works was substantially complete however other elements remain outstanding, in regards to the Passenger Access System (PAS), LNG, HV Electrical Upgrade and the Advance Temporary works package – whereby discussions were ongoing with Transport Scotland, CalMac, and CMAL on progressing each of these parts.
6. PPG also confirmed that further civil works will still be required to the Irish berth and any impacts on service will be discussed through direct engagement with CalMac.
7. It was recognised by all that discussions on the funding package for the project were still to be concluded and it was agreed that decisions would be needed soon to ensure project milestone dates are met. The programme has been delayed slightly, with completion now expected in Q4 of 2022.
8. North Ayrshire Council confirmed that they have appointed a Lead Consultant and that the design phase for the landside works including the terminal building was on-going. Two Public Events are currently being arranged for March / April 2020.
9. The primary focus of these events will be the landside works, including the terminal building whereby NAC have taken cognisance of feedback from the local communities regarding lessons learned from Brodick, i.e length of PAS, access to stairs and lifts and access through the terminal building. All of which will be reflected in the terminal building design for consultation with the communities of both Arran and Ardrossan.
10. CMAL confirmed that they have taken responsibility for the design and delivery of the Passenger Access System. The design is currently being progressed and CMAL will continue liaison with CalMac, PPG and NAC.
11. CMAL confirmed receipt of tender bids for LNG, and a preferred bidder will be identified in the coming weeks, with a contract award expected to be agreed by Spring 2020.
12. Mr Wheelhouse re-iterated the Scottish Government's commitment that services will operate out of Ardrossan during the construction period from the Irish Berth.
13. Albeit services may be subject to disruption such as adverse weather conditions, however he asked that the Steering group, in the parameters of the continuity plan, do their utmost to minimise disruption to passengers.
14. CalMac confirmed that the Service Continuity Plans were progressing, having engaged with the Arran Ferry Committee, health care sector and hauliers on 16 January 2020.
15. The Service Continuity Plan is due to be completed by CalMac, and will be submitted to Transport Scotland and Steering Group members for review and

discussion. A further Service Continuity engagement event will be scheduled in the coming months with the Arran Ferry Committee and key stakeholders.

16. Mr Wheelhouse welcomed the planned engagement with the communities and acknowledged that ongoing communications was key citing the Transport Scotland webpage and Frequently Asked Questions which were published and regularly updated.

Item 4 –Vessel Update

17. Mr Wheelhouse re-affirmed the Scottish Government's commitment to completion of the new vessel for the Ardrossan to Brodick route, MV Glen Sannox (Hull 801). Everyone at the yard is working timeously to deliver the vessels per the expected delivery dates of October –December 2021.
18. Mr Wheelhouse confirmed that £49.6million was allocated to vessel delivery in this year's budget 2020/2021, with future spend in 2021/2022 still to be agreed.

Item 5 –Next Steps

19. The Task Force agreed the following work be taken forward –
 - Communications Strategy to be developed including public information events
 - Service Continuity planning
 - Funding discussions between TS and PPG
 - Funding discussions between TS and NAC
 - Next Task Force meeting to be earlier than planned – around June 2020
20. Communications Group is leading on communications for this project, with a programme being progressed with input from all members.

Item 6 - AOB

21. Bill Calderwood of the AFC raised the issue of delays to the project overall from the Arran community which was causing frustration as well as recent disruption to services from weather. Mr Wheelhouse acknowledged that recent service disruptions had been extremely challenging of late and that CalMac as operator had done their utmost to provide services when safe to do so. He also stated that all members of the Steering Group and Task Force remain committed to the delivery of the Ardrossan project due to be completed by Q4 2022.

Item 7 – Date of next meeting

22. Date of next meeting – to be scheduled around June 2020.