

**Minute of Meeting with Islay Community Council (ICC) and Islay Community Council Ferry Committee (ICFC)
Islay Gaelic Centre, Bowmore
Monday 13 February 2023 – 10:00 – 11:15**

DRAFT FOR MINISTERIAL APPROVAL

Attendees

Minister for Transport
Ms Jenni Minto MSP
Angus Campbell, Ferry Community Board
[Redacted]

Matters Discussed

Introductions.

The Minister for Transport and Angus Campbell offered introductory comments and thanks attendees for their participation in the discussion. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Project Neptune, and to understand community views on matters in relation to the governance of the tripartite of organisations delivering ferry services – Transport Scotland, CMAL and DML. The Minister acknowledged that current ways of working could be improved and was keen to hear from island communities on this and on more general issues in relation to services to islands and project delivery.

Community representation and participation in decision making.

There was discussion around the need for enhanced consideration of local issues and knowledge to inform decision making at both an operational and strategic level. Examples were provided around centralised booking systems impeding local solutions in relation to capacity constraints/ demand management. The Ferries Community Board was considered to work well in relation to strategic issues but could be enhanced by a decision making rather than consultative function.

Third party port ownership.

There was discussion around the new vessels under construction to serve Islay, and associated shore side infrastructure at Port Ellen and Port Askaig.

Community representatives offered positive feedback on the consultation and engagement by CMAL in relation to Port Ellen, [Redacted]

Culture and attitudes.

There was some discussion about the culture of CalMac as the incumbent operator and whether current contractual and governance arrangements incentivised delivery of a contract, rather than delivery of a lifeline service. [Redacted]

Communications.

[Redacted]

Overarching voice.

Examples were provided of specific queries being referred between tripartite members, with a suggestion that one overarching voice would be useful, to act as a single point of contact, a single point of accountability and a single point of escalation/ arbitration.

Actions Arising

1. Transport Scotland to prepare advice for the Minister on closer alignment with [Redacted] in relation to Port Askaig. ([Redacted])
2. Transport Scotland to prepare advice for the Minister on how to deliver greater community contribution to contract specification for CHFS3. ([Redacted])
3. Transport Scotland to liaise directly with [Redacted] Calmac to offer support in ongoing discussion in relation to data on block bookings for Islay freight. ([Redacted])
4. All matters raised in relation to governance to feed into Angus Campbell's consultation and report to Ministers, and to be considered in assessment of next steps on any proposed governance reform [Redacted]