

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR ISLANDS CONNECTIVITY PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Scottish Government have an ongoing consultation titled 'Public Consultation for Island Connectivity Plan'. This covering report introduces the consultation document which is appended to this covering report (**Appendix 1**), has been completed in draft and considered by the Islands Sounding Board at its meeting on 4 March.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approve the consultation response which will be returned to Transport Scotland.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Scottish Government are holding a public consultation exercise regarding the Islands Connectivity Plan. Appended to this covering report is the consultation document with draft responses (**Appendix 1**). These draft responses having been considered by the Islands Sounding Board at its meeting held on 4 March 2024.
- 3.2 The Islands Connectivity Plan (ICP) Strategic Approach sets out a long term vision of how ferry services, supported by other transport modes, will be delivered and improved in the future. Transport Scotland have confirmed that the ICP will replace the current Ferries Plan but will be wider in scope, also taking account of aviation and fixed links, as well as onward and connecting travel.
- 3.3 Through this covering report Council are asked to consider and approve the draft responses which provide detailed responses to the various questions raised in the consultation.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report is a covering report to a draft set of responses for Scottish Governments live consultation titled 'Public Consultation for Island Connectivity Plan'.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – none currently known.
- 5.2 Financial – no direct budget implications however, initiatives such as fixed links could have an implications for some of the councils transport assets.
- 5.3 Legal – various land agreements necessary for individual locations.
- 5.4 HR – none known.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – none known.
 - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – none known.
 - 5.5.3 Islands – none known. It is assumed that Scottish Government will carry out an Island Impact Assessment on their policy document.
- 5.6 Climate Change – Transport of people, goods and services can have significant impacts on climate change.
- 5.7 Risk – none known.
- 5.8 Customer Service – none known.
- 5.9 Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – none known.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft response to Transport Scotland’s public consultation for the islands connectivity plan