1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies of absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Alistair MacDougall, Robert E Macintyre and Roddy McCuish.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Short Life Working Group – Argyll Islands Task Force held on Tuesday 17 May 2016 were approved as a correct record.

4. PRIORITY 2: SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE
The Scottish Ambulance Service had been invited to attend the meeting as one of the priorities of the Group were to better understand the service provision of the NHS, Ambulance Services and Patient Transport Services on the islands. The Ambulance Service were invited to outline their provision on the islands and to raise any issues they had in connection with service provision.

The Ambulance Service gave the Group an overview of how their service worked generally and how calls were handled and categorised. They advised that hospital transfers had more than doubled in the previous five years which had put a strain on service provision to rural areas. They summarised the different methods of transporting island patients to hospital which included the use of ambulances, island vehicles and helicopters; and the use of MOD and Coastguard facilities. They advised that the ambulance service was divided into 2 services, emergency response and patient transport. They outlined challenges with inappropriate use of the patient transport service and actions being taken to develop community first responders to ensure the Ambulance service could meet their primary role as an emergency response.

The Group were advised about a Hub within the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Paisley which was staffed by Scottish Ambulance Service Staff and funded by the NHS. The Hub was used to assist in the transport of patients discharged from hospital to free
up beds and to assist in meeting turnaround times within the A&E Department. There was discussion around the benefit of a service like this in Mid Argyll and how it would require input from all partner agencies.

Councillor Horn left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not return.

Decision

The Group –

1. Noted the Service provision by the Ambulance Service to island communities and the issues faced by the Service.

2. Agreed that a letter should be written to the Health Minister supporting the development of proposals for the establishment of a transportation Hub in Mid Argyll, similar to that of the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Paisley; to assist in improving patient transport arrangements for island and remote communities in Argyll and Bute.

3. Agreed that the letter be copied to the Community Planning Partnership for comment.

4. Thanked the Ambulance Service for their attendance at the meeting.

(Reference: Discussion with Scottish Ambulance Service)

5. CROWN ESTATES CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the Crown Estate’s Consultation on Proposals for Establishing the Interim Body to Manage the Crown Estate Assets in Scotland Post Devolution. The Group were advised that a draft response to the consultation had been prepared by Development and Infrastructure Services.

Decision

It was agreed that the draft response would be circulated to Members of the Group for comment before submission to the Scottish Government.


6. PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Consideration was given to the approved priorities and actions sheet. There were some concerns raised as some of the completion dates exceeded the life of the present Council.

Decision

The approved priorities and action sheet was noted and it was agreed that discussion would take place at the next meeting in respect of pulling some of the dates forward from May 2017.
7. **FUTURE OF REMOTE RURAL AND ISLAND PRIMARY CARE SERVICES IN ARGYLL AND BUTE**

Consideration was given to an email received from the convener of Jura Community Council in respect of the future of Jura GP Services. A response from the NHS to this email was tabled at the meeting.

**Decision**

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Convener of Jura Community Council acknowledging the email, advising that the NHS had been contacted and enclosing the response received from the NHS.

(Reference: Email from Convenor of Jura Community Council dated August 2016, submitted; and response from NHS dated 11 August 2016, tabled)

8. **ISLAY AIR SERVICE**

Consideration was given to a request for comment by the Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group in respect of air fares and service issues at Islay Airport.

**Decision**

The Group noted and supported the actions being undertaken by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group to progress this matter in respect of air fares and service at Islay Airport and expressed their support in relation to the actions being undertaken to resolve these issues.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated October 2015, submitted)

9. **ISLAND CONNECTIONS - ISLAND SYMPOSIUM**

The Group considered a report which provided an update on the arrangements for an Island Symposium which aims to create closer links between the island communities across Argyll and to share best practice.

A response from the Minister in respect of his availability at the event was read out to the Group.

**Decision**

The Group noted -

1) The content of the report and agreed that the arrangements for Island Connection should proceed.

2) That the Scottish Government Minister for Transport and the Islands has been invited to the event which will determine the date and final agenda for the event.
3) The response from the Minister in respect of his availability to attend the event.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 5 August 2016, submitted)

10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION - ISLANDS UPDATE

The following update was given to the Group verbally and there was a discussion on issues around the placement of telecommunications masts on private land.

- **SURF – Rothesay** – Rothesay charrette was successfully delivered in April 2016. Bute Island Alliance (a network of community organisations) are utilising the charrette report as the basis for their workplan and also to support funding bids.

- **Tiree Community Development Trust** – draft socio-economic study produced, strategy recommendations expected.

- **Stalled Spaces Scotland** –
  - Rothesay – The Rothesay Stalled Spaces project at 72 Montague Street is complete, having enhanced a prominent gap site within Rothesay’s principal shopping street. Students from Argyll College UHI, Argyll and Bute Council Amenity Services and a host of local volunteers, including Syrian refugees, worked tirelessly to create a garden seating area to visually enhance the street.

- **Argyll Coastal Waters** – works on Seil now actioned.

- **Rothesay Pavilion** – works ongoing, due to reopen in 2018.

- **Rothesay TH 2** – A First Round Pass was awarded in January 2016. A year’s project development is currently underway to support a Second Round bid to HLF in March 2017

- **Digital connectivity** –
  - Highlands and Islands project – now live premises on
    - Tiree – Scarinish
    - Mull – Dervaig, Tobermory, Aros, Craignure
    - Seil – Balvicar
    - Bute – Rothesay and Kilchattan Bay
  - Giga Plus Argyll – Construction has started on the mast network which currently requires 38 masts and negotiations are still ongoing in certain locations. It is hoped to have live connections available during the late summer period.
  - Member seminar on digital issues being planned.

- **Promotions and marketing** - helped MICT and campsite owners on Mull develop a leaflet to provide information to camper van owners visiting the island. This was in response to the expectation, led by experiences on Tiree, that the RET would lead to an increase in traffic from camper vans in the summer. The leaflet explained how to drive on single track roads, gave details of local campsites and how to dispose of waste safely. It was designed by the PM officer and printed by MICT.
The leaflet was mentioned in the letters section of a recent edition of MMM Motorhomers' Magazine which prompted an enquiry from an individual who is coming to visit Mull next year.

- Business Gateway
  - Joint visit with Social Enterprise Officer to Islay in July, visit planned for Jura.
  - DigitalBoost workshops in September and October - Gigha, Coll, Tiree, Colonsay, Mull, Islay.

- Fixed link – consultants instructed to look again at the possibility of fixed links to Bute, Easdale, Lismore and Luing.

- Strategic Infrastructure Plan – being drafted, presentation to members Autumn 2016.

Decision

The Group –

1. Agreed that the update would be circulated to Members via email.

2. Noted that a members seminar had been planned on broadband and agreed that the permission of the Director would be sought to add an item on the placement of masts on private land to the agenda.

(Reference: Verbal Update by Senior Development Officer)

11. PRIORITY 2: ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Head of Roads and Amenity Services had been invited to attend and give a verbal update on Island Infrastructure. The group were given a broad overview on the responsibilities of Roads and Amenity Services on islands in respect of roads, piers, harbours, cemeteries, toilets and landfill sites. The Group were also informed about an officers group consisting of the Council, Transport Scotland, CMAL and Calmac which had initially been set up to deal with the effects of RET and which now looked at strategic issues. Discussion took place around the possibility of inviting Transport Scotland to attend a meeting of the Task Force to have a discussion on ferries and to respond to members questions.

Decision

The Group –

1. Noted the verbal update given by the Head of Roads and Amenity Services on Islands Infrastructure.

2. Agreed to invite Transport Scotland Ferries Unit to attend a future meeting of the Group.

(Reference: Verbal Update by Head of Roads and Amenity Services
12. **ARGYLL ISLANDS TASK FORCE ACTION SHEET**

   Consideration was given to the Argyll Islands Taskforce Action Sheet.

   **Decision**

   The Group noted the action sheet and that it would be updated accordingly by Development and Infrastructure Services following today’s meeting.

   (Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated August 2016, submitted)

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

   The Group agreed that the date of the next meeting would be arranged around the availability of Transport Scotland to attend.