



**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid**

*Customer Services*  
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*12 December 2018*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM** will be held in the **TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON** on **MONDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2018** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director of Customer Services

**BUSINESS**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 14)
- 4. POLICE SCOTLAND**
  - (a) Road Safety Concerns Regarding Deer on the Carriageways
  - (b) What Legislation is Currently in Place to deal with Motorists Driving Under the Speed Limit
  - (c) Motorbike Noise Pollution
- 5. FERRIES UPDATE**
  - (a) Transport Scotland Ferry Response Letter (Pages 15 - 20)
  - (b) Dunoon to Gourock Ferry Services

## **6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

- (a) VMS Update
- (b) A83
- (c) Butterbridge Car Park

## **7. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP**

Update by Iain Catterwell, Project Officer – Argyll Timber Transport Group

- (a) Timber Transport on the B8000  
Update by Kilfinan Community Council

## **9. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- (a) Helensburgh - Carrick Castle Bus Service
- (b) Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful
- (c) Alexandra Parade Bus
- (d) Bus Stops, Toward: Update on Site Visit
- (e) Dial-A-Bus
- (f) Fountain Quay Bus Shelter
- (g) Cowal Games Buses
- (h) 482 & 483 Services: Update from Traffic Commissioner
- (i) Kames Bus Stop
- (j) 479 Dunoon to Rothesay West Coast Motors Service

## **10. ROADS UPDATE**

- (a) TRO Updates  
Dunoon Pier
- (b) Parking Restrictions  
Bus Bays at Queens Hall; Tudor Team Rooms and Morrisons
- (c) Parked Vehicles on Paving Slabs Outside Argyll Hotel
- (d) Road Markings  
Bencorrum Brae; Wellington Street; and Old Police House, Kilmun; Tighnabruaich Primary School, Kames Cross Roads.
- (e) Speeding Issues at Sandbank Road
- (f) Speed Surveys: Kirn, Cairndow, Sandhaven to Cothouse, Millhouse and Colintrave

(g) Traffic Management in Tighnabruaich, Kames and Millhouse

**11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Cowal Transport Forum**

Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)

Contact: Andrea Moir, Senior Area Committee Assistant - 01369 708662

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**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held in the TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON on WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Present:** Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)  
Melissa Stewart, Argyll and Bute Council  
Paul Farrell, Argyll and Bute Council  
Martin Arnold, Argyll and Bute Council  
Captain Alistair McLundie, Western Ferries  
Ross Moran, Caledonian MacBrayne  
Yvonne Hanely, Caledonian MacBrayne  
Evan MacKay, Caledonian MacBrayne  
Iain McNaughton, Sandbank Community Council  
Eleanor Stevenson, South Cowal Community Council  
Iain McInnes, Lochgoil Community Council  
Cathleen Russell, Colglen Community Council  
Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council  
Debbie Donald, Cairndow Community Council  
Michaela Blair, Kilfinan Community Council

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were intimated by:

Councillor Jim Anderson  
Councillor Bobby Good  
Councillor Audrey Forrest  
Councillor Yvonne McNeilley  
George Fiddes, Transport Scotland  
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council  
Fulton McInnes, Hunter's Quay Community Council  
Graham Revill, Kilmun Community Council  
Kevin McIntosh, Argyll and Bute Council  
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries  
Iain Catterwell, Argyll Timber Transport Group

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**3. MINUTES**

The minute of the previous meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was approved as a correct record.

#### 4. POLICE SCOTLAND

##### (a) Speeding Issues at Sandbank Road

A representative from Police Scotland was not present at the meeting, therefore no update was provided.

##### **Outcome**

Paul Farrell informed the Group that a speeding survey on Sandbank Road was due to be carried out in the next six weeks and he would report back to the Transport Forum with the findings.

#### 5. FERRIES UPDATE

##### (a) Dunoon to Gourock Ferry Services

##### **Argyll Ferries**

Yvonne Hanley from Caledonian MacBrayne provided a statistical breakdown on sailings, passengers numbers and breakdowns for the July and August period for Dunoon, Colintraive and Portavadie.

The Forum held a discussion regarding the tender process, current extension of Argyll Ferries contract, future plans and infrastructure challenges.

##### **Outcome**

1. Ross Moran agreed to circulate statistical information to the Forum.
2. It was agreed that narrative regarding variables and influences be included with the statistics.
3. The Forum requested that long term known disruptions be clearly advertised.
4. The Transport forum agreed to draft a further letter to Transport Scotland along with a formal complaint regarding the lack of response and engagement with the Forum.

##### **Western Ferries**

Captain McLundie informed the Group that figures are up on last year particularly over the period covered by Cowal Games and the water ski championships. Cowal Games from a ferry perspective ran smoothly with only one reported incident. Within the last quarter there was one weather disruption due to inclement weather that lasted for four hours.

He also informed the Group that the Linkspan at McInroy's Point was now completed and work on the Hunter's Quay linkspan commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> August with a completion date scheduled for the end of December 2018. A planning application has been submitted to the National Park to allow construction of overnight berth and crew access, and installation of fenders and bollards at Kilmun Pier. Captain McLundie said that the application included proposals aimed at protecting the pier structure

## 6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

### (a) VMS Update

George Fiddes provided the Group with the following email update: VMS signs have been installed and are due to be commissioned next month.

#### **Outcome**

1. Paul Farrell agreed to chase up the VMS timescales with Transport Scotland and will provide an update to the Forum in two weeks' time.
2. The location plan of the storage boxes to be recirculated to the forum by Melissa Stewart.

### (b) A83

George Fiddes provided the Group with the following email update:

A83 Rest and Be Thankful (£1.8M) Catch pit works – Phases 7 and 9 have been progressed throughout August and are anticipated to be completed in September 2018. The excavation work in Phases 7 and 9 is almost finished with just the shaping of the final base level left to complete. Once these final excavation works have been carried out, the works will focus on installing the remaining soil nails located on the lower slopes and installing the shotcrete wall in both phases. Finally, for the protection of road users a vehicle restraint system will be installed along the front of the pits prior to fully opening the trunk road to traffic.

#### **Outcome**

1. Concerns were raised regarding walkers safety due to the ongoing work at Butterbridge and also regarding barriers at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful. It was agreed to raise both issues with Transport Scotland.
2. The Cowal Transport Forum will request that the Head of Roads and Amenity Services include the Safer Roads Foundation survey results at Cairndow on the next A83 Task Force agenda and that Cairndow Community Council are invited to attend.
3. The Forum agreed to hold a special meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum, in advance of the next scheduled meeting, to discuss all outstanding trunk road issues with George Fiddes or a suitable representative.

## **7. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP**

Iain Catterwell provided the Forum with the following email update:

Bark at Sandbank

As discussed at the previous meeting Iain has taken up the issue with members of the Timber Transport Forum and the timber haulage community and there are no reported injuries associated with bark loss. It was also raised with the industry's national representative safety body, FISA. (Forest Industry Safety Accord - timber haulage working group) Again no instances of injury through bark from lorries striking members of the public were known.

'Tighnabruaich bypass' timber haulage route

The initial bid involved three landowners and different management companies. Repairs to the road on usage proved difficult to coordinate leading to its unsuitability for use for a time.

The ownership of the three forest blocks has now simplified as has the management of the route. It is understood that the road has undergone significant repair already, and requires some additional work to have it ready for use. There is no firm answer on completion and will continue to follow this up and report.

### **Outcome**

1. The Forum requested clarification from the Timber Transport Group regarding the new timber route and what areas of tree felling the lorries using this route will be starting from.
2. Paul Farrell agreed to look at whether timber transport in the Tighnabruaich area is adhering to the Timber Management Plan in terms of restrictions on the number of lorries per hour on the same stretch of road.

## **8. MOTORBIKE NOISE POLLUTION: UPDATE BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Environmental Health Officer provided the Forum with the following email update:

The request for noise monitoring of weekend motorbike activity in the Cairndow area to be undertaken by Environmental Health cannot be carried out by this Service as the noise and causes currently being discussed do not fall under any of our statutory functions. We do not have the capacity to carry out non-statutory functions however you could consider engaging a noise consultant to obtain the required readings.



Noise from vehicles on the road cannot be dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as a statutory nuisance, nor do we have the legal authority to stop any vehicles, so even if noise measurements were taken by this Service no action would be possible against the individuals responsible, this would be a Police matter.

There are a number of potential actions that can be taken to reduce the impact of noise from motorcycles which include;

- 1) Educational campaigns to inform motorcyclists of the impact to neighbours that fast accelerations and speeding has to noise and safety such as posters and signage
- 2) Reducing speed limits or provision of traffic calming measures where appropriate
- 3) Enforcement campaigns at the roadside that stop individual motorcyclists that are accelerating hard and/or speeding which includes measuring the noise output from their exhausts to identify illegal and/or modified set ups – this would fall to the Police
- 4) Individual dwellings installing acoustic fencing to act as a shield to traffic noise (common in inner cities for residential areas next to trunk routes etc)

#### **Outcome**

The Cowal Transport Forum agreed to raise this matter with Transport Scotland and contact Police Scotland with a request that they monitor the situation locally.

## **9. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

### **(a) Helensburgh - Carrick Castle Bus Service**

Martin Arnold provided the following update:

SPT have confirmed that they will amend the service 302 (Helensburgh – Carrick Castle) timetable to allow a connection from Glasgow – Lochgoilhead – Carrick Castle. The 1425 departure from Helensburgh will depart ten minutes later (on Saturday and School holidays) to connect with the 926 at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful. This will likely come into effect circa November 2018.

#### **Outcome**

1. The Forum requested an update from Stephanie McGlynn on the status of plans to put a barrier at the entrance to the bus stop at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful.
2. The Forum agreed to write to City Link again requesting that they use the turning circle over the winter period emphasising that they is an unmet community demand.

### **(b) Alexandra Parade Bus**

Martin Arnold provided the following update:

Emails have repeatedly been sent to McGill's commercial and marketing personnel regards the possibility of a reduced fare on the route from

Dunoon Ferry Terminal to Hunter's Quay along Alexandra Parade. Current fare is circa £5.90 – essentially the fare to Gourock minus the ferry ticket cost. Thus far they have seemed receptive to the idea of a reduced 'local service' fare although have had no feedback yet on if and when that will actually be introduced. Public Transport will continue to chase this and update the forum when more information is available.

(c) **Bus Stops, Toward: Update on Site Visit**

Martin Arnold will request an update from Stephanie McGlynn and report back to the Group.

(d) **Dial-A-Bus**

Martin Arnold provided the following update:

Following calls from the Forum to better publicise the Dial-A-Bus, Public Transport will be liaising with the Communications team to put out information on social media and will be looking to produce a flyer for distribution to GP's surgeries, hospitals, sheltered housing, befrienders groups etc. The Dial-A-Bus will continue to feature in the Cowal area transport booklet.

(e) **Fountain Quay Bus Shelter**

Martin Arnold provided the following update:

Public Transport have been informed by the Estates department that the proposed bus stop at Fountain Quay cannot be sanctioned as this would negatively affect the sale of Dunclutha. After the sale has concluded then Argyll and Bute Council can negotiate the use or sale of the minimal amount of land required for the shelter with the new owner. An update to the Forum will be provided once timescales are confirmed.

(f) **Cowal Games Buses**

Archie Reid informed the Group that on Cowal Games Saturday, West Coast motors had always run a late bus to Strachur but this year the service did not run. He explained that West Coast Motors had apologised but he would like it raised with them again to ensure this doesn't happen next year.

**Outcome**

Martin Arnold agreed to write to West Coast motors to request that the late bus runs to Strachur next year on Cowal Games Saturday.

(g) **482 & 483 Services: Update from Traffic Commissioner**

Martin Arnold provided the following email update:

The bus service looping around Alexandra Parade had minor improvements coming into effect on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. This improvement involved all-but-one of the buses on the service extending from their final stop at Dunoon Ferry Terminal, up Argyll Road and Argyll Street to West Coast Motors bus garage 'on service'. This means that passengers travelling in from Alexandra Parade can get transported directly to the main shopping area on Argyll Road, rather than making the walk from Dunoon Ferry Terminal.

A general discussion was held regarding the bus stop at Kames.

**Outcome**

1. Paul Farrell to look at yellow lining the bus stop at Kames.
2. Martin Arnold to move the position or replace the sign at Kames bus stop.
3. Martin Arnold will ask West Coast motors if they will start using the official bus stop at Kames.

**10. ROADS UPDATE**

(a) **TRO Updates**

**Dunoon Pier**

The TRO is progressing and the Roads department are currently dealing with any objections that have been lodged. If they are unable to resolve the issues this will end up being subject of a hearing.

**Rest and Be Thankful**

The TRO for this is now complete.

**Royal Crescent**

This area is being monitored by Wardens but nothing further will be progressed until a change in legislation regarding parking on footways is passed.

(b) **Parking Restrictions**

**Bus Bays at Queens Hall**

The Roads department are progressing this as a TRO and are currently dealing with any objections lodged re the parking proposals. Again, if these cannot be satisfied there will be a hearing.

**Tudor Tea Rooms and Morrisons**

There is currently a perceived misuse of these bays by touring coaches. An amendment to the existing TRO would be required in order to make the bays enforceable and to ensure usage is by local buses only.

(c) **Road Markings**

**Victoria Road/ Hamilton Street**

This area has been completed.

**Bencorrum Brae**

Still to be completed.

**Wellington Street**

Lining is complete but traffic order still in progress.

**Old Police Houses Kilmun**

Paul Farrell will look into this and come back to the group regarding walking space. His understanding was that the reduction in the marked area was only 100mm.

**Outcome**

1. Paul Farrell to look at putting road markings and signing at Kames Crossroads.
2. Paul Farrell to let the Forum know when all the newly surface dressed roads will be lined.
3. Paul Farrell to look at getting signage removed from already dressed roads.
4. Paul Farrell to look at redoing the walking line for children and the potential for rumble strips at Tighnabraich primary school.

(d) **Speed Surveys: Kirn and Cairndow**

**Kirn**

Paul Farrell advised that he had not yet re-visited the area at the garden centre as yet to redo the survey but would do so in view of the inclement weather during one of the previous undertaken surveys.

**Cairndow**

It was noted that a response regarding the recent speed survey would be sent to Cairndow Community Council from Kevin McIntosh.

The Forum also noted ongoing speed surveys at Sandhaven, Cot House Millhouse and that a request would be made for a survey at Colintrave.

(e) **Traffic Management in Tighnabraich, Kames and Millhouse**

Michaela Blair, on behalf of Kilfinan Community Council, raised concerns regarding appropriate signage, signs in the wrong place and sight lines being impeded. She requested flashing thirty signs and rumble strips be put in place.

**Outcome**

1. Roads department will visit the site to look at the signage, an additional repeater sign is also scheduled to be installed.
2. Paul Farrell will see if any flashing thirty signs are available.
3. It was agreed that all Community Councils in Cowal will receive email notification of traffic management notices in respect of Dunoon town centre.

**11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

Archie Reid, at request of Dunoon Community Council, raised an issue regarding parked vehicles on the paving slabs outside of the Argyll Hotel. It was noted that the roads department are aware of this and are currently in the process of resolving the situation.

Michaela Blair asked if there would be sufficient grit supplies for this coming winter. Paul Farrell responded that the Councils winter maintenance programme doesn't start until November but he didn't foresee any issues with grit supplies.

**12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was agreed that the next meetings of the Cowal Transport Forum would be held on:

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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**Aviation, Maritime, Freight & Canals**

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
[Margaret.horn@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Margaret.horn@transport.gov.scot)

Cllr Alan Reid  
Cowal Transport Forum  
Customer Service Point  
22 Hill Street  
Dunoon  
PA23 7AP

Date:  
16 July 2018

Dear Cllr Reid,

Thank you for your letter of 6 July 2018 in relation to the passenger ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon.

I note your concerns regarding the present ferry service and its reliability and in response I can advise that the safety of all passengers, crew, vessels and ports is paramount and any decision taken to cancel a sailing is done so with this in mind. The Merchant Shipping (Master's Discretion) Regulations 1997 gives the Master of any ship sole responsibility for deciding whether in his or her professional judgement it is safe to sail. It is a criminal offence for the owner, charterer or manager of a ship, i.e. Argyll Ferries Ltd, or any other person to prevent or restrict the Master from exercising that judgement. Ferry travel has its own distinct challenges and the Masters have a duty to ensure the safety of passengers above other considerations.

You may wish to note that should the service provided by the operator fall short of the expectations of Scottish Ministers, as per the terms of the Public Service Contract, performance deductions are imposed when scheduled sailings are cancelled or delayed and are not related to adverse weather. Late arrivals and departures due to inclement weather do not incur a financial deduction following the decision taken by the Master.

To address your point in terms of the future plan for the service, the current Public Service Contract between Scottish Ministers and Argyll Ferries Ltd has been extended to 20 January 2019. An announcement was made by the then Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf on 20 December 2017 on the procurement policy review. This included the publication of the Interim report setting out emerging findings of the policy review, a copy of which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/ferry-services-procurement-policy-review-interim-report-emerging-findings-20-december-2017/>

Following this report the Minister made a further public statement to the Scottish Parliament on 2 February 2018, a transcript of which can be found via the following link:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10768&i=98763>

I can confirm that arrangements for the development and procurement of the next Gourock to Dunoon Public Service Contract will be made public shortly however at this stage of the Public Service Contract, Transport Scotland has no plans to change the vessels.

Yours sincerely,

*Margaret E Horn*

Margaret Horn  
Head of Ferries Policy and Contract Management  
Transport Scotland





T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Alan Reid  
Chair Cowal Transport Forum  
By email: [Alan.Reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.Reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

*12 December 2018*

*Dear Mr Reid,*

### **Gourock Dunoon Ferry Service**

Earlier today, I answered a Government Initiated Question (S5W-20531) confirming cancellation of the Gourock Dunoon Ferry Service tender. I also confirmed that responsibility for the ferry service will transfer to CalMac from 21 January 2019, when the current Argyll Ferries contract comes to an end. Thereafter, CalMac will provide a passenger-only service under the terms of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract. This will not include the transport of vehicles, in line with the State aid rules and the European Commission's Decision of 28 October 2009 on Subsidies to CalMac and NorthLink for maritime transport services in Scotland.

My decision to cancel the tender reflects the findings of Audit Scotland's Report on Transport Scotland's Ferry Services published on 19 October 2017. Audit Scotland recommended that, while the tender exercise is paused, Transport Scotland should consider the value for money of providing financial support for the route. The full text of Audit Scotland's recommendation is enclosed for your reference, as is a copy of my press release.

Having given full and careful consideration to the value for money implications associated with the future provision of the ferry service, I reached the conclusion that the most appropriate course of action would be to cancel the tender and transfer responsibility for a passenger-only ferry service to CalMac. This will ensure the continued provision of the ferry service, under provisions set out in the current Clyde and Hebrides contract, whilst providing reassurance to the staff and crew of Argyll Ferries about security of employment and associated terms and conditions.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

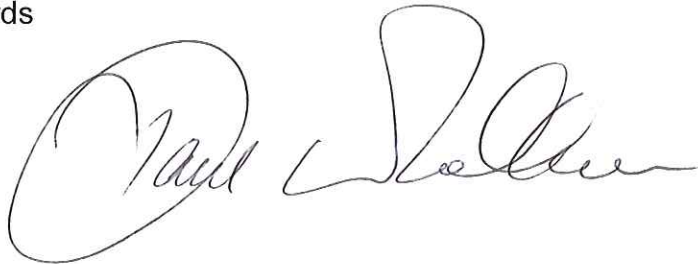
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

The decision was also taken in light of recent policy developments encouraging the use of public transport, the promotion of active travel and reduction in carbon emissions. In line with these developments, the ferry service will continue to provide a direct passenger link to the Gourock railhead for onward travel to Glasgow city centre. Harbour infrastructure will also, in due course, be upgraded to provide improved passenger facilities. Transport Scotland will also engage with the Argyll and Bute and Inverclyde Councils with a view to introducing a car-share scheme served by a fleet of e-vehicles and e-bicycles in both Gourock and Dunoon. I believe that these initiatives, complemented by the nearby commercial ferry service operated by Western Ferries (Clyde) Limited, which carries cars, buses and commercial vehicles, will provide a range of transport options that meet the needs of the local community, whilst providing best value for money to the taxpayer.

Following the transfer of responsibility to CalMac, further consideration will be given to future vessel and service requirements. This will ensure that the ferry service is best placed to deliver a safe, reliable, efficient and sustainable passenger service into the future.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to members of the Cowal Transport Forum. I would, of course, be pleased to discuss the issues raised in this letter with you, if that would be helpful.

Kind Regards



**PAUL WHEELHOUSE**

**FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOUROCK DUNOON FERRY SERVICE**

**EXTRACT FROM AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT (PAGE 50)**

The specification for the new Gourock-Dunoon contract requires the operator to use its own 40-metre vessels, to help improve reliability on the route. If the contract is awarded to David MacBrayne Ltd (DML), this will require public sector investment in new vessels. While the tender exercise is currently paused, it is important that Transport Scotland considers the value for money of providing financial support for this route, in the context of:

- the cost of the new vessels. In 2013, Transport Scotland commissioned consultants to estimate the cost, which ranged from £3.0 million per passenger vessel to £6.0 million per passenger/vehicle vessel. In January 2017, DML estimated this could cost in the region of £25 million to £30 million per vessel
- falling passenger numbers since 2007
- increasing subsidies since 2011 (which are estimated to increase further to £4.2 million a year at the start of the new contract)
- the required £13 million investment in Gourock harbour (as estimated in the Ferries Plan)
- the presence of a successful commercial operator on an adjacent route.

News release

12 December 2019

## Gourock-Dunoon ferry link

### **Service transfers to CalMac with plans for electric vehicle hubs**

The Gourock-Dunoon ferry service will transfer to CalMac when the current contract ends next month, becoming part of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network.

From the 21st January 2019, CalMac will provide a passenger-only service, in line with the current timetable arrangements, and consideration will be given to improved harbour facilities for passengers.

Discussions will also be held with key stakeholders on the introduction of electric vehicle hubs at both ferry terminals, as well as developing the ferry service to encourage active travel users.

Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse, said:

“The decision on the future of this ferry service has not been taken lightly but, having given it full and careful consideration, I believe transferring it to CalMac is the most appropriate course of action.

“This will secure the employment of staff, crew and the future of the service itself. It also reflects the value for money issues around the service raised by Audit Scotland.

“We want to encourage greater use of public transport and sustainable travel options. The ferry service will continue to link up with the Gourock railhead and we will consider upgrading passenger facilities at the harbours in the future.

“Officials at Transport Scotland will hold talks with Argyll & Bute and Inverclyde Councils on the potential introduction of an electric vehicle scheme, served by e-vehicles and e-bicycles, in both Gourock and Dunoon. We will also look to develop the ferry service for active travel purposes, to encourage more foot passengers and cyclists to use the crossing and benefit the local area.

“Following the transfer, further consideration will be given to future vessel and service requirements to ensure we are best placed to deliver a safe, reliable, efficient and sustainable ferry service into the future.”