

Kerrera Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** The Island of Kerrera is situated immediately to the west of Oban and is home to some 30 + residents. Access to the Island is by a short ferry journey and the southern section of the island has a short network of tracks that are adopted and maintained as public roads. The island community have been seeking to have a road built linking the north and south of the island. Planning permission is in place for the road but no detailed design has been completed. This report provides an update relating to a survey the council have carried out to assist the island community take forward grant applications once they have been identified.

2.1 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1** It is recommended that Members note the report.

Kerrera - Update

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the position regarding a community led initiative to provide a link road connecting the communities of Kerrera. The council have carried out a topographical survey and provided the information to the community that will assist any future bid application process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) report by Transport Scotland was published in June 2013 which identified long term options for ferry service provision to the island of Kerrera.
- 3.2 The STAG report identified that despite the island of Kerrera being served by 3 ferry services residents are concerned that current services do not meet the needs of islanders and are not financially sustainable.
- 3.3 The STAG report recommended that the existing vehicle ferry route is retained with a north-south link road constructed on the island to negate the requirement for 3 separate ferry services. Transport Scotland would be responsible for upgrading the shore infrastructure to enable a non-tidal operation of the ferry service however costs associated with the road infrastructure will not be the responsibility for transport Scotland as this will have to be provided locally.
- 3.4 Various meetings have taken place with residents of the island, council officers and Members. In December 2013 it was noted that there was a willingness to expand the Island population and work towards securing external funding for road infrastructure improvements to drive down costs to the Council. Dunollie Estate have also advised that they would be prepared to allow the ground for the road to be acquired by the community so that they can apply for any grant funding. In addition, any acceptable road material that can be gathered on site to reduce costs associated with construction would be contributed by the Estate.
- 3.5 Residents view the provision of a road as a lifeline link due to concerns regarding existing access for emergency services and medical staff to the island.

- 3.6 Planning Permission is in place for a link road albeit there is limited information to support the permission with the road being indicated by a line on a plan. To assist with the bidding process and to make the bid application more robust council officers arranged for a topographical survey along the route corridor which has been completed and made available to the community group. This will provide the island community more robust information to include in any future bid application.
- 3.7 While the topographical survey has been carried out no funding has been identified to undertake detailed design, legal processes (to confirm the availability of the land and onsite construction materials). These next stages would be required to produce a firm cost estimate. However, the likely cost is estimated to be in excess of £500k. There is also currently no available external funding available to bid for as the Coastal Communities Fund is currently closed to new bids although this may change in 2016.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report sets out the position regarding a community lead initiative to provide a link road connecting the communities of Kerrera. It is understood that the community still intend to take forward a grant application to fund a link road. The council has provided a topographical survey which will assist any bid application process. The community need to take the necessary steps in terms of detailed design and cost estimate in advance of any future grant application. Whilst the council would be happy to provide high level advice it does not have funding in place to take forward the design.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1	Policy	None
5.2	Financial	None directly arising from this report
5.3	Legal	None
5.4	HR	None
5.5	Equalities	None
5.6	Risk	None known
5.7	Customer Services	None

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure: Pippa Milne
Head of Roads & Amenity Services: Jim Smith
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For further information contact: