

**KERRERA LINK ROAD**

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**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.
- 1.2 It is understood that the community have now made a material start on the road. This will enable the planning permission to run in perpetuity removing the need for the permission to be renewed which would incur a renewal fee.
- 1.3 There is currently no funding allocated for this project. The community group have previously commenced the application for various grants. The Council has assisted in this process by providing advice and also carrying out a topographical survey. In order to progress a full grant application, detailed design would be required. As part of the partnership approach to delivery it is proposed that the Council carryout the detailed design on the understanding that the community group will take the lead in progressing the grant application (supported by the social enterprise team) and also seek to secure contributory funding via the sale of building plots on the island.
- 1.4 It is recommended that Members:
- Agree that the council carries out the detailed design of the road on behalf of the community on the understanding that the community group lead on progressing grant applications and seek to secure contributory funding via the sale of building plots on the island.
  - Note that the Social Enterprise team will provide advice and support to the community group on accessing external funding.

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 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.
- 1.2 To further assist it is proposed that the Council provide the detailed design which would enable the community group to progress any grant applications for these works.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 3.1 Agree that the council carries out the detailed design of the road on behalf of the community on the understanding that the community group lead on progressing grant applications and seek to secure contributory funding via the sale of building plots on the island.
- 3.2 Note that the Social Enterprise team will provide advice and support to the community group on accessing external funding.

### 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The STAG report identified that despite the island of Kerrera being served by 3 ferry services residents were concerned that current services did not meet the needs of islanders and were not financially sustainable.
- 4.3 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 have to be provided locally.

- 4.4 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 . 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.
- 4.5 Works have been carried out by Transport Scotland to improve the ferry slips and to provide breakwaters to make these more resilient for the southern ferry crossing. If provided, the north south link road will connect to this new ferry crossing negating the need for the crossings to the north of the island.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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 of construction is estimated to be in excess of £500k, the figure will be able to be refined once the design has been completed. The final price will not be known until tender returns are received. This is particularly relevant due to the island setting and the logistical challenges of bringing plant, materials and equipment onto the island.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the Council carryout the detailed design on the understanding that the community group will take the lead in progressing the grant application and also seek to secure contributory funding via the sale of building plots on the island. This work can be carried out by the Infrastructure Design Team within existing resources.
- 4.10 The Social Enterprise team are also able to provide advice and support to the community group on accessing external funding.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 This report sets out the position regarding a community led 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. This report proposes that the Council progress the detailed design subject to the community group agreeing to take the lead on the funding application. 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 construction.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1	Policy	None known
6.2	Financial	The design of the road is not currently within the work programme of the service however it is anticipated that the staffing costs can be managed within existing budgets.
6.3	Legal	None known
6.4	HR	None known
6.5	Equalities	None known
6.6	Risk	None known
6.7	Customer Services	None known

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