

OBAN BAY – SINGLE HARBOUR AUTHORITY - UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At previous Area Committee meetings, Members have been advised that OCHDA is proposing a transfer of the Council's existing powers and responsibilities in Oban Bay, including a transfer of shore-side assets around the North Pier, to form a new Trust Port.
- 1.2 Although there has, to date, been no formal submission from OCHDA re transfer of Council assets or responsibilities, an informal 'Expression of Interest' was submitted to the Council in December 2020 in relation to Council infrastructure at the North Pier in Oban, including the harbourmasters' building and pontoons.
- 1.3 At the Oban Bay Management Group meeting held in January of this year, OCHDA submitted a draft outline programme indicating potential timescales for their main activities; those in attendance agreed to provide formal comments on the timescales indicated by OCHDA.
- 1.4 Subsequent to the informal expression of interest and draft programme received from OCHDA, a letter has been issued to OCHDA by Council officers which explains Council processes and timescales; this was followed up with a further letter from the Chief Executive reassuring OCHDA that the Council's position in relation to the work OCHDA is progressing has not changed. A memo of understanding, between OCHDA and the Council is currently being drawn up.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note and consider this report.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 A report was presented to Members of the OLI Area Committee in December of last year outlining work being done by both the Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) and Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA). This report provides a further update to Members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note and consider this report.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 At previous Area Committee meetings, Members have been advised that OCHDA is proposing a transfer of the Council's existing powers and responsibilities in Oban Bay, including a transfer of shore-side assets around the North Pier, to form a new Trust Port.

4.2 A public consultation was carried out by OCHDA in late 2020 regarding the seaward limits of a new harbour area to be managed in the future. A preliminary report from OCHDA concluded that 'overall the consultation showed a high level of satisfaction with the proposed limits.'

4.3 Although there has, to date, been no formal submission from OCHDA re transfer of Council assets or responsibilities, an informal 'Expression of Interest' was submitted to the Council in December 2020 in relation to Council infrastructure at the North Pier in Oban, including the harbormaster's building and pontoons.

4.4 At the Oban Bay Management Group meeting held in January of this year, OCHDA submitted a draft outline programme indicating potential timescales for their main activities; those in attendance agreed to provide formal comments on the timescales indicated by OCHDA. The draft programme submitted by OCHDA was well received by OBMG and Council Officers alike. The programme indicates that the new harbour area will be incorporated into legislation by the end of March this year and Council approval in principal for the asset transfer will be in place by the same time. Whilst officers accept that the programme is purely at draft stage, it is clear that timescales do not take account of Council processes and much work is still required by OCHDA in terms of detailed information required.

4.5 Subsequent to the informal expression of interest and draft programme received from OCHDA, a letter has been issued to OCHDA by Council officers which explains Council processes and timescales; this was followed up with a further letter from the Chief Executive reassuring OCHDA that the Council's position in relation to the work OCHDA is progressing has not changed. A memo of understanding, between OCHDA and the Council is currently being drawn up.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Liaison between Council Officers, OBMG and OCHDA continues regarding a single harbour authority in Oban. Much work remains to be done by OCHDA but progress is being made.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 **Policy** - None

6.2 **Financial** – The financial impacts cannot be assessed until the Business Case has been produced by OCHDA.

6.3 **Legal** – Any agreement with OCHDA must ensure that the Council's interests and areas of responsibility are protected.

6.4 **HR** – None

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty

6.5.1 **Equalities / Protected Characteristics** None directly arising from this report

6.5.2 **Socio-economic Duty** None directly arising from this report

6.5.3 **Islands** See risk below

6.6 **Risk** – Advice from the OBMG is that 'to do nothing', given concerns over safety at Oban Bay, is not an option worthy of consideration.

6.7 **Customer Service** – None.

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