

LISMORE FERRY REPLACEMENT VESSEL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The new Lismore Ferry is in the final stages of construction with launching expected on or before 12 November 2021. Harbour and sea trials will commence 15 November 2021 with final regulatory certification by MCA planned to be complete during familiarisation and training visit by our two Lismore ferry boat masters planned for 22 and 23 November at Pembroke Dock. On successful completion of trials, training and certification, the vessel will depart Pembroke 23rd November on passage to Port Appin with estimated arrival date 29 November subject to favourable weather conditions. Handover of the vessel to Argyll & Bute Council will be carried out at Port Appin on satisfactory completion vessel checks, contract requirements and MCA certification.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider this report and to endorse the name “Lady of Lismore” for the new vessel.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The Reason for Change:

UK Passenger ferry owners and operators were informed by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Regulatory Policy Committee in April 2018 of future changes to safety requirements for all passenger carrying vessels with an initial consultation stage detailed in RPC18- DFT-MCA-4284(1). This consultation document was followed by a second public consultation July 2019 on proposals resulting from a review of the standards relating to older domestic passenger vessels, which are currently less stringent in some areas than those which are applied to new build vessels. In some cases, there is a safety gap between the standards for new ships and those for older vessels. The review sought to bring the standards applied to existing vessels into line, wherever possible, with those which apply to new vessels in key safety areas.

3.2 Action taken:

The Council owned ferries are as follows:

JURA FERRY - MV "Eilean Dhiura" (passenger and car – built 1998)

CUAN FERRY – MV "Belnahua" (passenger and car – built 1972) and ML Torsa (passenger only)

LISMORE FERRY – MV "The Lismore" (passenger only – built 1988)

EASDALE FERRY – ML "Fladda" and ML "Easdale" (both passenger only)

The age of the vessels, current safety standards on board, general condition of vessel and estimated cost to implement required changes in the short, medium and long term were considered. All vessels to a greater or lesser degree will be affected by the proposed changes. Assessment of priorities was carried out with the conclusion that MV "The Lismore" should be replaced due to the number of key safety changes required to meet the new standards, taking account of cost of the changes and the working life expectancy of an already aging vessel.

3.3 The replacement vessel concept design was produced along with a public consultation process to review and discuss proposals. The concept design also gave consideration to making use of current berthing infrastructure at both Port Appin and Lismore point. The decision was made in collaboration with the MCA to use Small Sea Going Passenger Ship code for design of the replacement vessel.

3.4 Funding was obtained through Transport Scotland and a tender issued for Stage 1 "design" of a replacement vessel which was awarded to Keel Marine, Petersfield in July 2020 and Stage 2 "vessel build" which was awarded to Mainstay Marine Solutions, Pembroke March 2021.

3.5 The keel was laid in April 2021 with an outlook to complete in mid-October 2021. However, due to effects of Brexit at the early stage of build and the pandemic many businesses in the supply chain have experienced delays.

3.6 **Name Consultation and selection:**

During the build stage the Lismore Island local community were requested to consider a suitable name for the replacement vessel. Options such as "The Lismore II" and "Eilean Lios Mòr" were suggested to stimulate interest from local residents and primary school. Additional names were added to a list and a poll was arranged by Lismore Community Council with the outcome being "Lady of Lismore" which is recommended to be endorsed by Members.

4.0 **CONCLUSION**

4.1 This report provides Members with an update on the progress of the new Lismore Ferry and asked to endorse the name "Lady of Lismore" for the vessel.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - None directly arising from this report.
- 5.2 Financial - None arising from this report.
- 5.3 Legal – None arising from this report.
- 5.4 HR - None.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - None directly arising from this report.
 - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None directly arising from this report.
 - 5.5.3 Islands – New vessel relates to more reliable long term connectivity
- 5.6. Risk - New vessel reduces the risk to the ferry service and connectivity
- 5.7 Customer Service – A more reliable long term service and customer reassurance and comfort

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APPENDICES

None