

MARINE SERVICES UPDATE

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1

This report provides an update on current issues in the Oban Lorn and the Isles area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1

That Members note the contents of this report.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 Cuan – Luig ferry waiting room

The new waiting room is now in place and operational. A second phone line has been installed which allows members of the public the opportunity to contact the ferry crew if a booking is required.

3.2 Step ashore facility- North Pier

The consultant appointed to undertake a study for the pontoons has produced a final report that represents an accord with the interested parties. There is a paper being presented to the CHORD Board that proposes options for this facility and will be taken forward by the CHORD project. Members are invited to note the details contained in the report on this matter that appears elsewhere on the agenda.

3.3 Cruise ship developments

The number of cruise ships that have booked for the 2013 season currently stands at 29 vessels with a further 27 calls booked for Lord of the Glens. Arrangements are in hand to meet the Inverclyde Tourist Association to permit an exchange of ideas that may be successfully applied in Oban. The intention to dedicate an area within the North pier car park for coach parking will be considered by the departmental management team.

In relation to cruise ships, Members should be aware that the Council are audited by the Department for Transport officials who monitor UK ports for compliance with the International Ship and port facility security code. To date, since inception in 2004 the Council have passed audit. We have approved plans for a number of ports within Argyll and Bute and it is these that give the Government the confidence that appropriate measures are in place to combat the threat of terrorism.

3.4 Craignure Passenger Access Systems

This is subject to a separate report.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy: No implications.

4.2 Financial: No implications

4.3 Legal: None

4.4 HR: none

4.5 Equalities: No implications

4.6 Risk: None

4.7 Customer Service: none

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26 March 2013

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