
Kerrera STAG/Road Options Update

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper has been requested following the verbal update provided by the Development Policy Manager to the OLI Area Committee meeting in December.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 be the Councils responsibility.
- 1.5 The Development Policy Manager met with residents of the island in December and noted that there was a willingness to expand their 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 stone that can be gathered on site to reduce costs associated with construction would be contributed by the Estate.
- 1.6 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.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 Following publication of the STAG report, it has been agreed with Transport Scotland that Argyll and Bute Council will undertake a business case into the north-south link road options for Kerrera.
- 2.2 Prior to undertaking the Business Case it is proposed that the Deputy Leader of the Council will visit Kerrera in January with senior Council Officers and following this a special briefing meeting for local Councillors will be arranged to seek clarification on political views regarding future options for Kerrera. An issues report and table will be circulated in advance of this meeting.

For further information and clarification contact Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services, Kilmory.