

Kerrera

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 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. This report summarizes the findings of a STAG report carried out by Scottish Government and provides an update relating to a survey the council have offered to carry out to assist the island community take forward grant applications.

2.1 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.

Kerrera – Update on Route Survey

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the position regarding a community lead initiative to provide a link road connecting the communities of Kerrera. It is understood that the community intend to take forward a grant application to fund a link road. The council have offered to provide a topographical survey which will assist any bid application process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 be the Council's responsibility.
- 3.4 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 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.
- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 Planning Permission is in place for a link road. There is limited information to support the permission with the road being indicated by a line on a plan. There are no section drawings and as far as can be established no topographical survey has been carried out. However, the residents have carried out considerable work to enable them to submit a future funding bid. To assist with the bidding process and to make the bid application more robust council officers have agreed to arrange for a topographical survey to be completed along the route of the road. This will provide the island community more robust information to include in any future bid application.
- 3.7 Tenders for the survey will be arranged during February and it is expected that it will be undertaken and results made available in April. This will be dependent on a suitable weather window. The survey data will be available to share with the island community representatives following appropriate formatting and checking by Council staff.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report sets out the position regarding a community lead initiative to provide a link road connecting the communities of Kerrera. It is understood that the community intend to take forward a grant application to fund a link road. The council have offered to provide a topographical survey which will assist any bid application process.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | |
| 5.2 | Financial | From existing budgets |
| 5.3 | Legal | None |
| 5.4 | HR | None |
| 5.5 | Equalities | None |
| 5.6 | Risk | None known |
| 5.7 | Customer Services | None |

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 February 2015

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