

**EXTRACT OF OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15 APRIL 2015.**

**10. OBAN CHORD - OBAN NORTH PIER MARITIME QUARTER - UPDATE AND
REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

A report updating the Committee on the delivery of the Oban North Pier Maritime Quarter and seeking support to take forward the interim step ashore solution proposals for 2015 and 2016, whilst progressing the development of the Integrated Maritime Quarter Facility, was considered.

The Chair allowed public questions on this agenda item and the following points were raised:

Councillor McCuish queried why an interim step ashore facility could be in place for 2016 but could not be in place for 2015. The Regeneration Project Manager advised that there is a statutory consultation period and a procurement process to go through which can take 14 months minimal.

Councillor MacDonald asked how soon we can get the private sector in to start a project like this. The Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager advised that there are formal processes which need to be followed regarding licensing and planning.

Mike Robertson asked whether if the Council provide services for a step ashore facility in phase 4, this would remove any state aid issues concerns and is it an interim solution of 1 pontoon there, or one time solution for 30 or 40 berths? Councillor McCuish that if there is a serviced project then OBMs business case would have to be viable and this is in dispute by Officers.

Mr Peadon asked why it is not possible to look at the bigger picture to come as a whole? Mr Peadon was advised that whilst we are proceeding with an interim solution, the bigger picture will be looked at and Councillor McCuish stated he hoped that OBM would be involved in lending their expertise to any master plan.

The Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager produced a letter sent to Oban Bay Marine outlining the funding agreement with the Council and Councillor McCuish asked if OBM have replied to that letter and the Project Manager advised that they have received no reply.

Councillor MacLean asked when the letter was dated and the Project Manager advised it was April 2014 and no reply had been received.

Mr MacLeod queried what could be undertaken on the proposal to constitute a

meaningful start for the purposes of the planning legislation. The Head of Governance and Law advised recent new legislation had altered what would be required to constitute a meaningful start. The Committee were also advised that OBMs planning permissions run out in July 2015.

Mr Renato Di Ciacco stated that of all the passengers coming ashore of the cruise ships do not stay in Oban but get bussed out of the town to visit other areas. Councillor McCuish stated he felt it was incumbent on the businesses to find ways to keeping these very welcomed visitors in town as the Council is taking plans forward to make their arrival in Oban more welcoming. Mr P MacLean stated that in his opinion neither of the projects that are being discussed would work.

Motion

The Area Committee:

1. Note and endorse the contents of this paper;
2. Request officers to implement the interim step ashore solution proposals for 2015;
3. Recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee, for their interest, the drawdown of £45,000 to implement the development stage of the interim step ashore solution for 2016;
4. Request officers to bring an update report outlining the implementation cost of delivering the 2016 interim step ashore solution following completion of the development stage, which is likely to be around September/October 2015;
5. That the Oban CHORD Project Managers brings an update report on the delivery of the Oban North Pier Maritime Quarter to subsequent Area Committee meetings; and
6. That Oban Bay Marine meet with officers of the Council to address their concerns.

Proposed: Councillor McCuish

Seconded: Councillor MacDougall

Amendment

Request Officers to meet with representatives from Oban Bay Marine to obtain clarity over the divergence of understanding over certain aspects surrounding the provision of a transit facility at the North Pier Oban and to prepare a report to take to a future Area Committee.

Proposed: Councillor MacDonald

Seconded: Councillor MacLean

Decision

On a show of hands, the motion was carried by 4 votes to 2 and the Committee resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by Oban Regeneration Project Manager dated 15th April 2015, submitted).