

## **ARDROSSAN TASKFORCE**

**Fifth meeting – 7 February 2018**

### **Note of meeting**

#### **Attendees**

Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands  
Cllr Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council (NAC)  
Karen Yeomans – NAC  
Doug Coleman – Peel Ports  
Andrew Hemphill – Peel Ports  
Gary Hodgson – Peel Ports  
Kevin Hobbs – Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL)  
Robbie Drummond – CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL)  
Pauline Blackshaw – CFL  
Kenneth Gibson, MSP  
Bill Calderwood – Arran Ferry Committee (AFC)  
John Nicholls - Transport Scotland (TS)  
Graham Laidlaw – TS  
Richard Hadfield - TS  
Val Ferguson – TS

#### **Apologies**

Lorna Spencer – CMAL  
James Anderson - CMAL

#### **Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

1. Mr Yousaf welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves.

#### **Item 2 – Update on Actions from last meeting**

2. There were no issues arising and actions were accepted as undertaken or covered in today's agenda.
3. Kenneth Gibson raised issue of minutes being published prior to being agreed by group. This will be looked into.

#### **Item 3 –Update on the work of the Tech group**

4. Richard Hadfield introduced the presentation with an update on the work of the technical group.

5. The Group recognised that all options for both berths are subject to affordability and to an agreement on how these works are funded. Discussion between TS, Peel and NAC on funding are on-going
6. Governance roles and responsibilities are to be clarified and regular reports to the Task Force will be provided.

#### **Item 4 – Next steps and milestones**

7. The Task Force agreed that the following work should be concluded by end March 2018:

- Vessel simulations
- Detailed operational analysis of remaining options
- 'Buildability' assessment
- Costs and funding options
- Technical group recommendations
- Formalised project governance structure

8. Mr Yousaf requested updates from the simulations on 15 February and once the berth options had been added.

#### **Item 5. Update on new Vessel**

9. Kevin confirmed vessel had been launched and was alongside at Fergusons yard. The estimated delivery window was 12-15 months from launch. As this is the first LNG vessel, CFL consider that a 2 month familiarisation period after delivery is needed before it enters service. He confirmed that Maritime and Coastguard Agency were engaged with the process but would not fully approve the vessel for service until later.

#### **Item 6. Update on Brodick works**

10. Kevin confirmed that the issue with the Passenger Access System (PAS) was on-going with the supplier carrying out modifications to enable certification by 20 March. Mr Yousaf noted that he had spoken to the supplier and the certifying body who had both expressed a high degree of confidence that the target date would be achieved.

#### **Item 7. Operational update by CFL**

11. Robbie confirmed recruitment of a new crew of 60 for the new vessel would be challenging and would start on a phased basis 6-9 months ahead of delivery of the vessel. Masters had been identified and other crew may be redeployed from elsewhere in the network. Robbie will engage with Karen on schemes to recruit locally including from unemployed and for apprenticeships and trainees.

12.LNG infrastructure issues were being considered. A strategy is in place depending on landside position for fuel infrastructure.

**Item 8. AOB**

13.Bill Calderwood asked that connectivity issues with other transport modes again be looked at. Mr Yousaf agreed to meet with Scotrail once timing was known.