

Isles of Scilly Link Project**Minutes of the Route Partnership
Friday 18 September 2009, 10.30-12.30****Venue: St.Clare, Penzance – Committee Room 1****Attended by:**

Philip Hygate – RP Chairman, Council of the Isles of Scilly

Cllr Dudley Mumford - Council of the Isles of Scilly

Craig Dryden – Planning & Development, Council of the Isles of Scilly

Chris Gregory – Land Steward, Duchy of Cornwall

Nigel Blackler – Head of Transportation, Cornwall Council

Graeme Hicks – Cabinet Member for Transport, Cornwall Council

Tim Wood – Project Director, Cornwall Council

Nicola Yeates - Project Manager, Cornwall Council

1. **Apologies:** Stephen Lynes (CC), Tom Flanagan (CC), Adrian Smith (DoC)
2. **Minutes of RP on 26 August 2009** were accepted as a true record.
3. **Political sub-group feedback:** The visit to Scilly was reported as being enlightening for Cornwall members, to appreciate the benefits and issues faced by islanders in their remote community.
4. **CIoS full council meeting 10th September 2009 feedback:** IoS community in full support of project and Members voted unanimously in favour of the Battery Rocks option (A). This is the preferred option for CIoS, if achievable, but if out of town (option C) is pursued they believe the increase in freight costs and additional handling risks and damage would be unacceptable. Still considering Falmouth as an alternative if preferred scheme cannot be delivered. Falmouth commissioners are visiting Scilly on Wed 23 September.
5. **Cornwall Council cabinet meeting 16th September 2009 feedback:** this was the first time that the new Cornwall Council had considered the project proposals. NB presented an overview of why the project is needed, proposals which have been modified in light of comments received. The Cabinet supported the report recommendations ie to submit a revised planning application for Pz (as required) and to further investigate and develop the out of town depot. Costings to be presented to Procurement Assurance Panel before reporting back to Cabinet for a decision. Local member comments were made by Tamsin Williams CC and Sue Pass CC supporting the further review of Option C and Chris Goninan CC highlighted the need to make a decision to avoid loss of funding.
6. **Other meetings to be noted:**
Pz Town Council informal meeting on 7 September attended by Graeme Hicks CC, NB, TW, Cllr Richard McCarthy (CIoS), PH, CD, Andrew George MP, Pz Local Members – Roger Harding CC, Tamsin Williams CC, Mario Fonk CC, Bill Maddern CC, Ruth Lewarne CC.

Andrew George MP meeting on 9 September attended by Graeme Hicks CC, NB, TW. AG admitted it would be difficult to secure a slot with the Minister but all agreed AG's request would give an opportunity to stress the importance of delivery.

7. **DfT/RDA meeting 8th September 2009 feedback:**

NB reported an open discussion with funders bringing them up to date with project development and ongoing value engineering opportunities. RDA supported limited additional ERDF funding if required and DfT advised they would consider the RFA recommendation arising from the 17 September RFA Peer Review.

RFA Peer Review on 17 September, group was keen to discuss the Penzance planning situation and to seek a modified spend profile to support regional priorities. The project, if approved to programme, can assist the region.

8. **Harbours update:**

- a. HRO comes into force today, 18/09/09 – Dave Slatter (Planner) will be briefing Planning committee members and interested parties on 28th September to explain the reduced planning approval requirements by virtue of HRO powers. **PMN:** Briefing changed to 5 October 2009.
- b. Value engineering Pz – beneficial reduced impacts on views and land take, seeking comments from operators. Initial responses favourable to reduced reclaim area.
- c. Value engineering St M – some potential operating issues have been highlighted by DoC and operators. Smaller reduction will be adopted.

9. **Vessel build update:** nothing to report.

10. **Operator update:**

Following evaluation of the 2nd stage formal submissions the number of operators has now been reduced from 4 to 3. Invitation to tender (ie financial pricing) will be issued on 30th September with an anticipated return date of 20th October.

Requests from island boat operators re transfer of off-island baggage will be addressed once the new operator has been appointed. Replies have been sent to correspondence received.

11. **Financial update:** no update reports. Funders are still supportive.

12. **Programme and key dates:**

Operator tender to be issued by end of September. **Action: NY**
Planning to be submitted for Option A asap, committee in December.
Option C designs and reviews already underway.
TW/NB to confirm revised spend profile to RFA asap. **Action: TW/NB**
Costings/risks to November PAS and 16 December Cabinet. **Action: TW**

13. **Date of next meeting:** 19 October provisional at St.Marys (it was hoped to have a date in October for CC Members to experience the Scillonian before the end of the season). **PMN:** Date agreed as **13 November 2009**. Opportunity to use Scillonian taken up by Mr Hicks.