RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

PROPSOED NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN

SUBMISSION FROM CALMAC FERRIES LTD

Please find below the observations of CalMac Ferries Ltd to the proposed National Islands Plan

• Do you think the 13 Strategic Objectives in the proposed National Islands Plan are the right ones to meet the needs of island communities?

As Transport Life-line Operator to the Islands, we welcome a plan which gives Islanders a greater say in the design of those services, and we await the implementation plan with interest. We are researching the socio-economic impact that ferry services have on island communities and this work should complement the National Islands Plan.

• Are there any Strategic Objectives that should be given a higher level of priority within the proposed Plan?

We note and welcome the high priority given to transport and would suggest this reflects, in part at least, the dependency islands have on their links with the rest of Scotland.

• Do you have any comments on the actions outlined to support effective implementation of the proposed Plan?

We await with interest the implementation strategy which is due to be published in Spring 2020 as this will give a clearer indication of how these are to be progressed.