

TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 18 December 2007

Session 3

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TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE **14th Meeting 2007, Session 3**

CONVENER

*Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)
*Charlie Gordon (Glasgow Cathcart) (Lab)
*Alex Johnstone (North East Scotland) (Con)
*Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (LD)
*Shirley-Anne Somerville (Lothians) (SNP)
*David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Alasdair Allan (Western Isles) (SNP)
Gavin Brown (Lothians) (Con)
John Park (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab)
Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Steve Farrell

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Alastair Macfie

ASSISTANT CLERK

Clare O'Neill

LOCATION

Committee Room 5

Scottish Parliament

Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee

Tuesday 18 December 2007

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 14:00*]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Patrick Harvie): Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the 14th meeting this session of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee. I am not aware that we have received any apologies. As usual, I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones, pagers and so on.

Item 1 is a proposal to take in private item 4, which is discussion of the committee's draft report on the budget. Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Subordinate Legislation

Transport and Works (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/517)

14:00

The Convener: Item 2 is subordinate legislation. We have not received any motions to annul the Transport and Works (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007, nor have we received comments from members. Do any committee members have any comments to make on the record?

Members: No.

The Convener: Is it agreed that we will make no comment on the instrument and recommend that it be approved?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Ferry Services Inquiry

14:01

The Convener: Item 3 is a discussion on the committee's approach to its ferry services inquiry. Members have a paper on the subject. There has been initial discussion of the issue, so I invite comments from members on the paper.

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab): The paper reflects the discussion that we had and I am happy with it. I would have liked the committee to visit the Western Isles, but Oban is probably a good compromise, given the destinations of the ferry services that operate from there. The suggestions in the paper are sensible and I am happy with them.

The Convener: There will be the opportunity for some members to travel from Oban for reporter visits if the timing works out properly.

Cathy Peattie: We gathered that that would be the case for reporter visits. It is important that we folk from the touns get an opportunity to go and have a wee look. The paper and its recommendations are fine.

Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP): Can we repeat a practice that was followed in another committee, so that members from an area that is not related to a particular service will visit that one while members from areas that use that service will visit another one? For example, it would be better for me to deal with the Arran service than with any of the Highland ones. Other members, from far and wide, could go up to Lewis or wherever.

The Convener: We will take account of that and ensure that the clerks ask for members' particular interests and where they would like to go.

Do members have any other comments?

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): I re-emphasise the usefulness of videoconferencing. As I said at our previous meeting, I have used videoconferencing for meetings with people in Orkney and Shetland and it has worked extremely well. We cannot go everywhere, but there is a feeling that we should be seen to be doing something in Orkney. It would be good to have such cross-representation, so I would support using videoconferencing.

The Convener: Absolutely. Do members agree to hold external meetings in Oban and Shetland, as outlined in the paper?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Do members also agree that the clerks should find out which members might be

available for the reporter visits in early 2008, and that I should ask permission from the Conveners Group and the Parliamentary Bureau to put all that in motion?

Members indicated agreement.

14:04

Meeting continued in private until 15:00.

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