

APPENDIX A: Bressay Link Study – Information Sheet

Within Shetland's Regional Transport Strategy¹, ZetTrans acknowledged there was a need to draw a line under the previous debate over the proposed 'Bressay Bridge' and to revisit this issue with a fresh pair of eyes. To do this, a joint working group involving representatives from ZetTrans, Shetland Islands Council, Lerwick Port Authority and Bressay Community Council was set up, adopting the title 'The Bressay Link Group'.

Bressay Link Study

The Bressay Link Group agreed to a study *'To identify means of providing sustainable efficient transport links between Bressay and Mainland Shetland for the long-term and identify the most appropriate measures to carry forward to implementation for the benefit of Shetland as a whole.'* This study is being led by ZetTrans in co-operation with the Bressay Link Group, in accordance with Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)².

The driving force behind this study is that the ferry currently serving the Bressay to Mainland Shetland service will be 20 years old in 2012, requiring a replacement option to be identified. Infrastructure will need to be significantly upgraded or replaced. Even a simple like for like replacement has significant capital and revenue costs, so now is an opportunity to fully review the situation.

The start of this study is an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders.

From this:

- objectives will be set for the Bressay Link (whatever form this may ultimately take);
- option generation and sifting can be done; and, finally,
- an appraisal of the different options against the study objectives and various economic, environmental, social and safety criteria can be carried out.

The result will be a recommendation of an option that takes into account all the various stakeholder inputs and the option appraisal. The study is expected to report in March 2008.

It is important all Shetland stakeholders are able to contribute to this consultation, recognising that the final preferred option should be the option that benefits Shetland as a whole. For example, how Bressay develops will affect Lerwick, and how Lerwick develops will affect the rest of Shetland. Any funding set aside to implement a Bressay Link could also impact on the resources available to improve infrastructure and services to other parts of Shetland.

Your Involvement

The first stage is to identify the problems, issues and opportunities that you feel the Bressay Link should address. To help your thinking:

- What do you like about the current link provided?
- Would you like to see any improvements in its operation, in terms of timings, links with other services, for example?
- Are there any problems that arise out of the current arrangements?
- If so, what options could be considered to address these problems?
- Are there any opportunities that are perhaps being missed as a result of the current situation?
- What would be the impact in the future of continuing with the current situation?
- What would be the impact in the future of providing a fixed link?

The aim of the consultation process is **not** to explore whether you would prefer to see the continuation of a ferry service to Bressay or the introduction of a bridge or tunnel

¹ This strategy was produced by ZetTrans, and submitted to the Scottish Executive for approval in March 2007.

² In order to arrive at a preferred option, for which a case for funding can be made to the Scottish Government, a STAG process must be followed.

although thoughts on the best option to address the identified problems and opportunities would be welcomed.

Some people may adopt the view, “not another consultation process” or “here we go again!” However, it is felt that the original problems, issues and opportunities that were highlighted at the beginning of the ‘Bressay Bridge’ project in the late 1990s have been overshadowed, if not lost, in more recent years during the debate that ensued over the Bressay Bridge. The Bressay Link Project is starting from a clean slate and all problems, issues and opportunities identified during consultation will be considered in taking this project forward.

How You Can Get Involved

The Bressay Link Group have organised an extensive consultation schedule that aims to capture the views of a wide range of residents, businesses and services both on Bressay and the rest of Shetland in order to ensure that the study proceeds from a solid base. This starts on the 12th September, with the consultation closing on the 12th October and the findings being presented by the 2nd November.

There are many ways to get involved (if people need assistance to attend these meetings, please contact ZetTrans using the number below):

- For the Bressay community:
- **25th September, 7.30pm in the Bressay Hall:** a public meeting outlining the study and how the community can get involved;
- **8th October, 3pm onwards in the Bressay Hall:** for people to come along and ask any questions and give their views;
- **26th September to 12th October:** all Bressay residents over the age of 18 will receive a questionnaire inviting them to complete and return by 12th October.
- Businesses, community groups and young people will also be invited to respond.
- For others:
- **1st October, 2007, 7.30pm, Islesburgh Community Centre:** a public meeting outlining the study and how people can get involved;
- Community Councils will be invited to discuss the issues at their meetings and to feedback views at the ASCC meeting on **6th October** or via a written response;
- Business, agencies, community groups and elected representatives will also be invited to respond.
- Anyone can provide a written response, providing name and contact details, via:
- bressaylinkconsultation@shetland.gov.uk or
- ZetTrans, 11 Hill Lane, LERWICK, ZE1 0HB

As the study develops it is important to keep people informed. The Bressay Link Group will communicate feedback through a variety of means, including:

- **30th October, 7.30pm, Bressay Hall:** a public meeting outlining the findings of the consultation;
- **1st November, 7.30pm, Islesburgh Community Centre:** a public meeting outlining the findings of the consultation;

Information and a full report will be available at:

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/transport/bressaylink>

If you would like further information, or would like a copy of this information sheet about the Bressay Link in large font or an alternative language, please phone ZetTrans on (01595) 744868 or email bressaylinkconsultation@shetland.gov.uk