

68/09 **Whalsay Link – Choice of Site for Whalsay Ferry Terminal**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 7.

Mr J G Simpson advised that the island's view was split and having considered all the information he had decided that the terminal should remain in the South Harbour. He said that it was important to get a new terminal and the design team had come up with a plan that would accommodate the Marina with a solid pier to separate it from the ferry. He said that the tie up berth for the ferry would move back to where the ferry operates at present which would open 3 berths for the white fish fleet. Mr Simpson said that Symbister was the hub of Whalsay with the boating club and a proposed new Cope restaurant. He said if the Committee supported his view, planning permissions should be sought and put in place. Mr J G Simpson moved that the Committee agree that the Whalsay Ferry Terminal be located in Symbister Harbour. Mr G Robinson seconded.

Some Members spoke in support of the decision and Mr Simpson advised that a larger ferry of the type on Yell Sound that would replace the Linga would double the car capacity on the ferry.

In response to a query from Mr J H Henry, Mr Simpson advised that it would be up to Ports and Harbours Operations whether dredging the pelagic vessel berthing area would be done.

Dr J W G Wills said that both options were good and the estimated costs were reasonably close, however Officers had recommended North Voe and they had looked at matters more closely. Dr Wills moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. No seconder was received.

Mr R C Nickerson queried whether there would be an impact on any application for external funding with the decision going against the findings of the STAG and the advice of Officers. The Head of Transport advised that both options had pros and cons and the outcome had been close. He said that the North Voe placed the least constraints on capacity and the ability of the service to operate in more extreme conditions and was the more clinical option, however Symbister was the heritage and community hub for the Island. The Head of Transport was of the view that there would be no additional risk to securing external funding, as both options were defensible.

Mrs E L Fullerton said that although Members accepted Officers advice, there would be times when they would not always agree with Officers.

Mr A T J Cooper advised, as Chairperson for Harbour Board, that the Harbour Board would consider the matter of dredging at the pelagic berths.