Local Government and Transport Committee

14th Meeting, 2006

Tuesday 23 May 2006

The Committee will meet at 2 pm in Committee Room 6.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Mike Rumbles will be invited to declare any relevant interest.

2. **Items in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 4 in private.

3. **European document:** The Committee will consider a European Commission consultation document on strengthening the protection of the rights of passengers travelling by sea or inland waterway in the European Union.

4. **Freight transport inquiry:** The Committee will consider the possible contents of its report on the Freight Transport Inquiry.

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**Agenda item 3**

Paper from the Clerk

**Agenda item 4**

Paper from Alan McKinnon summary of key issues for Freight Transport Inquiry
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN DOCUMENT – RIGHTS OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY SEA OR INLAND WATERWAY

1. The Committee, at its meeting of 9 May 2006 considered a paper by the Convener on a public consultation document issued by the European Commission on strengthening the protection of the rights of passengers travelling by sea or inland waterway in the European Union. A copy of the consultation document, together with supporting documents is enclosed for members’ information.¹

2. The document states that the Commission intends to “examine the current situation as regards the protection of passenger rights in the maritime transport sector for all types of maritime traffic (domestic traffic, including inland waterways, shipping inside and outside the Community, and tourist voyages/cruises) and the needs which are identified as a result, with particular emphasis on the rights of persons with reduced mobility (PRM)”.

3. The Committee sought written views on the Commission consultation from all ferry companies operating Scottish services as well as groups representing ferry passengers. Written views were received from the Clyde Shipping Services Advisory Committee, the Disability Rights Commission, the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland and the Minister for Transport.

4. The Committee agreed to seek further views on the consultation and to consider any further representations prior to agreeing its own response to the European Commission. Clerks accordingly wrote to the ferry companies again and also to port authorities and the former Calmac Users Committee to invite any written submissions. No further responses have been received, however, and the Committee is now invited to consider whether it wishes to respond to the Commission consultation, and, if so, what its response should be.

5. The European Commission consultation ends on 30 May 2006, and so any response made by the Committee would have to be agreed before that date.

¹ See http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/lg/meetings.htm
6. An option suggested by the Convener in his previous paper was to write to the Commission enclosing the submissions received by the Committee and drawing its attention to them. The Committee could also, if it wished, make any other comments in response to the consultation or take any other action it considers appropriate.

Martin Verity
Clerk to the Committee