

## **LOCHBOISDALE – MALLAIG FERRY SERVICE – MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Following our meeting today with Stewart Stevenson the Scottish Government offered support to CalMac Ferries Ltd, CNES and Storas Uibhist in their efforts to implement a Mallaig – Lochboisdale ferry service and will look carefully at all the options that CalMac and local representatives can develop.

At the end of the open and productive meeting the Minister agreed to visit South Uist in the coming months to discuss the ferry service and other transport projects with Storas Uibhist and other organisations.

Stewart Stevenson stated that he has always sought to improve the communication links to the outlying islands and will continue to search for a solution which will meet the needs and expectations of the island community and this is why he will be visiting South Uist to continue the discussion initiated by the community company, Stòras Uibhist.

Angus MacMillan, Chairman of Stòras Uibhist, welcomed the statement from the Minister and re-stated the need for improved transport links to the islands to support the ongoing plans of Stòras Uibhist to redevelop Lochboisdale and the wider economy of the community owned South Uist Estate.

Ronald MacKinnon, Chairman of Lochboisdale Community Council, stated that the introduction of the Lochbosidale-Mallaig ferry service would be a lifeline for the area and serve to kickstart the economic and social regeneration of the disadvantaged community.