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IN SHIP SHAPE

PEEL Ports, North Ayrshire Council and partners are investing £28 million to redevelop Ardrossan Harbour, ensuring a vital ferry service for the mainland and the island community of Arran and Campbeltown continues.

Ardrossan is the mainland home port for the Ardrossan to Brodick and Ardrossan to Campbeltown ferry services. The redevelopment of the Harbour will play a key part in the wider regeneration ambitions for Ardrossan with a further £15.5m funding agreed as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal to develop plans for a marina extension and new International Marine Science and Environmental Centre.

This seeks to drive innovation in marine science and also ensure the Firth of Clyde is recognised as an exemplar in marine sustainability. Recent years have seen significant growth in passenger and vehicular use of the ferries and new investment is required to deliver the needs of communities and create facilities that meet the increasing level of demand.

The redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour is a major project and remains key to Peel Ports' ambitions. It will support a more resilient first-class ferry services between Arran, Campbeltown and the mainland and bring economic benefits to North Ayrshire.

As part of the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce,

A £28 million redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour aims to not only maintain vital ferry services, but also reinvigorate the entire town

created and led by Scottish Ministers, we have been developing plans to safeguard the accessibility, quality and reliability of ferry services by enhancing the infrastructure of the port and surrounding areas.

These ambitious plans also address the socio-economic needs of local communities by supporting new levels of economic activity, as well as improving service reliability for mainland and island communities.

Under Peel Ports' commitment as Harbour Authority, we are investing in significant

infrastructure upgrades, which includes the upgrade of the Brodick berth to accommodate the new Glenn Sannox ferry which is the first in a new generation of dual fuel ferries to be deployed on the network. In addition to the works to the Brodick berth Peel Ports will also be refurbishing the Irish berth and linkspan.

In addition, North Ayrshire Council has committed to making improvements to the passenger terminals, access roads, car parking and vehicle marshalling facilities and improved town centre connectivity. All of which will be delivered by 2021, with some works already commencing port side.

The improvement works at Ardrossan Harbour will act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration of the Ardrossan area, helping boost jobs creation, as well as support regional infrastructure improvements, including enhanced town centre connections to the port terminal.

Retaining a ferry service alongside the upgrade investment will create more jobs and generate a further £6.3m a year of GVA, which equates to £75m over 25 years.

Throughout the whole development process the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce has engaged with the local community and residents can view up to date information on the plans online at north-ayrshire.gov.uk/ardrossanharbour ■



Improvement works at Ardrossan Harbour will act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration of the area