

Item: 9

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 30 March 2021.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Winter 2021/22 Timetable.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed inter-island air services timetable for winter 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the inter-island air services timetable for winter 2021/22 is scheduled to operate from 31 October 2021 to 19 February 2022.

2.2.

That the draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2021/22 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 10 February 2021, with main comments and representations from transport representatives outlined in section 4 of this report.

2.3.

That the proposed timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, is consistent with that operated during winter 2020/21.

2.4.

That, in advance of a service budget being established as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22, the level of service provision is subject to an adequate budget being made available.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That, subject to an adequate service revenue budget being established, the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2021/22, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1.

The inter-island air service operates to six Outer North Isles under a Public Service Obligation which establishes the minimum frequencies and capacity and sets the maximum fare levels provided to each of the isles.

3.2.

In December 2020 the Inter-Island Air Services Public Service Obligation Contract 2021 to 2025 was awarded to Loganair Limited following a tendering exercise, with a commencement date of 1 April 2021.

3.3.

The six Outer North Isles Community Councils each appoint a Transport Representative to represent their respective communities on the Inter-Isles Air Service Consultative Forum.

3.4.

The draft timetable for winter 2021/22 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum members for consideration on 10 February 2020. The key issues discussed at the Forum are outlined below.

4. Air Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

The inter-island air services timetable for winter 2021/22 presented to the Forum is consistent with previous years. Recruitment issues on Eday and Stronsay were noted which has affected services to the islands. This matter is being addressed by the Airfields Superintendent; however the appointment of staff remains challenging given the limited hours they are expected to work.

4.2.

The North Ronaldsay Transport Representative noted that sharing the Monday morning flight with Eday for education purposes was not ideal. Given Eday does not have night landing equipment, this pushes the flight time back in the winter as the service must operate during daylight hours. It was previously agreed that the drop to Eday shall remain on a Monday morning for education purposes and has therefore been incorporated in the timetable, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.3.

The Eday Transport Representative made a request for a review of transport services to support education, i.e. an Eday to Sanday link. This matter was passed to the Education Service for consideration and action as appropriate in the first instance.

4.4.

The Eday Transport Representative also made a request to consider reviewing the fare structure for inter-island air travel, particularly the rate charged for one-way trips for Eday residents who cannot access a daily service. It was agreed that this would be looked at again following implementation of the revised fare structure for internal ferry services.

4.5.

The flexibility of flights, passenger capacity and the banking of flights for communities was raised at the Forum. Loganair noted that there may be some flexibility within the timetable and hours available to provide a more on demand/flexible service, particularly during the pandemic where passenger travel and demand is reduced. It was agreed that Transport officers would discuss this further with Loganair.

4.6.

The North Ronaldsay Transport Representative made a request for two weekly freight planes during the winter months instead of the standard weekly freight plane currently provided by Orkney Ferries. It was noted that this may be challenging to accommodate within the existing timetable as the seats must be removed for freight flights which is time consuming. Consideration could, however, be made to the use of the 20 ad-hoc flights which are within the contract for Papa Westray and North Ronaldsay, to use for community events and special circumstances. The request for an additional freight service has not been incorporated as part of the timetable, attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

5. Corporate Governance

This report relates to governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6. Financial Implications

6.1.

In advance of a service budget being established as part of the Council's annual budget setting process for financial year 2021/22, the level of service provision is subject to an adequate budget being made available.

6.2.

The proposed winter 2021/22 timetable is consistent with previous years and the Inter-Island Air Services is anticipated to operate within a budget consistent with the current financial year's level of £1,175,100 for financial year 2020/21. The draft budget for financial year 2021/22 is understood to be £1,186,900 and includes provision for a 1.0% uplift in respect of inflation.

7. Legal Aspects

7.1.

The Civil Aviation Act 1982 enables the Council to establish and maintain aerodromes.

7.2.

On 21 December 2020, the Inter-Island Air Service Contract 2021 to 2025 was awarded to Loganair Limited with a commencement date of 1 April 2021.

7.3.

The contract between the Council and the operator states that the operator shall carry out the services in accordance with the timetable agreed with the Council.

8. Contact Officers

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9. Appendix

Appendix 1: Inter Island Air Services Timetable – Winter 2021/22.

Winter Inter-Island Air Services Timetable 31 October 2021- 19 February 2022

FLIGHT NUMBER	LM	Monday								Tuesday						Wednesday									
		700	700	702	703	703	704	705	706	707	701	708	709	705	710	707	701	711	709	712	714	705	706	715	707
		D	E		D	E														A			B		
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:00	08:25	08:45	09:10	10:30	15:00	15:10	16:10	07:35	08:25	08:35	15:00	15:10	16:10	07:35	08:25	08:35	09:20	14:25	15:00	15:10	16:00	16:10
Stronsay	arr				08:54	09:19								15:19			08:34								
Stronsay	dep				09:01	09:26								15:26			08:41								
Sanday	arr				09:06	09:31			15:23			08:38		15:31			08:46					15:23			
Sanday	dep				09:13	09:38			15:30			08:45		15:38			08:53					15:30			
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52	08:17				10:47			16:27	07:52				16:27	07:52									16:27
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59	08:24				10:54			16:34	07:59				16:34	07:59									16:34
Westray	arr			08:40														08:50							
Westray	dep			08:47														08:57							
Papa Westray	arr			08:49			11:04	15:15										08:59				15:15			
Papa Westray	dep			08:56			11:11	15:22										09:06				15:22			
Westray	arr							15:24														15:24			
Westray	dep							15:31														15:31			
Eday	arr	08:09	08:34																09:30	14:35				16:10	
Eday	dep	08:16	08:41																09:37	14:42				16:17	
Stronsay	arr							15:35				08:50											15:35		
Stronsay	dep							15:42				08:57											15:42		
Kirkwall	arr	08:26	08:51	09:11	09:26	09:51	11:26	15:46	15:51	16:51	08:16	09:06	09:21	15:46	15:51	16:51	08:16	09:06	09:21	09:47	14:52	15:46	15:51	16:27	16:51

FLIGHT NUMBER	LM	Thursday						Friday						Saturday				Saturday Refit (8 Jan - 5 March 2022)						Sunday			
		701	708	709	716	705	710	707	701	711	709	730	705	706	707	702	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:25	08:35	12:15	15:00	15:10	16:10	07:35	08:25	08:35	14:00	15:00	15:10	16:10	08:25	09:30	10:30	15:10	08:00	09:10	10:20	14:00C	15:00C	16:10C	13:45	15:05
Stronsay	arr					15:19			08:34														15:09				
Stronsay	dep					15:26			08:41														15:16C				
Eday	arr																								16:20		
Eday	dep																								16:27C		
Westray	arr			08:50					08:50						08:40						09:25						
Westray	dep			08:57					08:57						08:47						09:32						
Papa Westray	arr			08:59		15:15			08:59	14:15	15:15				08:49			15:25			09:34		14:15			15:20	
Papa Westray	dep			09:06		15:22			09:06	14:22	15:22				08:56			15:32			09:41		14:22C			15:27	
Westray	arr					15:24					15:24												14:24			15:29	
Westray	dep					15:31					15:31												14:31C			15:36	
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52			12:32			16:27	07:52			14:32			16:27		09:47		15:42	08:17					16:37	14:02	
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59			12:39			16:34	07:59			14:39			16:34		09:54		15:49	08:24					16:44C	14:09	
Eday	arr																				08:34						
Eday	dep																				08:41						
Sanday	arr		08:38			15:31			08:46									10:43				10:33		15:21		14:15	
Sanday	dep		08:45			15:38			08:53									10:50				10:40		15:28C		14:22	
Stronsay	arr		08:50															10:55				10:45				14:27	
Stronsay	dep		08:57															11:02				10:52				14:34	
Kirkwall	arr	08:16	09:06	09:21	12:56	15:46	15:51	16:51	08:16	09:06	09:21	14:56	15:46	15:51	16:51	09:11	10:11	11:11	16:06	08:51	09:56	11:01	14:46	15:41	17:01	14:43	15:51

A - Operates 17 November 2021 - 12 January 2022 (Eday Wednesday departure time subject to change due to operation of service during daylight hours)

B - Operates 27 October - 10 November 2021 and from 19 January - 23 February 2022

C - Please note - these flights will operate 30 minutes earlier on the 8 and 15 Jan 2022

D - 25 October - 29 November 2021 and 24 January - 14 February 2022

E - 6 December 2021 - 17 January 2022

Monday am drop to Eday during school term only - Bookings can be made on the Eday Monday morning flight, shared with North Ronaldsay, however this is subject to availability from 12:00 - 18:00 the day before departure.

Sunday - Flight drop-off/pick up on request Bookings from Sanday and Stronsay may only be made after 12:00 on Fridays until 12:00 on Sunday.

North Ronaldsay 07:35/08:00 and 16:10 departures - these flights operate during the hours of darkness and due to associated legislation, times may change to operate during daylight hours. Loganair will inform all booked passengers of the flight time change in advance. In the event that the flights are changed, the departure times from Kirkwall are as follows:

Evening Flight	Mon-Fri
8 November 2021 - 21 January 2022	14:00

Morning Flight	Mon	Tue-Fri
6 December 2021 - 24 January 2022	10:10	
16 November 2021 - 28 January 2022		09:40