Item: 9

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 9 November 2021.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Summer 2022 Timetable.

Report by Interim Executive Director of Finance, Regulatory, Marine and Transportation Services.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the summer 2022 timetable for the inter-island air service.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the inter-island air services timetable for summer 2022 is scheduled to operate from 21 February to 29 October 2022 inclusive.

2.2.

That the Air Services Consultative Forum met on 25 August 2021 to discuss the proposed summer 2022 timetable, with no proposals being made to alter the timetable.

2.3.

That the proposed timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, is consistent with that operated during summer 2021.

2.4.

That, in advance of a service budget being established as part of the budget setting process for 2022/23, 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 for 2022/23, the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated by Loganair Limited during summer 2022, 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. The contract is consistent with previous years however includes the option of a third aircraft to increase frequency should additional budget be made available.

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.

4. Air Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

At the Forum's meeting on 25 August 2021, the North Ronaldsay Transport Representative made a request to charter a vessel in the event that the air service is unable to operate during fog. It was agreed that this would be considered further by officers subject to budget availability.

4.2.

There were no proposals to alter the timetable for summer 2022. The timetable attached as Appendix 1 to this report is consistent with previous years.

5. Proposed Timetable

5.1.

The inter-island air services timetable for summer 2022 is scheduled to operate from 21 February to 29 October 2022 inclusive.

5.2.

It is proposed that the timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, in respect of the inter-island air services, be approved.

6. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with 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.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

The proposed timetable, attached as Appendix 1, represents a continuation of the existing level of service provision.

7.2.

The revenue budget for the current financial year, 2021/22, stands at £1,186,900 and gives an indication of the resources needed to maintain this level of service. An overspend of between £25,000 to £36,000 is currently being forecast as the probable outturn position for financial year 2021/22. This position is being monitored closely by officers and can be attributed to the operation of the Avgas mechanism within the contract and the recent increase in fuel prices.

7.3.

In advance of a service budget being established as part of the Council's annual budget setting process for 2022/23, the level of service provision is subject to an adequate budget being made available.

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

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

8.2.

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.

8.3.

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.

9. Contact Officers

Gareth Waterson, Interim Executive Director of Finance, Regulatory, Marine and Transportation Services, Email: <u>gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk</u>.

James Buck, Head of Marine Services and Transportation, extension 3600, Email: <u>james.buck@orkney.gov.uk</u>

Laura Cromarty, Transportation Manager, extension 3638, Email: <u>laura.cromarty@orkney.gov.uk</u>

10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Inter Island Air Services Timetable – Summer 2022.

Summer 2022 - from 20 February - 29 October 2022

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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 12:30 - 18:00 the day before departure. Sunday - Sanday/Stronsay flight drop of/pick up on request. Bookings can be made on the Sanday or Stronsay flight, shared with North Ronaldsay, from 12:00 on Friday until 12:00 on Sunday.

А School term only (5 Jan - 1 April and 19 April - 30 Jun and 16 August - 5 October 2022)

в School holidays only (4 - 18 April and 1 July - 15 August and 6 - 21 October 2022)