

Item: 11

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 26 March 2024.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Winter 2024/25 Timetable.

Report by Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed inter-island air services timetable for winter 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the inter-island air services timetable for winter 2024/25 is scheduled to operate from 27 October 2024 to 16 February 2025 inclusive.

2.2.

That the draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2024/25 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 31 January 2024, with main comments and representations from transport representatives outlined in section 4 of this report.

2.3.

The proposed timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, which is consistent with that operated in previous years.

2.4.

That, in advance of the Council's budget setting process for 2024/25 being concluded, any decision on the proposed timetable in respect of inter-island air services will be subject to an adequate service revenue budget being established.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That, subject to an adequate service revenue budget for 2024/25 being established, the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1.

The inter-island air service operates to the 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.

4. Air Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

The draft timetable for winter 2024/25 was considered by the Air Services Consultative Forum on 31 January 2024, and the key issues discussed are outlined below.

4.2.

The proposed winter 2024/25 timetable presented to the Forum is consistent with that operated in previous years.

4.3.

A request was made from the Sanday transport representative to amend the booking policy for the Sunday service, shared with North Ronaldsay. Currently, bookings from Sanday residents can be made from 12:00 on the Friday before travel until 12:00 on Sunday. Whilst this is restrictive, it was noted from the passenger carryings that this was regularly used by both communities. Given the service is a key life-line service to the North Ronaldsay community, who are not served by ferry regularly, no changes in booking policy have been made at this time.

4.4.

It was also noted that the Stronsay service on a Sunday is subject to ground crew availability on island and at present, there are no crew available on Sundays.

4.5.

It was noted that the inter-island air services PSO contract will be due for renewal on 1 April 2025 and the tender document will be updated this spring/summer. A

meeting with Outer North Isles Transport Representatives was held on 11 March 2024 to discuss the Contract.

4.6.

The need for a third aircraft has been stressed by all islands but in particular North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray, who rely on the service as a life line. An additional aircraft could remove the need for shared flights which would increase capacity for islands and could also provide a service in Eday which would be comparable with other islands. A three aircraft operation was recommended in the Outline Business Case but will be subject to additional grant funding from Transport Scotland.

5. Proposed Timetable

5.1.

The inter-island air services timetable for winter 2024/25 is scheduled to operate from 27 October 2024 – 16 February 2025 inclusive.

5.2.

On 31 January 2024, the proposed timetable was considered by the Air Services Consultative Forum following circulation of the draft timetable to the communities in June 2023.

5.3.

The proposed timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, is consistent with previous years.

5.4.

Statistics in relation to passenger numbers utilising the inter-island air services are detailed in Appendix 2 to this report.

6. Corporate Governance

6.1.

This report is presented in order to comply with internal governance and procedural issues and is not for the exclusive purpose of supporting or relating to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan or the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6.2.

Nevertheless, timetables for inter-island air services will assist in meeting outcomes set out in the following priorities in the Council Delivery Plan:

- I1 - Improve Isles transport links.
- I3 – Work towards integrating our transport networks.

6.3.

In accordance with the Scheme of Administration, the determination of timetables in respect of inter-island air services is delegated to the Development and Infrastructure Committee.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

The proposed service for 2024/25 is consistent with that operated in previous years.

7.2.

Increases in AvGas and the uplift to contract rates resulted in considerable overspends against budget during financial year 2023/24 which could not be absorbed by the service area.

7.3.

Transportation Services notified an unavoidable service pressure in respect of the additional costs, detailed at section 7.2 above, in advance of the budget setting process for financial year 2024/25, and this request has been taken into consideration as part of the work to review the overall General Fund budget.

7.4.

In advance of a service budget being approved as part of the Council's annual budget setting process for 2024/25, the level of service provision detailed in this report 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, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, extension 2301, Email: gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk

James Buck, Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master, extension 2600, Email: james.buck@orkney.gov.uk

Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation), extension 3638, Email: laura.cromarty@orkney.gov.uk

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Inter Island Air Services Timetable – winter 2024/25.

Appendix 2: Inter-Island Air Services – Passenger Statistics.

Winter Inter-Island Air Services Timetable. Sunday 27 October 2024 - Sunday 16 February 2025 inclusive



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	
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	A	14:25	15:00	15:10	B	16:10
Stromsøy	arr													15:19										16:00		
Stromsøy	dep													15:26												
Sanday	arr				08:58	09:23			15:23				08:38	15:31									15:23			
Sanday	dep				09:05	09:30			15:30				08:45	15:38									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																						
Westray	dep			08:47																						
Papa Westray	arr			08:49			11:04	15:15					08:59	15:15								15:15				
Papa Westray	dep			08:56			11:11	15:22					09:06	15:22								15:22				
Westray	arr							15:24						15:24								15:24				
Westray	dep							15:31						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	
Stromsøy	arr				09:10	09:35			15:35				08:50										15:35			
Stromsøy	dep				09:17	09:42			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 during ferry refit (11 Jan - 8 March*)					Sunday				
		701	708	709	716	705	710	707	701	701	711	709	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	D	E	08:25	08:45	09:10	14:00	15:00	15:10	16:10	08:25	09:30	10:30	15:10	08:00	09:10	10:20	C	C	C	13:45	15:05
Stromsøy	arr						15:19				08:34					15:19													
Stromsøy	dep						15:26				08:41					15:26													
Eday	arr																												16:20C
Eday	dep																												16:27C
Westray	arr			08:50							09:00	09:25						08:40					09:25						
Westray	dep			08:57							09:07	09:32						08:47					09:32						
Papa Westray	arr			08:59		15:15					09:09	09:34	14:15	15:15				08:49			15:25		09:34		14:15C				15:20
Papa Westray	dep			09:06		15:22					09:16	09:41	14:22	15:22				08:56			15:32		09:41		14:22C				15:27
Westray	arr					15:24								15:24											14:24C				15:29
Westray	dep					15:31								15:31											14:31C				15:36
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52			12:32		16:27	07:52	08:17				14:32			16:27		09:47		15:42	08:17						16:37C	14:02	
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59			12:39		16:34	07:59	08:24				14:39			16:34		09:54		15:49	08:24						16:44C	14:09	
Eday	arr							08:09	08:34													08:34							
Eday	dep							08:16	08:41													08:41							
Sanday	arr		08:38			15:31				08:46				15:31						10:43			10:33		15:21C				14:15
Sanday	dep		08:45			15:38				08:53				15:38						10:50			10:40		15:28C				14:22
Stromsøy	arr		08:50																	10:55			10:45						14:27
Stromsøy	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	08:26	08:51	09:06	09:31	09:56	14:56	15:46	15:51	16:51	09:11	10:11	11:11	16:06	08:51	09:56	11:01	14:46C	15:41C	17:01C	14:43	15:51

A: Operates 13 November 2024 - 15 January 2025 (Eday Wednesday departure time subject to change due to operation of service during daylight hours)

B: Operates 30 October - 6 November 2024 and from 22 January - 12 February 2025

C: These flights will operate 30 minutes earlier on 04, 11 and 18 January 2025

D: Operates 28 October - 25 November 2024 and 24 January - 14 February 2025

E: Operates 29 November 2024 - 20 January 2025

Eday: Monday AM drop during school term only. Bookings on the Eday drop will be subject to availability from 12:00 the Friday before departure

EDAY new service: Friday AM the first four seats are prioritised for North Ronaldsay residents up to 24 hours before flight. New Friday AM service to/from Eday trialled during winter 2022-2023

Sunday: Flight drop off/pick up on request. Bookings can be made on the Sanday or Stromsøy flight, shared with North Ronaldsay, from 12:00 on Friday until 12:00 on Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE - The operation of the Stromsøy Sunday service is subject to availability of ground crew on the island. Currently (March 2024) there are NO Stromsøy crew available. Please check with Loganair.

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
4 November 2024 - 24 January 2025	14:00

Morning Flight	Mon/Fri	Tue-Thu
11 November - 25 November 2024, 24 January - 7 February 2025	10:10	
12 November 2024 - 6 February 2025		09:40

* Dates may be subject to change if ferry refit period is extended.

		Monday							
FLIGHT NUMBER	LM	700		702	703	704	705	706	707
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:24	08:40	09:10	10:30	15:00	15:10	16:05
Stronsay	arr				09:19				
Stronsay	dep				09:26				
Sanday	arr				09:31			15:22	
Sanday	dep				09:38			15:29	
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52				10:47			16:22
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59				10:54			16:29
Westray	arr			08:55					
Westray	dep			09:02					
Papa Westray	arr			09:04		11:04	15:15		
Papa Westray	dep			09:11		11:11	15:22		
Westray	arr						15:24		
Westray	dep						15:31		
Eday	arr		08:34						
Eday	dep		08:41						
Stronsay	arr							15:34	
Stronsay	dep							15:41	
Kirkwall	arr	08:16	08:51	09:26	09:51	11:26	15:46	15:51	16:46

LOGANAIR - MONTHLY & ANNUAL PASSENGER TOTALS

2023 - 24	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-23	209	246	450	160	503	32	52	1652
May-23	257	270	584	183	527	18	131	1970
Jun-23	236	269	646	197	536	30	123	2037
Jul-23	165	216	639	155	563	4	111	1853
Aug-23	227	271	748	173	691	14	113	2237
Sep-23	267	215	716	163	492	22	88	1963
Oct-23	250	258	440	215	424	8	48	1643
Nov-23	303	266	449	256	428	69	12	1783
Dec-23	208	262	395	236	366	27	12	1506
Jan-24	246	235	428	228	300	39	31	1507
Feb-24	308	271	474	278	384	54	26	1795
Mar-24								0
Annual total	2676	2779	5969	2244	5214	317	747	19946

2022 - 23	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-22	232	279	454	248	393	9	115	1730
May-22	278	283	599	230	529	0	110	2029
Jun-22	208	221	639	214	474	7	138	1901
Jul-22	145	223	673	186	532	7	165	1931
Aug-22	189	277	802	159	544	0	121	2092
Sep-22	246	216	511	193	426	41	74	1707
Oct-22	242	245	445	234	429	19	42	1656
Nov-22	302	258	311	232	345	41	16	1505
Dec-22	174	197	268	194	304	18	9	1164
Jan-23	271	292	303	226	273	20	7	1392
Feb-23	313	267	263	247	289	51	14	1444
Mar-23	306	306	369	253	399	54	27	1714
Annual total	2906	3064	5637	2616	4937	267	838	20265

2021 - 22	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-21	213	233	306	217	267	20	14	1270
May-21	214	264	497	214	342	0	34	1565
Jun-21	235	249	641	202	483	12	100	1922
Jul-21	166	170	571	130	418	0	95	1550
Aug-21	201	277	796	128	626	5	122	2155
Sep-21	208	223	598	183	429	16	81	1738
Oct-21	248	240	472	212	240	10	59	1481
Nov-21	212	257	265	263	330	32	7	1366
Dec-21	261	246	325	225	323	36	21	1437
Jan-22	289	288	315	282	228	20	11	1433

Feb-22	249	250	306	253	297	28	8	1391
Mar-22	316	326	409	279	314	19	35	1698
Annual total	2812	3023	5501	2588	4297	198	587	19006

2020-21	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-20	4	13	12	7	18	8	2	64
May-20	10	10	16	17	15	8	0	76
Jun-20	19	27	38	28	35	6	1	154
Jul-20	57	121	224	108	185	15	21	731
Aug-20	101	176	375	107	350	21	55	1185
Sep-20	199	257	459	161	387	37	44	1544
Oct-20	143	197	537	141	358	14	38	1428
Nov-20	211	252	321	179	252	19	7	1241
Dec-20	158	219	273	160	275	23	9	1117
Jan-21	79	124	202	48	125	32	18	628
Feb-21	89	171	234	175	189	25	16	899
Mar-21	176	246	297	187	251	30	22	1209
Annual total	1246	1813	2988	1318	2440	238	233	10276

2019-2020	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-19	272	250	575	223	540	37	69	1966
May-19	278	280	664	219	528	20	125	2114
Jun-19	234	201	672	201	507	18	108	1941
Jul-19	149	188	566	97	446	14	78	1538
Aug-19	157	227	702	181	595	11	122	1995
Sep-19	211	246	527	201	470	54	50	1759
Oct-19	217	311	591	210	424	27	52	1832
Nov-19	312	278	359	261	415	53	10	1688
Dec-19	219	221	347	232	345	19	22	1405
Jan-20	259	310	369	270	306	23	24	1561
Feb-20	248	333	361	314	321	91	10	1678
Mar-20	190	221	381	204	307	31	9	1343
Annual total	2746	3066	6114	2613	5204	398	679	20820

2018-2019	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-18	259	255	533	164	531	24	38	1804
May-18	244	257	622	193	534	26	74	1950
Jun-18	248	268	615	201	459	26	71	1888
Jul-18	161	231	690	126	558	8	92	1866
Aug-18	288	238	805	128	657	34	102	2252
Sep-18	290	258	593	211	475	28	43	1898
Oct-18	267	224	434	243	375	25	52	1620
Nov-18	367	221	364	284	416	26	28	1706
Dec-18	269	209	327	211	335	30	16	1397
Jan-19	294	269	310	276	308	53	20	1530
Feb-19	341	293	348	300	304	57	23	1666
Mar-19	336	305	394	311	376	49	28	1799
Annual total	3364	3028	6035	2648	5328	386	587	21376

	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-17	238	242	500	200	484	19	53	1736
May-17	276	281	702	247	582	47	85	2220
Jun-17	226	306	618	200	533	25	133	2041
Jul-17	166	213	843	162	598	26	108	2116

Aug-17	237	190	806	137	579	24	100	2073
Sep-17	282	280	676	251	510	45	66	2110
Oct-17	245	215	507	200	424	21	33	1645
Nov-17	323	261	361	267	405	59	30	1706
Dec-17	249	207	349	214	379	29	26	1453
Jan-18	276	263	349	261	321	76	13	1559
Feb-18	260	302	385	229	362	58	24	1620
Mar-18	332	348	389	310	438	31	36	1884
Annual total	3110	3108	6485	2678	5615	460	707	22163

	Stronsay	Sanday	North Ron	Westray	Papay	Eday	Inter Isles	Total
Apr-16	247	266	601	212	439	38	32	1835
May-16	261	264	625	175	507	22	65	1919
Jun-16	223	254	659	240	513	46	72	2007
Jul-16	128	206	815	178	584	17	68	1996
Aug-16	174	251	709	114	596	38	66	1948
Sep-16	231	255	640	211	482	52	59	1930
Oct-16	236	264	539	223	433	37	34	1766
Nov-16	288	287	357	247	417	42	26	1664
Dec-16	291	214	363	243	368	37	36	1552
Jan-17	236	293	365	290	300	45	13	1542
Feb-17	273	337	311	309	291	41	28	1590
Mar-17	306	322	391	281	396	56	30	1782
Annual total	2894	3213	6375	2723	5326	471	529	21531