

Item: 14

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 7 September 2021.

Inter-Island Ferry Services – Proposed Sunday Winter 2021/22 Services.

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

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed inter-island ferry services timetables for a Sunday service for winter 2021/22 for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta and a winter 2021/22 service to Papa Westray.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That additional funding has been received from the Scottish Government for financial year 2021/22 to operate a winter Sunday service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta.

2.2.

That the Papa Westray passenger ferry service to Pierowall, operated during the winter months, has been brought in-house, with services due to operate from 27 September 2021.

2.3.

The draft timetables to operate a winter Sunday service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta and the winter 2021/22 service for Papa Westray, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to this report.

2.4.

That the draft timetables were presented to the Ferry Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 25 August 2021.

2.5.

That the proposed timetables, together with feedback from the Ferry Services Consultative Forum, have been considered by the Board of Orkney Ferries Limited and recommended to the Council for implementation.

It is recommended:

2.6.

That the timetables in respect of ferry services to be operated by Orkney Ferries Limited to operate a winter Sunday service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta and the winter 2021/22 service for Papa Westray, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to this report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1.

In accordance with the Service Level Agreements entered into by Orkney Ferries Limited and the Council, a recommendation from the Board of Orkney Ferries must be made via the Head of Marine Services and Transportation in order for the winter and summer timetable periods to be approved by this Committee.

3.2.

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

3.3.

Additional funding has been received from the Scottish Government for financial year 2021/22 to operate a winter Sunday service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta.

3.4.

The winter Papa Westray passenger service was previously operated by a private contractor, with invoices predominantly issued to Education, Leisure and Housing, NHS Orkney and the Church of Scotland for services. The contractor notified the Council that they would be retiring in Spring 2021 and therefore Orkney Ferries Limited undertook an exercise to determine whether to continue to contract services or, alternatively, bring these in-house, consistent with the summer service. Following a consultation exercise, it was determined that the best value option would be to bring services in-house.

4. Ferry Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

The timetables to operate a winter Sunday service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre and Hoy and Flotta and the winter 2021/22 service for Papa Westray, which were drafted in consultation with the communities, were considered by the Ferry Services Consultative Forum on 25 August 2021.

4.2.

It was noted that, following the additional funding from Scottish Government towards inter island ferry services during 2021/22, additional crew had been appointed on MV

Hoy Head to serve Hoy and Flotta, and MV Eynhallow to serve Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, providing year-round Sunday services.

4.3.

It was further noted that the Papa Westray passenger ferry timetable may need to be altered to accommodate the transport of a Nursery Nurse Teacher. As there has been no specific request from Education, Leisure and Housing and there was no representation from Education at the forum, this will need to be discussed further and therefore the timetable may be subject to change.

4.4.

Sunday services for Hoy and Flotta will commence subject to crewing availability and therefore may not commence at the start of the winter timetable for 2021/22.

4.5.

The proposed timetables, attached at Appendix 1 of this report, which did not form part of the winter 2021/22 timetables considered by Committee earlier this year, together with feedback from the Ferry Services Consultative Forum, have been considered by the Board of Orkney Ferries Limited and recommended to the Council for implementation.

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.

The Inter Island Ferries Service revenue budget of £12,612,500 for financial year 2020/22 includes a specific grant of £7,855,000 from Scottish Government.

6.2.

The specific grant allocation is based on the Council's revised baseline budget submission for fair funding for the inter-island ferry services to Scottish Government in January 2021. While the overall request was based on operating the existing fleet with enhancements, as proposed in the 2019 Ferries Revenue Outline Business Case, it also included an allowance of £700,000 for the introduction of year-round Sunday sailings across the existing network.

6.3.

The specific grant allocation of £7,855,000 for financial year 2021/22 represents an increase of £2,532,000 or 47.6%, on the previous year's grant allocation of £5,323,000. While this is very welcome it is notable that, as with any grant funding

that has yet to be baselined, the risk remains that this level of support may not be continued beyond the current financial year.

7. Legal Aspects

7.1.

Section 153 (2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 empowers the Council to “acquire, provide, maintain, improve and operate any ferry situated wholly or partly within their area”.

7.2.

Orkney Ferries Limited operates the ferry services on behalf of Orkney Islands Council under Service Level Agreements dated 30 May 2008.

7.3.

The Service Level Agreements state that the timetables for the summer period should be recommended by the Company to the Council’s Development and Infrastructure Committee for approval.

7.4.

The Service Level Agreements state that Orkney Ferries Limited will operate the “Approved Services” and in return for funding from the Council. The definition of “Approved Services” covers inter-island ferry services as approved by the Council.

8. Contact Officers

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

James Buck, Head of Marine and Transportation Services, Extension 3600, Email james.buck@orkney.gov.uk

Laura Cromarty, Transportation Manager, Extension 3638, Email laura.cromarty@orkney.gov.uk

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Orkney Ferries Winter 2021/22 Additional Sunday Services.

Appendix 2: Papa Westray Winter 2021/22 Timetable.

South Isles Ro-Ro Service

Winter Timetable Effective from 27 September 2021 until 7 May 2022

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Longhope	dep	0625	0625	0625	0625	0625	0800	0830
Lyness	dep		0650	0650	0650			
Flotta	dep	0650	0710	0710	0710	0650	0830	0855B
Lyness	dep	0710				0710	0900	0915
Houton	arr	0745	0745	0745	0745	0745	0935	0950
Houton	dep	0800	0800	0800	0800	0800	0950	1000
Lyness	dep	0845				0845	1030	1045
Flotta	dep	0910	0845	0845	0845	0910	1055	1110B
Lyness	dep		0910	0910	0910			
Houton	arr	0945	0945	0945	0945	0945		
Longhope	arr							1125
Longhope	dep							1500
Houton	dep	1015	1015	1015	1015	1015		
Lyness	arr	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050		
Lyness	dep	1100	1100		1100	1100		
Flotta	dep		1200		1200			
Houton	arr	1135				1135	1130	
Houton	dep	1145				1145		
Lyness	dep	1230	1230	1230	1230	1230		
Houton	arr	1305	1305	1305	1305	1305		
Houton	dep	1315	1315	1315	1315	1315	1415	
Lyness	dep	1400	1400	1400	1400			
Flotta	arr	1415	1415	1415	1415			
Flotta	dep	1425	1425	1425	1425	1400	1500	
Lyness	dep					1425		
Houton	arr	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500		
Houton	dep	1515	1515	1515	1515	1515		
Flotta	dep	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600		1530B
Lyness	dep	1640	1640	1640	1640	1640	1530	1555
Houton	arr	1715	1715	1715	1715	1715	1605	1630
Houton	dep	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730	1615	1640
Lyness	dep	1810	1810	1810	1810	1810	1700	1715
Flotta	dep	1830A	1830A	1830A	1830A	1830A	1720A	1735B
Longhope	arr	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1740	1750

A - On Request. At the very latest (except in an emergency) bookings for these services must be made by 12 noon on the day of travel.

B - On Request. Bookings for this service must be made by 1600 on Friday.

All sailings before the 0845 departure Tuesday to Friday and the 1030 on a Saturday must be booked before 1600hrs the day before. All other Saturday sailings, all Sunday sailings and Monday morning sailings before 0845 must be booked before 1600 on Friday.

ALL OTHER BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE AT LEAST 1 HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE EXCEPT THOSE MARKED A & B.

NOTES

- All bookings (including foot passengers) must be made through the Houton Office. Telephone: 01856 811397.
- Vehicles **must** be available for boarding **15 minutes** before departure, and passengers **5 minutes** before departure.
- No Show Charges** - All cancellations must be made by **1600 on the day before the intended date of travel (or by 1600 on a Friday for Saturday, Sunday and Monday travel)** or charges may be applied.
- For Conditions of Carriage of Passengers and Cargo see notices exhibited in the vessels, company premises and website.

For information on these services contact Ferry Services, Houton, Orphir. Telephone: 01856 811397, Fax: 01856 811701, Email: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

Westray - Papa Westray Passenger Service
Winter Timetable effective from 27 September to 7 May 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Pierowall dep	0730 C	0730	0730	0730	0730	0730A	
Papa Westray arr	0755	0755	0755	0755	0755	0755	
Papa Westray dep	0800 C	0800	0800	0800	0800	0800A	
Pierowall arr	0825	0825	0825	0825	0825	0825	
Pierowall dep	0830*	0915 A	0915	0915 A	0915 A	0915 A	
Papa Westray arr	0855*	0940	0940	0940	0940	0940	
Papa Westray dep	0900*	0945 A	0945	0945 A	0945 A	0945 A	
Pierowall arr	0925*	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	
Pierowall dep	0930 A						
Papa Westray arr	0955						
Papa Westray dep	1000 A						
Pierowall arr	1025						
Pierowall dep			1230		1510*		1315
Papa Westray arr			1255		1535*		1340
Papa Westray dep			1300		1540*		1530
Pierowall arr			1325		1605*		1555
Pierowall dep	1600	1600	1600	1600	1610 B	1625 B	1700 C
Papa Westray arr	1625	1625	1625	1625	1635	1650	1725
Papa Westray dep	1630	1630	1630	1630	1640 B	1655 B	1730 C
Pierowall arr	1655	1655	1655	1655	1705	1720	1755
Pierowall dep	1815 B		1815 B	1815 B	1815 B	1815 C	1855 C
Papa Westray arr	1840		1840	1840	1840	1840	1920
Papa Westray dep	1845 B		1845 B	1845 B	1845 B	1845 C	1925 C
Pierowall arr	1910		1910	1910	1910	1910	1950

* Sailings will operate during school term only.

A On request - must be booked by 1600 on the day before travel by calling our Kirkwall Office on 01856 872044. In the event of an urgent booking being required after this time please contact 07841 452426.

B On request - must be booked by 1400 on the day of travel by calling our Kirkwall Office on 01856 872044.

C On request - must be booked by 1400 on Saturday by calling our Kirkwall Office on 01856 872044. In the event of an urgent booking being required after this time, please contact 07841 452426.

Notes

All of these sailings with the exception of those marked * are request sailings and are timed to connect with the arrivals and departures of the ro-ro vessels at Rapness - normal fares will therefore apply. Any sailings outwith these times will be treated as hires and charged accordingly.

- All enquires to the Company's main office, Telephone 01856 872044.
- Passengers must be available for boarding **10 minutes** before departure times.
- No Show Charges** - All cancellations must be made at least **24 hours** before the intended time of travel or full charges may apply.
- For Conditions of Carriage of Passengers and Cargo see notices exhibited in the vessels, company premises and website.