

Item: 11

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 2 April 2019.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Winter 2019 to 2020 Timetable.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed inter-island air services timetable for winter 2019 to 2020.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the inter-island air services timetable for winter 2019 to 2020 is scheduled to operate from 27 October 2019 to 1 March 2020.

2.2.

That draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2019 to 2020 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 13 February 2019, 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 2018 to 2019.

It is recommended:

2.4.

That the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2019 to 2020, 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 2016 the Inter-Island Air Services Public Service Obligation Contract 2017 to 2021 was awarded to Loganair Limited following a tendering exercise, with a commencement date of 1 April 2017.

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 2019 to 2020 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum members for consideration on 13 February 2019. The key issues discussed at the Forum are outlined below.

4. Air Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

A request was received from the Stronsay Transport Representative to change the timetable in order to give Stronsay a longer time in Kirkwall on Saturdays, during the ferry refit period, when all islands receive a day return opportunity by air in the absence of such a service by ferry.

4.2.

The Saturday timetable is operated with a single aircraft, and so consists of three rotations in the morning and three rotations in the afternoon. The timetable requires also to comply with operation within daylight hours. The timetable on a Saturday is designed to give all islands a broadly equal period of time in Kirkwall or on the island, and so it is not possible to lengthen the day of one island grouping without shortening the day for another island grouping. It is therefore not possible within present resources to meet the request from Stronsay.

4.3.

Loganair Limited requested that the opening of bookings for the Sanday and Stronsay Sunday request flight be amended from the present 14:00 on Friday to an earlier time. The 14:00 opening of the flight clashes with a busy operational period with the Friday afternoon departures/arrivals at Kirkwall, which can make it difficult for intending passengers to make contact with the airport by telephone.

4.4.

It was highlighted that the online booking facility does assist, but that people do often still call the office to make bookings, including making booking changes and to book open returns, which are presently not available to do through the online booking system.

4.5.

The North Ronaldsay Transport Representative highlighted the importance of the Sunday afternoon flight to North Ronaldsay, and the feeling that this had already been partially taken from North Ronaldsay in order to accommodate Sanday and Stronsay travellers.

4.6.

The history of the Sunday drop-ins to Sanday and Stronsay were highlighted at the Forum, which had originally been provided to allow the Minister based on Sanday to return to Sanday from North Ronaldsay. Sanday and Stronsay travellers are now able to make a booking on the Sunday afternoon North Ronaldsay flight if seats are remaining available from when the booking opens on the preceding Friday. The service is regularly used by travellers from Sanday and Stronsay under these terms.

4.7.

In order to accommodate the request from Loganair Limited to avoid the busy afternoon period, the timetable at Appendix 1 endorses bringing forward the booking window from 14:00 to 12:00 on Fridays. The booking window closes at 12:00 on Sunday in order that the Airfield crew can be advised as to whether their attendance is required in each of Sanday and Stronsay.

5. Links to Council Plan

5.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Connected Communities.

5.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to Priority 1.9 - Work with Scottish Government and other partners to progress the outcomes of the Inter Isles STAG (Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidelines) Strategic Business Cases in order to develop and then deliver the Outline and final Business Cases for improved inter isles transport services and the associated ferry, air and infrastructure improvements.

6. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority of Strong Communities.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

The Inter-Island Air Services budget for 2018 to 2019 was set at £1,037,200. Probable outturn position for the year end is expected to be an overspend of £27,000, due to a Retail Price Index uplift and the Aviation Gas mechanism within the Contract whereby the risk of fuel rate movements are carried by the Council.

7.2.

The proposed winter 2019 to 2020 timetable is consistent with previous years and should be contained within the full year budget of £1,152,100 for financial year 2019 to 2020. The budget includes provision for a 2.4% uplift in respect of inflation, together with contractual commitments of £90,000.

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

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

8.2.

On 21 December 2016, the Inter-Island Air Service Contract 2017 to 2021 was awarded to Loganair Limited with a commencement date of 1 April 2017.

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

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10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Inter Island Air Services Timetable – Winter 2019 to 2020.

Winter Inter-Island Air Services Timetable 27 October 2019 - 1 March 2020

FLIGHT NUMBER	LM	Monday						Tuesday						Wednesday									
		700	702	703	704	705	706	707	701	708	709	705	710	707	701	711	709	712	714	705	706	715	707
		A					B	B					B	B					C			D	B
Kirkwall	dep	08:00	08:25	09:10	10:30	15:00	15:10	16:05	07:35	08:25	08:35	15:00	15:10	16:05	07:35	08:25	08:35	09:20	14:25	15:00	15:10	16:00	16:05
Stromsøy	arr			09:19								15:19			08:34								
Stromsøy	dep			09:26								15:26			08:41								
Sanday	arr			09:31			15:22			08:38		15:31			08:46						15:23		
Sanday	dep			09:38			15:29			08:45		15:38			08:53						15:30		
North Ronaldsay	arr	08:17			10:47		16:22	07:52					16:22	07:52									16:22
North Ronaldsay	dep	08:24			10:54		16:29	07:59					16:29	07:59									16:29
Westray	arr		08:40							08:50							08:50						
Westray	dep		08:47							08:57							08:57						
Papa Westray	arr		08:49		11:04	15:15				08:59	15:15				08:59					15:15			
Papa Westray	dep		08:56		11:11	15:22				09:06	15:22				09:06					15:22			
Westray	arr					15:24					15:24									15:24			
Westray	dep					15:31					15:31									15:31			
Eday	arr	08:34															09:30	14:35			16:10		
Eday	dep	08:41															09:37	14:42			16:17		
Stromsøy	arr					15:34			08:50												15:35		
Stromsøy	dep					15:41			08:57												15:42		
Kirkwall	arr	08:51	09:11	09:51	11:26	15:46	15:51	16:46	08:16	09:06	09:21	15:46	15:51	16:46	08:16	09:06	09:21	09:47	14:52	15:46	15:51	16:27	16:46

FLIGHT NUMBER	LM	Thursday						Friday						Saturday			Saturday Refit (12Jan - 9 March 19)						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
		B					B	B					B									E	E	E	F		
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:25	08:35	12:15	15:00	15:10	16:05	07:35	08:25	08:35	14:00	15:00	15:10	16:05	08:25	09:30	10:30	15:10	08:00	09:10	10:20	14:00	15:00	16:05	13:45	15:05
Stromsøy	arr					15:19				08:34													15:09				
Stromsøy	dep					15:26			08:41														15:16				
Eday	arr																							16:15			
Eday	dep																							16:22			
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		14:22					15:27
Westray	arr					15:24					15:24											14:24					15:29
Westray	dep					15:31					15:31											14:31					15:36
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52			12:32		16:22	07:52			14:32			16:22		09:47	15:42	08:17						16:32	14:02		
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59			12:39		16:29	07:59			14:39			16:29		09:54	15:49	08:24						16:39	14:09		
Eday	arr																	08:34									
Eday	dep																	08:41									
Sanday	arr		08:38			15:31			08:46				15:23					10:43				10:33		15:21		14:15	
Sanday	dep		08:45			15:38			08:53				15:30					10:50				10:40		15:28		14:22	
Stromsøy	arr		08:50										15:35					10:55				10:45				14:27	
Stromsøy	dep		08:57										15:42					11:02				10:52				14:34	
Kirkwall	arr	08:16	09:06	09:21	12:56	15:46	15:51	16:46	08:16	09:06	09:21	14:56	15:46	15:51	16:46	09:11	10:11	11:11	16:06	08:51	09:56	11:01	14:46	15:41	16:56	14:43	15:51

A - 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. Bookings can be made from 12:00 - 18:00 the day before departure.

B - North Ronaldsay 07:35/08:00 and 16:05 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	Morning Flight	Mon	Tue-Fri
11 November 2019 - 19 January 2020	14:00	2 December 2019 - 27 January 2020	10:10	
		19 November 2019 - 4 February 2020		09:40

C - Operates 20 November 2019 - 8 January 2020

D - Operates 30 October - 13 November 2019 and from 15 January - 26 February 2020

E - Please note - these flights will operate 30 minutes earlier on the 11 and 18 Jan 2020

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