

Item: 12

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 15 February 2022.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Winter 2022/23 Timetable.

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

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed inter-island air services timetable for winter 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the inter-island air services timetable for winter 2022/23 is scheduled to operate from 30 October 2022 to 18 February 2023.

2.2.

That the draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2022/23 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 12 January 2022, 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 2021/22.

2.4.

That, in advance of the Council's budget setting process for 2022/23 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 2022/23 being established, the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated by Loganair Limited during winter 2022/23, 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.

4. Air Services Consultative Forum

4.1.

The draft timetable for winter 2022/23 was considered by the Air Services Consultative Forum on 12 January 2022.

4.2.

The proposed winter 2022/23 timetable presented to the Forum is consistent with previous years. The ability to 'bank' unused hours for the non-operation of services to provide greater flexibility remains an item to be discussed further with Loganair Limited.

4.3.

Recruitment of ground crew on Eday was noted which has affected services to the islands, with a particular impact on itinerant teachers travelling to and from the island. 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. The Transport Representative from Eday noted that, given the recruitment issues, it would be beneficial to look into the feasibility of combining this role with existing posts on the island. As this has human resource implications, this matter will need to be considered further.

4.4.

It was noted by the Education officer that it would be beneficial to have additional services to Eday for education purposes, specifically, to have the ability for itinerant teachers to travel out twice per week rather than the current arrangement on Wednesdays. As this was a new request, the officer was asked to liaise with the school to establish the education requirements. The additional frequency would be

welcomed by the Eday community however this may have an impact on the timetable to other islands so needs to be explored further. The timetable attached at Appendix 1 to this report remains consistent with previous years until further information is provided by education officers.

4.5.

It was noted that a third aircraft was recommended as part of the Outline Business Case report and is something that the Council has submitted as part of the funding ask for 2022/23 to Scottish Government. Although it is looking unlikely that this would be funded next financial year, should this be taken forward in the future, it would enhance services to Eday which would make the ground crew position more desirable due to increased hours.

4.6.

The North Ronaldsay Transport Representative was unable to attend the Forum however a letter was received in advance regarding resilience for the island. This was supported by Councillor Woodbridge. A request was made to consider a second freight plane during the winter months if the ferry was cancelled due to adverse weather. As this would have implications to the inter-island air services timetable, it may be that an additional freight service would be considered if there had been a prolonged period without the ferry, i.e. three weeks or more before the additional air charter is actioned. It was noted that this does not solve the matter of delivering heating oil and other hazardous goods and therefore it is essential for the island to be as resilient as possible prior to the winter period, i.e. by ensuring animal feed and key supplies are bulk purchased in advance where possible.

4.7.

North Ronaldsay Community Council has also asked that consideration is given to chartering a vessel if the air service is cancelled. A policy decision is therefore required to consider when this would be actioned, i.e. due to catastrophic breakdown of the aircraft where services are cancelled for a minimum of three days. A possible alternative is that the island is given an allocation of three boat charters in the year, for use if the inter-island air service is fog bound, for example, instead of three ad hoc flight requests. This matter will be considered further by Officers.

4.8.

As there have been no alterations made to the timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, the inter-island air services timetable for winter 2022/23 is consistent with previous years.

5. Proposed Timetable

5.1.

The inter-island air services timetable for winter 2022/23 is scheduled to operate from 30 October 2022 to 18 February 2023.

5.2.

On 12 January 2022, the proposed timetable was considered by the Air Services Consultative Forum, when feedback was provided to officers as noted above.

5.3.

There were no proposed changes to the timetable outlined at Appendix 1 to this report.

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 timetables proposed in this report, and attached as Appendix 1, represent a continuation of the existing level of service provision.

7.2.

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

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

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

8.2.

On 21 December 20120, 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

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10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Inter Island Air Services Timetable – Winter 2022/23.

Winter Inter-Island Air Services Timetable 30 October 2022 - 18 February 2023

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											
Stronsay	dep				09:01	09:26								15:26											
Sanday	arr				09:06	09:31			15:23				08:38										15:23		
Sanday	dep				09:13	09:38			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									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	08:09	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 (7 Jan - 4 March 2023)						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					15:23			10:43				10:33		15:21			14:15	
Sanday	dep		08:45			15:38			08:53					15:30			10:50				10:40		15:28C			14:22	
Stronsay	arr		08:50											15:35			10:55				10:45					14:27	
Stronsay	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	16:51	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 16 November 2022 -11 January 2023 (Eday Wednesday departure time subject to change due to operation of service during daylight hours)

B - Operates 26 October - 09 November 2022 and from 18 January - 15 February 2023

C - Please note - these flights will operate 30 minutes earlier on the 7 and 14 Jan 2023

D - 24 October - 28 November 2022 and 23 January - 13 February 2023

E - 5 December 2022 - 16 January 2023

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
7 November 2022 - 20 January 2023	14:00

Morning Flight	Mon	Tue-Fri
5 December 2022 - 23 January 2023	10:10	
15 November 2022 - 27 January 2023		09:40