

Item: 11

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 12 September 2017.

Inter-island Air Service – Proposed Summer 2018 Timetable.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the summer 2018 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 2018 is scheduled to operate from 26 February to 27 October 2018 inclusive.

2.2.

That the Air Services Consultative Forum met on 23 August 2017 to discuss the summer 2018 timetable, with details of the main issues arising outlined in section 6 of this report.

2.3.

The proposed timetable, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, which is consistent with the service operated during 2017.

2.4.

That, in advance of a service budget being established as part of the Council's annual budget setting process for financial year 2018 to 2019, the level of service provision is subject to an adequate budget being made available.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That the summer 2018 timetable in respect of the inter-island air service, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

3. Policy Aspects

The proposals in this report support the undernoted Council values:

- Promoting Survival – by support our isles communities.

- Promoting Sustainability – by enabling access to and from the isles.
- Promoting Equality – by encourage services to provide equal opportunities for travel for everyone.
- Working With Communities – by involving community councils and community in timetable discussions.
- Working to Provide Better Services – by endeavouring to deliver the best possible air services timetable.

4. Background

4.1.

The inter-island air service operates to six Outer North Isles under a Public Service Obligation (PSO), which establishes the minimum frequencies and capacity and sets the maximum fare levels provided to each of the isles.

4.2.

In December 2016 the Inter-Island Air Services PSO Contract 2017 to 2021 was awarded to Loganair Ltd with a commencement date of 1 April 2017.

4.3.

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.

5. Proposed Timetable for Summer 2018

5.1.

Loganair proposed a change to the flight times and time on the ground in each island airfield to reflect the true time taken. This is reflected in the proposed timetable, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, noting that departure and arrival times in Kirkwall are not affected by the proposal.

5.2.

The Air Services Consultative Forum met on 23 August 2017 and considered the following options for the summer timetable:

- Option 1 – the timetable as operated for Summer 2017.
- Option 2 – revised timetable incorporating the proposal from Loganair referred to at section 5.1 above.

5.3.

Details of the main issues arising are outlined in section 6 below.

6. Air Services Consultative Forum Responses

6.1.

The 6 island transport representatives reported that they had no objection to the timetable proposed by Loganair, namely changes to the turn around times in the isles referred to at section 5.1 above.

6.2.

A further proposal to provide a dedicated Sunday flight for Sanday and Stronsay, which would have entailed the loss of a Saturday flight for North Ronaldsay, did not meet with agreement from all islands concerned.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

The inter-Island Air Services budget for 2017 to 2018 has been set at £1,037,200 with an anticipated contract cost of £1,037,208, following the annual uplift applied by the contractor at 1 April 2017.

7.2.

The proposed summer 2018 timetable is consistent with previous years and will not therefore incur any additional costs, other than the annual uplift, during the current contract period.

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 empowers the Council to provide air services.

8.2.

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 - Summer 2018.