



Item: 6

Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee: 31 March 2026.

Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Winter 2026/27 Timetable.

Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.

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1. Overview

- 1.1. This report presents the draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated during winter 2026/27 for members' approval.
- 1.2. The inter-island air services timetable for winter 2026/27 is scheduled to operate from 25 October 2026 to 14 February 2027 inclusive.
- 1.3. As discussed at the Air Services Forum held on 21 January 2026, it is proposed that the status quo level of service is operated until the enhanced level of service can be introduced.
- 1.4. The winter 2026/27 timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, is therefore consistent with that operated in previous years. Further consultation will be carried out before drafting enhanced timetables for the summer and winter periods.
- 1.5. As part of the Business Case to consider the acquisition of an aircraft, submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 17 June 2025, three options were presented outlining the overall revenue cost to operate an enhanced level of service.
- 1.6. Additional Inter-Island Connectivity funding from the Scottish Government was received during 2025/26 and has enabled the Council to proceed with the capital purchase of an additional aircraft as well as revenue to fund the budget required for an enhanced level of service over the remainder of the current PSO Contract period.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
 - i. Approve the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated during winter 2026/27, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, until such time as an enhanced level of service can be taken forward.

3. Background

- 3.1. The inter-island air service operates to the 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.
- 3.2. In November 2024, the Inter-Island Air Services PSO Contract 2025 to 2029 was awarded to Loganair Ltd following a tendering exercise, with a commencement date of 1 April 2025.
- 3.3. The Contract was awarded on the existing level of service provision until the outcome of external funding was known, whereby if successful an enhanced service including a third aircraft should be taken forward.
- 3.4. 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 Forum

- 4.1. The Air Services Forum was held on 21 January 2026. The acquisition of an additional aircraft was discussed where it was noted that it will take some time before the aircraft will be brought into service by Loganair Ltd.
- 4.2. A further period of consultation with the north isles transport representatives and Elected Members will be arranged to discuss the enhanced timetable options, noting that the recommended option was Option 2 'do intermediate' outlined in the form of tender by Loganair Ltd.
- 4.3. The enhanced timetables will be presented back to this Committee for consideration and approval following further consultation.
- 4.4. In the interim, the status quo level of service will be operated, consistent with services operated during winter 2025/26.

For Further Information please contact:

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Implications of Report

- 1. Financial:** The proposed draft interim timetable for winter 2026/27 is consistent with that operated in previous years.

The enhanced level of service for the remainder of current PSO contract will be funded through the additional £8m revenue funding received from Scottish Government during 2025/26. Continuation of an enhanced level of service beyond this contract, which ends on 31 March 2029, will be subject to budget availability.

- 2. Legal:** The Civil Aviation Act 1982 enables the Council to establish and maintain aerodromes.

On 16 December 2024, the Inter-Island Air Services Contract 2025 to 2029 was awarded to Loganair Ltd with a commencement date of 1 April 2025.

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.

- 3. Corporate Governance:** 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 (now Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee).

- 4. Human Resources:** None related to the report recommendations.

- 5. Equalities:** Not required.

- 6. Island Communities Impact:** Not required.

- 7. Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:

- Growing our economy.
- Strengthening our Communities.
- Developing our Infrastructure.
- Transforming our Council.

- 8. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:

- Cost of Living.
- Sustainable Development.
- Local Equality.
- Improving Population Health.

- 9. Environmental and Climate Risk:** None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

10. Risk: None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

11. Procurement: The inter-island air service is a Public Service Obligation Contract which is competitively tendered, prescribing the timetable to be undertaken by the operator. The acquisition of an additional aircraft has also been competitively tendered, with support from Loganair Ltd.

12. Health and Safety: None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

13. Property and Assets: None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

14. Information Technology: None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

15. Cost of Living: It is noted that a high proportion of low-income families are resident in the outlying islands. The inter-island air service helps to connect communities and provide a key lifeline connection for some of our most remote island communities.

List of Background Papers

None.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Inter-Island Air Services Draft Winter 2026/27 Timetable.

Winter Inter-Island Air Services Timetable. Sunday 25 October 2026 - Sunday 14 February 2027 inclusive



DRAFT

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
Stromsay	arr				08:59	09:19								15:19					08:34							
Stromsay	dep				09:06	09:26								15:26					08:41							
Sanday	arr				09:11	09:31			15:23					08:38					08:46				15:23			
Sanday	dep				09:18	09:38			15:30					08:45					08:53				15:30			
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52	08:17				10:47										16:27	07:52							16:27	
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59	08:24				10:54										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				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	
Stromsay	arr							15:35						08:50									15:35			
Stromsay	dep							15:42						08:57									15:42			
Kirkwall	arr	08:26	08:51	09:11	09:31	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 (10 Jan - 7 March 2027*)					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
								D	E		D	E												C	C	C			
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:25	08:35	12:15	15:00	15:10	16:10	07:35	08:00	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	14:00C	15:00C	16:10C	13:45	15:05
Stromsay	arr						15:19				08:34															15:09C			
Stromsay	dep						15:26				08:41															15:16C			
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		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		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							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							09:54	15:49	08:24				16:44C	14:09	
Eday	arr							08:09	08:34																				
Eday	dep							08:16	08:41																				
Sanday	arr		08:38			15:31				08:46														10:33		15:21C		14:15	
Sanday	dep		08:45			15:38				08:53														10:40		15:28C		14:22	
Stromsay	arr		08:50																					10:45				14:27	
Stromsay	dep		08:57																					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 11 November 2026 - 13 January 2027 (Eday Wednesday departure time subject to change due to operation of service during daylight hours)

B: Operates 28 October - 04 November 2026 and from 20 January - 10 February 2027

C: These flights will operate 30 minutes earlier on 09, 16 and 23 January 2027

D: Operates 26 October - 20 November 2026 and 25 January - 12 February 2027

E: Operates 23 November 2026 - 22 January 2027

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: Friday AM the first four seats are prioritised for North Ronaldsay residents up to 24 hours before flight.

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

The operation of the Stromsay Sunday service is subject to availability of ground crew on the island. Currently (March 2024) there are NO Stromsay 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
02 November 2026 - 22 January 2027	14:00

Morning Flight	Mon/Fri	Tue-Thu
09 November - 20 November 2026, 25 January - 5 February 2027	10:10	
10 November 2026 - 4 February 2027		09:40

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