



**Item: 6**

**Development and Infrastructure Committee: 9 September 2025.**

**Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Summer 2026 Timetable.**

**Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.**

---

## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. The inter-island air services timetable for summer 2026 is scheduled to operate from 16 February to 24 October 2026 inclusive.
- 1.2. The draft timetable in respect of air services to be operated during summer 2026 was presented to the Air Services Consultative Forum for consideration on 19 August 2025, with the main comments and representations from transport representatives outlined in section 4 of this report.
- 1.3. An enhanced level of service will be introduced following acquisition of a third aircraft and the appointment of additional crew members by Loganair Ltd. It is anticipated that the enhanced level of service may be available from July 2026.
- 1.4. It is therefore proposed that the existing summer timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, consistent with that operated in previous years, should continue until the enhanced level of service can be introduced.
- 1.5. Further consultation will be carried out with the Outer North Isles communities before finalising the enhanced timetable.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
  - i. Note that the inter-island air services timetable for summer 2026 is scheduled to operate from 16 February to 24 October 2026 inclusive
  - ii. Note that an enhanced level of service is expected to commence in July 2026, following the acquisition of a third aircraft and the appointment of additional personnel by Loganair Ltd.
  - iii. Note that, following further consultation with communities, the Director of Enterprise and Resources will submit a revised timetable for summer 2026 for consideration by the Development and Infrastructure Committee.

- iv. Approve the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated during summer 2026, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, until such time as an enhanced service is operational, expected by July 2026.

### **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. 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. Scottish Government confirmed an additional one-off settlement of £10m for transportation projects during 2025/26, with £2m allocated to capital projects and the remaining £8m for associated revenue costs.
- 3.5. On 17 June 2025, a report was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee to proceed with the acquisition of a pre-owned aircraft to enhance services to the Outer North Isles.

### **4. Air Services Forum**

- 4.1. It was noted that the winter timetable for 2025/26 was amended to switch the Stronsay/Sanday flight around on a Monday and Friday. The Stronsay Transport Representative confirmed that they would like this incorporated in the summer timetable also. This change has been incorporated in the timetable, attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.2. There were no further comments received from the communities in respect of the interim timetable to be operated from 16 February 2026.
- 4.3. A further period of consultation with the North Isles communities will be arranged to discuss the enhanced timetable.

- 4.4. The enhanced timetable for summer 2026 will be presented to this Committee following consultation.

**For Further Information please contact:**

Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation), extension 2638, Email [laura.cromarty@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:laura.cromarty@orkney.gov.uk)

**Implications of Report**

**1. Financial:**

The proposed draft interim timetable for summer 2026 is consistent with that operated in previous years.

The enhanced option to be taken forward is estimated to cost in the region of £576,506 during the first full year of operation in addition to the existing Contract cost of £1,705,310.

An enhanced level of service will be funded through the one-off additional £10m Scotwind funding from Scottish Government, for the remainder of the current 4-year contract. Continuation of an enhanced level of service beyond this period will be subject to budget.

**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.

**4. Human Resources:**

None related to the report recommendations.

**5. Equalities:**

The provision of a suitable inter-island air service is key in connecting some of our most remote fragile island communities.

**6. Island Communities Impact:**

The timetable is specifically in relation to isles-based services which is a positive impact for all residents and helps to reduce the barriers that existing with access to services and goods.

**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.

**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 Summer 2026 Timetable.

DRAFT Summer 2026 - Inter-Island Air Services Timetable. Monday 16 February - Saturday 24 October 2026\* inclusive

		Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday								
																C				A			A	B
	LM	700	702	703	704	705	706	707	701	708	709	719	710	711	707	700	713	714	715	716	710	711	707	707
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:40	09:40	10:50	15:30	16:30	17:30	07:35	08:30	09:30	10:30	15:30	16:30	17:30	07:35	08:40	09:40	13:35	14:45	15:30	16:30	17:30	17:30
Eday	arr																			14:55				17:40
Eday	dep																			15:02				17:47
Stronsay	arr			09:49						08:39							08:49							
Stronsay	dep			09:56						08:46							08:56							
Sanday	arr			10:01			16:43			08:51			15:43				09:01				15:43			
Sanday	dep			10:08			16:50			08:58			15:50				09:08				15:50			
Westray	arr		08:55								09:45							09:55						
Westray	dep		09:02								09:52							10:02						
Papa Westray	arr		09:04			15:45					09:54	10:45		16:45				10:04				16:45		
Papa Westray	dep		09:11			15:52					10:01	10:52		16:52				10:11				16:52		
Westray	arr					15:54								16:54								16:54		
Westray	dep					16:01								17:01								17:01		
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52			11:07			17:47	07:52			11:02			17:47	07:52			13:52				17:47	17:57
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59			11:14			17:54	07:59			11:09			17:54	07:59			13:59				17:54	18:04
Papa Westray	arr				11:24														14:09					
Papa Westray	dep				11:31														14:16					
Eday	arr	08:09														08:09								
Eday	dep	08:16														08:16								
Stronsay	arr						16:55						15:55								15:55			
Stronsay	dep						17:02						16:02								16:02			
Kirkwall	arr	08:26	09:26	10:21	11:46	16:16	17:11	18:11	08:16	09:11	10:16	11:26	16:11	17:16	18:11	08:26	09:21	10:26	14:31	15:12	16:11	17:16	18:11	18:21

	Thursday								Friday							Saturday					Saturday Refit 2026 (dates TBC Jan-March2026)							Sunday		
	LM	701	708	709	717	710	711	707	701	713	714	719	710	711	707	720	721	722	723	724	722	723	724	725	726	727	725	726	727	
Kirkwall	dep	07:35	08:30	09:30	14:20	15:30	16:30	17:30	07:35	08:40	09:40	14:20	15:30	16:30	17:30	08:30	09:30	10:30	15:00	16:00	08:00	09:10	10:20	14:00	15:00	16:10	10:30	16:00	17:30	
Stronsay	arr		08:39							08:49							09:39								15:09					
Stronsay	dep		08:46							08:56							09:46								15:16					
Sanday	arr		08:51			15:43				09:01			15:43				09:51								15:21					
Sanday	dep		08:58			15:50				09:08			15:50				09:58								15:28					
Papa Westray	arr											14:35														10:45				
Papa Westray	dep											14:42														10:52				
North Ronaldsay	arr	07:52			14:37			17:47	07:52			14:52			17:47			10:47	15:17	16:17	08:17					11:02		17:47		
North Ronaldsay	dep	07:59			14:44			17:54	07:59			14:59			17:54			10:54	15:24	16:24	08:24					11:09		17:54		
Eday	arr								08:09												08:34					16:20				
Eday	dep								08:16												08:41					16:27				
North Ronaldsay	arr																								16:37					
North Ronaldsay	dep																								16:44					
Sanday	arr																						10:33					18:00		
Sanday	dep																						10:40					18:07		
Westray	arr			09:45							09:55					08:45					09:25									
Westray	dep			09:52							10:02					08:52					09:32									
Papa Westray	arr			09:54	14:54		16:45				10:04			16:45		08:54			16:34		09:34			14:15			16:15			
Papa Westray	dep			10:01	15:01		16:52				10:11			16:52		09:01			16:41		09:41			14:22			16:22			
Westray	arr						16:54							16:54										14:24			16:24			
Westray	dep						17:01							17:01										14:31			16:31			
Stronsay	arr					15:55							15:55										10:45						X	
Stronsay	dep					16:02							16:02										10:52						X	
Kirkwall	arr	08:16	09:11	10:16	15:16	16:11	17:16	18:11	08:26	09:21	10:26	15:16	16:11	17:16	18:11	09:16	10:11	11:11	15:41	16:56	08:51	09:56	11:01	14:46	15:41	17:01	11:26	16:46	18:28	

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 until 18:00 on Sunday.
A: Operates school term only. Term dates TBC.
B: Operates during school holidays. Wednesdays Term dates TBC. The first four seats are prioritised for Eday passengers up to 24 hours before flight.
C: The first four seats are prioritised for Eday passengers up to 24 hours before flight.
Eday: Friday AM - does NOT operate during June, July & August. The first four seats are prioritised for North Ronaldsay passengers up to 24 hours before flight.
Saturday Refit: Additional frequency by air provided while the Orkney Ferries ONI vessels are on winter refit.
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.
PLEASE NOTE - The operation of the Stronsay Sunday service is subject to availability of ground crew on the island. Currently (Aug 2025) there are NO crew available.

\*Or until introduction of an enhanced service following acquisition of additional aircraft/crew