

## **Transport Information Summary – Ward 6 – Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh**

1. Information for the catchment areas of Plockton, Gairloch and Ullapool High Schools, excluding routes to Ullapool from Assynt.
2. Apart from the long-distance Scottish Citylink services, all buses in the area operate under contract to The Highland Council.
3. The Highland Council's overall spending in the area for school, public and dial-a-bus services is close to £1.5million. The sum spent on public transport and those services which are a mix of public/school transport is £360,000.
4. Significant public transport contracts include:
  - Arnisdale – Glenelg – Kyle
  - Torridon – Strathcarron
  - Applecross – Lochcarron – Inverness
  - Gairloch – Inverness
  - Achiltibuie – Ullapool
5. Highland Council also funds Community Car Schemes in South-west Ross and Gairloch (total £56,323 annually), and supports the community-organised taxi to Glenelg.
6. Issues are:
  - Large areas with little transport
  - Limited day return opportunities to main towns
  - Access to proposed hospital in Broadford
  - Connections with train and Citylink services
  - Several services on only one or a few days per week
  - Variable levels of local transport
  - Suitability of accessible buses for smaller roads
  - Value for money and levels of competition vary
  - Sustainability of contracts given budget pressures
  - Passenger numbers often low due to low population density
7. It is intended to have new contracts in place on 1 January 2017. Key steps in the process are:
  - Member consultation
  - Community consultation
  - Supplier Briefings and Public Contracts Scotland tender/auction training
  - Routes and Specifications development
  - Tender phase
  - Highland Council Committee and Project Partner approvals
  - Award process
  - Contract implementation