

Transport Information Summary – Wards 9 & 10 – Dingwall and Seaforth, and Black Isle

1. Information for the Dingwall and Fortrose Associated School Group areas.
2. The main bus services in the area (Stagecoach Services 25, 26, 27 and 28) are mostly operated commercially, although evening services on 26 and 28 are provided under contract through funding from The Highland Council. Contracts also provide the remaining services.
3. The Highland Council's overall spending in the area for school and public bus services is £1.6million. The sum spent on public bus services and those services which are a mix of public/school transport is £322,000.
4. Significant public bus contracts include:
 - Cromarty – Culbokie – Dingwall (including demand-responsive section covering the eastern part of the Black Isle)
 - Culbokie – Inverness
 - Dingwall – Beaully – Inverness (evenings)
 - Cromarty – Inverness (evenings).

The Culbokie contracts are based around school journeys and provide off-peak public journeys.

5. The Highland Council also funds the Black Isle Community Car Scheme (up to £29,279 annually).
6. Issues are:
 - Level of service between Black Isle and Dingwall.
 - Few opportunities for efficiencies other than obtaining lower prices or reducing the level of evening service.
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