

Transport Information Summary – Wards 12 & 22 – Caol and Mallaig, Fort William and Ardnamurchan

1. Information for Lochaber.
2. Apart from the long-distance Scottish Citylink services, most buses in the area operate under contract to The Highland Council. The few local commercial services are additions to the contract network and would be unlikely to remain commercial without school transport contracts contributing to the fixed costs of vehicles and depot.
3. The Highland Council's overall spending in the area for school, public and dial-a-bus services is £2.1million. The sum spent on public transport and those services which are a mix of public/school transport is close to £1.4million.
4. Significant public transport contracts include:
 - Mallaig / Acharacle – Fort William
 - Mallaig local service
 - Kilchoan – Fort William
 - Lochaline – Fort William
 - Roy Bridge – Fort William
 - Fort William town service
 - Fort William local schools services
 - Fort William – Inverness (0720 north & 2015 south)
 - Fort William – Kinlochleven (evenings)
 - Oban – Fort William (Highland Council contribution to Argyll & Bute Council contract)
5. Highland Council also funds Lochaber Community Car Scheme and community minibuses in Kinlochleven and Morvern (total £71,750.00 annually).
6. Issues are:
 - Lack of competition both in West Lochaber and in Fort William area
 - Many services are built around school transport needs
 - Sustainability of contracts given budget pressures
 - High cost and low public usage of Lochaline service
 - Congestion affects reliability of Fort William town service
 - Local network in Fort William of fare-paying school buses – exception to normal policy but integrated into town network
 - Transport is strongly focussed on Fort William, except for local Mallaig service
 - Future of Mallaig – Lochmaddy ferry to be decided – may affect connecting services

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