

Transport Information Summary – Ward 11 – Eilean a' Cheò (Skye)

1. Information for the Isle of Skye.
2. Apart from the long-distance Scottish Citylink services, most buses in the area operate under contract to The Highland Council. The main local commercial service is the summer-only bus between Portree and Armadale, and it 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 close to £1.8million. The sum spent on public transport and those services which are a mix of public/school transport is over £1.1million.
4. Significant public transport contracts include:
 - Portree – Flodigarry circular
 - Glendale – Dunvegan – Portree
 - Fiscavaig – Portree
 - Armadale – Portree (winter only)
 - Elgol – Broadford – Kyle
 - Portree – Flodigarry subsidised taxi (evenings)
5. The Highland Council also funds community transport project run by Sleat Community Trust (£15,000 annually). Funding for a community transport project to Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations ceased on 1st September 2015 at their request.
6. Issues are:
 - Lack of competition for large bus routes
 - Most services are built around school transport needs
 - Sustainability of contracts given budget pressures
 - Suitability of smaller roads for accessible buses
 - Strong summer peak in usage
 - Transport is strongly focussed on Portree, except in south of the island
 - Future demand for transport to new hospital in Broadford
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