

Highland Council – Inverness Rural Transport Information

Summary Profile Information:

1. Inverness Rural and Culloden area (Wards 13, 18, 20).
2. Most buses in the urban area and along the main routes are operated commercially, but there are also contract services on many routes into Inverness.
3. Overall spend in the whole of Inverness, including £101,000 on city routes, is £1,945,000.
 - 3.1. £1,118,000 (57%) is dedicated schools only transport
 - 3.2. £130,000 (7%) is dedicated public only transport
 - 3.3. £697,000 (36%) is public bus contracts also providing schools transport.
4. 11 providers are involved in delivering these services.
5. The school contracts support transport to 7 secondary school and 20 primary schools.
6. Significant public bus contracts include:
 - Aviemore – Grantown – Tomatin – Inverness
 - Whitebridge – Inverness
 - Foyers – Inverness
 - Fort Augustus – Inverness
 - Tomich – Drumnadrochit – Inverness
 - Tomich – Beaully – Inverness/Dingwall
 - Kiltarlity – Inverness
 - Inverness – Beaully – Dingwall (evenings)
 - Inverness – Ardersier (evenings)
 - Cromarty – Inverness – Croy (evenings)
7. Issues are:
 - Sustainability of contracts given budget pressures.
 - Most services are built around school transport needs.
 - Level of service required on more likely used routes.
 - Access to UHI from various locations.
 - Some off-peak commercial services (notably at Cannich) are dependent on school transport contracts.
 - Evening bus usage.
8. Savings target on this expenditure is £292,000.
9. It is intended to have new contracts in place on 1 January 2017. Some key steps to accomplish this is timescale are likely be:
 - 9.1. Member consultation
 - 9.2. Routes and Specifications development
 - 9.3. Community consultation period
 - 9.4. Supplier Briefings and Public Contracts Scotland tender/auction training

- 9.5. Tender phase
 - 9.6. Highland Council Committee and Project Partner approvals
 - 9.7. Award process
 - 9.8. Contract implementation – TUPE, communications to schools and parents, and other key stakeholders.
10. Highland Council also funds Ardersier, Petty, Croy and Culloden Moor Association (up to £4,415 annually); and South Loch Ness community transport projects up to £10,750.