



AIR SERVICES - LOGANAIR

Report by Director of Technical Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT To provide the Comhairle with an update on matters associated with air services provided by Loganair.

COMPETENCE

1.1 There are no legal, financial, equalities or other constraints to the recommendations being implemented.

SUMMARY

2.1 A more positive working relationship with Loganair has developed in the last several months following the appointment of Jonathan Hinkles as Managing Director in June 2016 and the strong desire to continue to develop this has been expressed to the airline.

2.2 Loganair announced on 21 November 2016 that it was no longer to operate in a franchise agreement with Flybe with effect from 1 September 2017 and, instead, to operate as an independent airline. The announcements have been tentatively welcomed by the Comhairle and, on the basis of assurances given by the airline, are viewed as positive developments for regional air services serving the Highlands and Islands.

2.3 Mr Hinkles met the Transportation Strategy Member Officer Working Group on 1 December 2016, which afforded a welcome opportunity for both parties to discuss recent developments in more detail and to continue the previous dialogue regarding other areas of concern such as the airline's technical resources, its performance in terms of punctuality and reliability, and its aircraft lifecycle maintenance and replacement strategies.

2.4 Mr Hinkles has offered to meet with the Committee to provide a further update on matters associated with the airline and to afford elected members the opportunity to discuss any further issues of merit or concern.

RECOMMENDATION

3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.**

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Appendices: None
Background Papers: None