

COUNCIL MEETING

15th January 2002

Copies of press releases issued by Stagecoach North West which provide background for agenda items 11 and 19(a).

**M Battersby
15th January 2002**

Carlisle area network revisions – January 2002

Stagecoach North West has announced changes to bus services in the Carlisle area from 27 January 2002. Worsening traffic congestion has caused the Company to overhaul its local services in order to improve reliability to its customers. Also since the last major revision of services in 1987 travel demands have changed, and therefore, the opportunity has been taken to conduct a review of the network. In some areas a decline in usage has dictated a reduction in provision and in other districts a need for an increased level of service has been identified, particularly to serve new housing developments and to cater for evident growth in demand.

Summary of the Changes:-

- A new half-hourly daytime service to Carleton Clinic via Lonsdale Grange and Carleton Grange (service 60A).
- A new hourly service on Sundays and weekday evenings for Morton West (61A).
- Crosshill Drive area served for the first time (61A).
- An extra hourly service during the daytime for Richardson Street (63A).
- New or improved services for the Langrigg Road and Levens Drive areas of Morton Park (61/63).
- A new daytime link every 15 minutes to the Main Entrance of the Cumberland Infirmary with improvements to the weekday evening and Sunday service (67H/68H).
- Services 64 (Morton Park) and 65 (Blackwell/Durdar) extended in the City Centre to West Tower Street.
- A regular daytime service every 15 minutes to Lowry Hill (63/63A).
- Buses between Carlisle and Scotby via Warwick Road improved from 1 to 2 per hour (74/75).
- Improved services between Carlisle and Longtown, Gretna and Annan (79/279), also Brampton via Warwick Bridge (685).
- At Sandsfield Park, the evening and Sunday service is reduced to hourly but the level of service on Orton Road is maintained due to the improvements in the Morton West area (60).
- The service to Old Harraby is adjusted from 4 to 2 journeys each hour during the daytime (60).
- Operation to Kingstown (service 63) is reduced to peak periods only, the link with the Asda Store being discontinued. The regular Carlisle – Dumfries service maintains the link between this area and the City Centre.

- Between the City Centre and Morton Park via Denton Holme, Service 63 has been reduced to run every 15 minutes but has been co-ordinated with Service 64, which parallels the 63 for much of its route, to offer even spacing of buses.
- Service 66 to Blackwell and Durdar has been withdrawn but replaced by the extension of Service 65 and the diversion of the 68.
- A reduction in the level of service in the Belle Vue area from 8 to 4 buses per hour reflects the reduction in population in the Raffles area and the decline in bus use.
- At St Anns, the Sunday daytime service is reduced to hourly (service 76 which replaces 62).
- Sunday services will generally start earlier to fit in with shopping times.
- Some areas will see changes to service numbers.

Full details of new services, including guides to the service numbers which will change, will be available from 18th January.

Cumbria PTI (0870 608 2608) has information available now.

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STAGECOACH NORTH WEST
Changes to Fares and Ticket Prices – January 2002

THIS IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED ON 14 JANUARY 2002.
ATTACHMENTS WITH LOCAL DETAILS WILL ACCOMPANY IT, AND WILL FORM THE
BASIS OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION NOTICES AT ALL LOCATIONS.

Stagecoach North West announces changes to bus fares and ticket prices in Cumbria and North Lancashire, to take effect on Sunday 27 January 2002. Most fares and prices will be increased by around 5 pence, with an overall average increase of 5 per cent. However, some fares will not be changed, and there will be new additions to the Company's range of value-for-money tickets, to make life easier and cheaper for both regular and casual users of the bus network.

The Company says that increases at this time are necessary in order to maintain services. Costs in the transport industry, particularly wages and insurance, are rising faster than the general level of inflation, and the Company's drivers in Cumbria were recently awarded a package of improved wages and conditions worth 5.7 per cent (individual awards ranged from 1 to 17 per cent). Stagecoach has also been hit hard in the last year because of the reduced income from tourism and the foot-and-mouth problems in the North West.

Company Managing Director Nigel Barrett says that every effort is being made to maintain services and employment, and the Company is continuing to recruit new staff.

Among the new tickets introduced is the Carlisle Megarider Plus, which extends weekly network tickets for the first time to out-of-town areas such as Gretna, Longtown, Brampton and Wigton. There will also be new Dayrider tickets in Carlisle and North Lancashire, and a feature of these tickets, when bought on the bus, is their transferability. Another member of the family can use the ticket when you're not!

Some short distance fares in Carlisle will not be changed. Weekly ticket prices are increased in Carlisle and Barrow but unchanged in Lancaster and Morecambe. The West Cumbria Dayrider ticket is unchanged. Explorer ticket prices are increased throughout Cumbria and Lancashire.

Stagecoach North West last increased fares in April 2001. The Company has also announced changes to its services in Kendal (13 January) and Carlisle (27 January).

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