
8 Information Bulletin

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decision.

- December 2012 rail timetable

In partnership with Nestrans, Transport Scotland and First ScotRail have announced that their new timetable will include additional stops at Portlethen and Laurencekirk stations from 9 December 2012.

In addition to Portlethen's existing services, a further three northbound and three southbound services will be added to the Monday-Saturday timetable to enable nine trains to Aberdeen per day and ten southbound. There are also an additional two trains to stop in each direction on Sundays, taking the total number to five northbound and four southbound trains serving Portlethen.

The new services provide a wide range of travel opportunities from Portlethen station, ensuring that some of the significant gaps which did exist between services are now bridged. These provide the opportunity for enhanced commuter journeys from Portlethen to both Aberdeen and Dyce as well as services to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Stonehaven and Laurencekirk stations will also see some changes. An additional stop on the Monday-Saturday Aberdeen-Glasgow service at Stonehaven at 1356 and an additional stop at 2001 at Laurencekirk provide new journey choices, and the current 1243 call at Laurencekirk from Glasgow to Aberdeen moves to 1344 to provide a more even spread of services. Southbound, there are additional stops at Laurencekirk at 1310 and Stonehaven at 1356.

Overall, Portlethen will have an increase of 40 additional stops per week - a 48% increase in services.

- A947 Parkhill-Banff Route Study Report

Nestrans has provided funding to Aberdeenshire Council to conduct a Route Study Report into safety improvements for the A947 Parkhill-Banff road. Grontmij consultants were appointed to undertake the study and reported earlier in the year, identifying a number of measures and recommendations towards improving all aspects of making the route safer.

A launch inviting public response to the proposals was chaired by the Nestrans Chair in his role as Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee. It was held in Turriff Academy on Monday 10 September, supported by Grampian Police, Nescamp and Road Safety Grampian and attended by local community representatives, local councilors and many young drivers and road users.

The scheme has led to identifying treatments for bends, locations for lay-byes and mobile speed camera locations as well as evaluation of accidents to identify the road conditions and driver behaviours than can contribute to the route's safety record.

After consultation with communities, further reports will consider schemes and improvements which could help to improve the accident record on the route.

- **Nestrans Press Releases**

Since the last meeting of the Board in August there have been press releases on the following (more details can be accessed by clicking on the title):

[13/09/2012 Nestrans welcomes expanded North East timetable](#)

Nestrans welcomed ScotRail and Transport Scotland's new national timetable, which will boost services for North East passengers – including more calls at several stations between Dundee and Aberdeen and extra Sunday services. The new timetable will come into force from Sunday 9th December 2012 and will improve connectivity for the region's rail passengers by providing a more balanced spread of calls throughout the day.

Improvements to the Monday-Saturday timetable include:

- Portlethen gaining a total of five more calls a day. These include services to Inverurie and Glasgow
- Laurencekirk getting an extra service to Glasgow, and;
- Stonehaven getting an additional service to Glasgow.

On Sundays there will be two extra services from Edinburgh to Aberdeen at 9.15am and 16.05pm, as well as an additional service in the other direction, leaving Aberdeen at 12.47pm. Extra calls will also be made on the Sunday services resulting in Laurencekirk gaining 5 more calls, Portlethen 4 more calls and Stonehaven 3 more calls.

[16/09/2012 Getabout Cycle Roadshow at North East Events for European Mobility Week](#)

Information on the events that the Getabout Cycle Roadshow would be appearing at locations throughout the North East to promote sustainable transport as part of European Mobility Week, which ran from Monday 17th September to Sunday 23rd September 2012.

- Getabout events

European Mobility Week 2012

Mon 17 th Sept	Longside School	6 Classes of approx 30 children and staff	180
Tue 18 th	Bucksburn Academy, Aberdeen	6 classes of 30 children with additional special needs children	200
Wed 19 th	Hazlehead School, Aberdeen	6 classes of 30 Children	180
Thur 20 th	Aboyne (Academy, Primary School and Nursery)	Several Classes of children from all 3 schools and additional free time and lunchtime children including special needs	500
Fri 21 st	University of Aberdeen - student association	Public event in car park outside the Student association	70
Sat 22 nd	Huntly Wellbeing Day Marketmuir Car park Huntly Car Park closure for European Car Free Day, Aberdeenshire	Public event as part of Huntly Wellbeing festival.	70
Sun 23 rd	Beach Front, Aberdeen Road closure for European Car Free Day Aberdeen City	Public Event the climax of European Mobility Week closure of the beach prom, with Stagecoach, First Aberdeen, Aberdeen Rickshaws, Blastads, Co Wheels Car Club, Air Quality team	500
		Estimated Total Public Engaged	1,700

The Crew

All these people made the week possible and attended some or all of the events.

Adventure Aberdeen	Liz, Ali(1), Ali(2), Alex, Graeme (1) and Graeme (2)
Aberdeen City Council	Louise Napier, Will Hekelaar, Alan Simpson, Scott Ramsay, Cameron, Vicky Shade, Aileen Brodie, Wendy and 3 others.
Nestrans	Don Kent and Kirsty Morrison
Stagecoach	John
First Aberdeen	Terry
Co Wheels	Tony Archer

European mobility week 2012 was a big success with 7 events over 7 days featuring the Getabout events kit and bike roadshow. There were 3 events in Aberdeenshire and 4 in Aberdeen City. The road shows featured information on all kinds of sustainable travel using the bikes to get people interested where they could be asked about their travel behaviour. The time and effort put in by staff was exceptional and once again Adventure Aberdeen and the Getabout staff worked as one team to deliver the week.

Of particular note were children from Hazelhead Primary who not only cycled to school that day (90 bikes outside school) but turned up in some numbers to the beach event with their parents and siblings. The team were joined by Olympic canoeist Tim Baillie who posed for photographs with the Getabout gear and his gold medal.



There has been nothing but positive feedback from the visitors to the events, and the constant updating of social media with messages and photos have gained a reach of 145 people in the middle of the week and raised our Facebook 'Likes' to 130.

Liftshare success

Getabout has boosted the north east to being Scotland's top area for the percentage of residents who lift-share. 1 in 62 of the area's population has signed up to car-share via <https://getabout.liftshare.com> the highest per capita of any Scottish area with a total of 2,652 so far. It also comes 9th in the UK overall, according to the nation-wide www.liftshare.com network.

This figure does not take into account Aberdeenshire Council's lift share site which has about 1,500 registrations so total for the North East is over 4,000.

There are 38 million spare seats on the roads of Britain every day just increasing average car occupancy by 1 person would reduce traffic by a third.

Liftshare Week is 1-5 October. Last year's campaign - which saw over 6,200 people around the UK signing up to try lift-sharing in just five days - won the 2012 EU Sustainability Week Award for Travelling.

Aberdeenshire are running the Getabout liftshare TV ads again during Liftshare week.

It should be noted that the Getabout liftshare site is a region-wide site and contains many company only schemes. The Aberdeenshire Car Share site is also regional, although aimed at Council employees as well as the general public and contains some company only sites.

- Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board note the contents of this report.