

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	Corporate Landlord
<u>Date:</u>	25.07.2024
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Lochside Academy Bus Services – 2024/25
<u>Author:</u>	Chris Cormack
<u>Chief Officer:</u>	Stephen Booth
<u>Email address:</u>	CCormack@aberdeencity.gov.uk

UPDATE:

Following the decision by Stagecoach Bluebird to withdraw bus service 21A (Cove – Lochside Academy) and bus services 22A/B (Torry/Balnagask - Lochside Academy) from the end of the 2023/24 academic year, discussions have been ongoing with other bus operators as to whether they would consider providing a replacement service.

First Aberdeen have confirmed that they will provide services between Cove, Torry and Lochside Academy, commencing on 20 August 2024. The services to be provided are detailed below and full route maps and timetables can be found in Appendix 1.

Cove/Charleston

An amended service 3A will operate, to accommodate Lochside pupils, departing from Cove Circle at 08:06, travelling via Charleston and arriving at Lochside Academy at 08:24. An additional 3A service will travel to Langdykes Road via Cove Circle, departing Lochside at 15:50 (Mondays and Tuesdays) and 15:00 (Wednesdays to Fridays).

Torry/Balnagask

Service 3S will continue to operate 2 single deck buses as per current operation, departing from Victoria Bridge at 07:58 and 08:05, travelling via Grampian Road. The return journeys follows the route in reverse and then travels along Walker Road instead of Grampian Road, departing Lochside at 15:50/15:52 (Mondays and Tuesdays) and 15:00/15:02 (Wednesdays to Fridays).

Service 22A will operate 1, high capacity bus, departing Victoria Bridge at 07:51, travelling via Victoria Road and Balnagask Road and arriving at Lochside Academy at 08:18. This will return following the reverse route, departing Lochside at 15:50 (Mondays and Tuesdays) and 15:00 (Wednesdays to Fridays).

Service 22C will operate 1, high capacity bus, departing Balnagask Road at 08:00, travelling via Balnagask Circle and arriving at Lochside Academy at 08:20. This will return following the reverse route, departing Lochside at 15:50 (Mondays and Tuesdays) and 15:00 (Wednesdays to Fridays).

The former services 22A/B were operated by 4 high capacity vehicles and this does represent a reduction in capacity. At the same time, passenger reports from the former services would suggest that there is sufficient capacity on the revised services.

To support the reduced capacity pupils who live west of Mansfield Road and north of Tullos Place will be encouraged to use the existing service 3S which departs from Victoria Road and Grampian Place and returns to Walker Road and Victoria Road. Additionally pupils who live on the western ends of Girdleness Road, Kirkhill Road and Balnagask Road will also be encouraged to utilise the 3S, from Grampian Road/Walker Road and Wellington Road.

Officers will provide school with information to disseminate via their website and by groupcall.

Officers will engage with school at the start of term to ensure that there are no capacity concerns and to ensure there is adequate messaging for pupils to use the most appropriate service for their address.

Kincorth

There are no changes to Kincorth bus services which will continue to be provided on services 17S and 18S, operated by First Aberdeen.