

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	Corporate Landlord
<u>Date:</u>	10.01.2025
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Night Bus Services
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UPDATE:

At the Council meeting on 11 October 2024 it was agreed that: *“in recognising that the ability sits with Council to use Bus Lane Enforcement surplus to assist city centre businesses so long as doing so also supports the delivery of the Local Transport Strategy, agree to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Conveners of the Net Zero, Environment & Transport and Finance & Resources Committees, to use Enforcement surplus monies (capped at £200,000) to reinstate a Night Bus service from the city centre to key destinations across the city and into Aberdeenshire.”*

This service update provides an overview of the initial night bus service operations and performance.

10 night bus services were awarded to First Bus Aberdeen, following mini-competition under the Dynamic Purchasing System for Passenger Transport. The services implemented largely reflected the previous Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire night bus network that operated prior to 2020 and were put in place for weekends between Saturday 16th November 2024 – Sunday 5th January 2025, services were also operated on Hogmanay, Wednesday 1st January 2025.

The services operated departures from the city centre between approximately midnight and 3/3:30am and were as follows:

- N1, City Centre (Alford Place) - Danestone, via Seaton; Dubford and Ashwood
- N61, City Centre (Guild Street) - Ellon, via Seaton; Balmedie & Newburgh
- N17, City Centre (Alford Place) - Dyce, via Great Northern Road and Bucksburn
- N9, City Centre (Union Terrace) - Inverurie, via ARI, Blackburn and Kintore
- N12, Torry - Northfield, via City Centre and Rosemount
- N23, City Centre (Bridge Street) - Kingswells, via Summerhill and Sheddocksley
- N6, City Centre (Bridge Street) - Westhill, via Queen's Road
- N201, City Centre (Bridge Street) - Banchory, via Mannofield; Cults; Bielside; Milltimber; and Peterculter
- N18, City Centre (Bridge Street) - Cove/Charleston via Kincorth

- N7, Garthdee - Stonehaven via City Centre; Porthlethen and Newtonhill

The services were promoted widely through the Council's communication channels, website, social media and with on-street posters. In addition, radio adverts were utilised and both Aberdeen Inspired and Aberdeenshire Council promoted the services through their various communication channels.

The services saw week on week growth on the lead up to Christmas, which was both due to increased footfall in the city centre, but also as a result of increased awareness of the service provision. Passenger numbers did reduce following Christmas, which would be expected, given this is usually a quieter time of year. Services on Hogmanay carried the most passengers on any single day of operation.

The table below provides the total number of passengers for each week of operation:

Dates	Total Passengers
Week 1 (16/17 Nov)	365
Week 2 (23/24 Nov)	467
Week 3 (30 Nov/1 Dec)	676
Week 4 (7/8 Dec)	816
Week 5 (14/15 Dec)	1156
Week 6 (21/22 Dec)	1013
Week 7 (28/29 Dec)	457
Hogmanay (1 Jan)	841
Week 8 (4/5 Jan)	238
Total	6029

The table overleaf provides a breakdown of the passenger numbers for each of the 10 services:

Service	Average Number of Passengers per Day	Average Number of Passengers per Journey	Highest Number of Passengers Per Day (Weekends)	Hogmanay Passenger Numbers
N1 (Bridge of Don)	60	15	111	124
N6 (Westhill)	43	11	92	100
N7 (Garthdee / Stonehaven)	35	9	59	125
N9 (Inverurie)	29	10	68	50
N12 (Torry / Northfield)	21	5	37	65
N17 (Bucksburn / Dyce)	27	9	59	61
N18 (Kincorth / Cove)	22	6	56	63
N23 (Sheddocksley / Kingswells)	24	6	48	69
N61 (Ellon)	17	6	49	45
N201 (Peterculter / Banchory)	52	13	119	139

The provision of the initial weekend night bus services, including Hogmanay and promotions had a total cost of £63,395.

As per the decision at full Council, up to £200,000 of Bus Lane Enforcement surplus has been made available for night bus services and Officers will review the performance data and in consultation with the Conveners of the Net Zero, Environment & Transport and Finance & Resources Committees, will consider further night bus service provisions. A further service update report will be provided once future provisions have been agreed.