Good morning,

Please find below details of service changes to Weston-super-Mare and North Somerset from 11 January.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Natacha

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Changes to local bus services in Weston-super-Mare and North Somerset, from 11 January

Bus operator First is making a series of changes to bus services in Weston-super-Mare and across North Somerset from 11 January.

Amongst the changes one route (X5) is being extended to provide direct connections between Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Portishead, Bristol Parkway Railway Station and the University of the West of England’s campus in Frenchay, Bristol.

Partnership working between First and North Somerset Council has also meant that a number of other routes are changing the latter are designed to improve the local network and offer important, new connections.

One route (Service 121) is being withdrawn, a new Service 21 and an enhanced Service A2 are being created. The latter provides a number of new public transport links across North Somerset.

In Weston-super-Mare itself Service 3 and Service 7 are being adjusted either in response to feedback from existing customers, or to reduce the overall journey times of the service while improving the punctuality and reliability of them.

Talking about the changes, Simon Ford, Commercial Manager for First in West of England, says: “The vast majority of the changes from 11 January are positive. Many come on the back of sustained partnership working between ourselves and colleagues in North Somerset Council. Amongst the improvements are the creation of new direct links, better services on Sundays and Public Holidays and timetables that have, in some cases, been designed with shift workers at Bristol Airport in mind.

“Some of the changes will require people to do things differently from 11 January. For instance the route that the new Service A2 takes differs from the current one, and those people who currently use Service 121 will need to use other services moving forward – for instance the 21, 126, X1, A1 or the revised A2. In most instances there are alternatives for people to use, although it is fair to say that some roads will lose their direct
access to services, and some users will therefore need to walk to other nearby stops instead if they wish to continue using local buses.

“We’d strongly advise people in the affected areas to check the detail of what is happening, picking up copies of, or downloading, the new timetable booklets before they travel. The latter contain maps showing the routes used by buses, alongside the timetables. They can be obtained from the travel shops in Bristol and Weston-super-Mare or found online at www.firstgroup.com/bristol under journey planning / timetable booklets.”

Specific changes from 11 January

Service 3 (Worle – Searle Crescent): As well as making changes designed to improve the punctuality and reliability of buses overall, the route that buses take Monday – Saturday daytime’s is also being adjusted. From 11 January buses will no longer serve Martindale Road or Corondale Road but will instead travel directly along Locking Road. Daytime journeys from Worle, towards Searle Crescent, will also follow a slightly revised route up to 7pm. Specifically from Sainsburys they will operate a one way loop via Queen’s Way, Wansbrough Road, Walford Avenue, The Avenue, Jubilee Way, Pastures Avenue, Walford Avenue, Queen’s Way, before re-joining the current route. This change follows requests from local people and restores a service to St Georges. Buses travelling in the opposite direction, and services running after 7pm Monday - Saturday are unaffected and will continue as they are.

Service 7 (Worle – Oldmixon): Some minor changes are being made to the timetable and the route to reduce journey times and improve the punctuality and reliability of the service. From 11 January buses travelling towards Worle will follow a revised route around Weston-super-Mare town centre. Specifically on leaving Regent Street they’ll go via Princess Royal Square and Royal Parade only, and will no longer travel via High Street, Oxford Street, Beach Road or Marine Parade. This change reduces the time taken to complete each journey. There are no changes to the route taken for journeys towards Oldmixon.

*** NEW **** Service 21 (Felton – Bristol Temple Meads): As a partial replacement for the withdrawn Service 121, a new Service 21 is being created. The route, which is being financially supported by North Somerset Council, will provide two morning and two afternoon journeys connecting Felton and Bristol Temple Meads. The timetable has been designed to appeal to commuters. In travelling between the two points, buses will also provide connections to and from Winford, Bedminster and Bristol City Centre.

Service 121 (Weston-super-Mare – Bristol): This service is being withdrawn, but it is being replaced by an enhanced Service A2 which will improve the frequency of buses for many people who previously used Service 121. A new Service 21, which has been designed to appeal to commuters travelling between Felton in North Somerset and Bristol Temple Meads, is also being created. People living in Wrington may wish to note that the route of the new Service A2 through the village will be different from the previous Service 121. Buses will not serve Long Lane, but instead they’ll travel via Half Yard, Station Road, Broad Street, Silver Street and Havyat Road.

Service 2 (Weston-super-Mare – Nailsea): Following a comprehensive review of the service carried out in partnership with North Somerset Council, some changes are being made from 11 January. From this date buses, travelling via a revised route between Weston-super-Mare and Nailsea, will run every hour throughout the day, Monday – Saturday. Buses will also run on Sundays and Public Holidays for the first time. This is a notable improvement on the current timetable, which sees just a handful of journeys operate Monday to Friday.

Buses will start and terminate at Weston-super-Mare (Railway Station) serving parts of the town (Locking Road, Summer Lane, Churchland Way and Wolveshill Road) and therefore providing links to and from Worle and West Wick. From there buses will serve Banwell, Winscombe, Sandford, Churchill, Langford, Wrington (providing links to Butcombe Brewery), Redhill, Bristol Airport, Brockley Combe, Backwell and Nailsea. A new link to and from the Holiday Inn (Bristol Airport) will also be created.

The timetable of the new Service A2 has been designed with shift workers
at Bristol Airport in mind – with journeys designed to arrive for 0600 hours and depart after 2200 hours. Moreover timetable connections with other services have also been considered. People who wish to make onward journeys towards Bristol City Centre will have the option to change buses at Backwell (for Services W1, X1, X8) or in Weston-super-Mare (for Services 126, W1, X1). It is also possible to travel into Bristol on Service A1 from Bristol Airport however there are fare and ticket restrictions on this airport flyer service.

Service W1 (Weston-super-Mare – Bristol): The route that buses take is being amended so that all journeys serve Yatton (High Street and North End), and that links for local people wishing to travel between Claverham and Yatton are created. In addition the timetable is being adjusted to improve the punctuality and reliability of services, while on Sundays and Public Holidays the frequency of buses is being reduced to one bus every hour (compared to every 30 minutes now). Customers should note the changes to Service X1 though, which will offer a faster bus between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol in between the slower, hourly W1 service.

Service X1 (Weston-super-Mare – Bristol): The stopping arrangements of buses on this route are changing. From 11 January buses will serve all the stops along the route – giving people the opportunity to board or alight in an additional 20 places. In addition the timetable is being adjusted to improve the punctuality and reliability of services. New journeys on Sundays and Public Holidays are also being introduced. Buses will run hourly on these days, giving people access to a fast, direct service between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol.

Service X4/X5 (Weston-super-Mare – Portishead – Cribbs Causeway – Bristol Parkway - UWE): There are a number of changes to the route of Service X5. In addition all X4 journeys will cease to exist being replaced instead by extra X5 journeys.

From 11 January, Service X5 will provide links between Weston-super-Mare, St George’s Turn, Clevedon (travelling to this point via the M5, and thereby reducing journey times by up to 20 minutes), Portishead and Cribbs Causeway with most journeys also extended to call at Bristol Parkway and the University of the West of England’s Frenchay Campus. Service X5 will no longer serve Congresbury, Yatton or Kenn. Congresbury and Yatton will still be served by the W1 and / or X1 though, and connections to the X5 will be possible at Worle (Homebase).

The route extension beyond Cribbs Causeway to Bristol Parkway and UWE’s Frenchay Campus is expected to be welcomed by those wishing to connect with rail services at Bristol Parkway, or those wishing to travel to and from the university’s campus.

In addition to these route changes, the timetable itself is also being amended. Customers are advised to check how the alterations may affect them before travelling.

For more information about First West of England log onto www.firstgroup.com/bristol.

New timetables for all the affected services can be found online at www.firstgroup.com (under journey planning / timetable booklets).

First is also on Facebook and Twitter, at www.facebook.com/FirstWestofEngland and www.twitter.com/FirstBSA.
For more information on our range of services or to book your tickets online, please visit: http://www.firstgroup.com