

First Kernow - Route 300 Changes

1. The 300 route has been operating at an overall loss, despite the exceptional weather last year;
2. Last year and in previous years, the 300 was part funded in the early and late season by Cornwall Council. The Council has withdrawn this funding – understandably given its budgetary constraints, and consequently we have had to remove the early and late season services as they run at a considerable loss;
3. Last year and in previous years, Cornwall Council has always allowed English National Concessionary Travel passes to be used on the 300. This permitted free travel for pensioners and certain other groups, with a related payment made to us by the Council. Cornwall Council has withdrawn this facility, and as a result all customers will have to pay. We believe, backed up by previous experience of such changes, that this will result in a significant fall in the number of customer journeys and fares paid. As a result we have carefully evaluated the likely effect upon travel and the viability of the 300 route;
4. As a result of previous losses, the loss of the funding for the early and late season, and the removal of free travel, we have had to look carefully at how we can retain the route in a viable form. In doing so we have looked at the busiest sections of it, the travel patterns of people using it, and at the potential to grow travel on some sections over time. In this we have also considered that by 2017 we need to have turned the viability around from the underlying loss, so that we can invest to replace the open top buses with newer ones. The current ones cannot be used after 2017 due to the Disability Discrimination Act requirements;
5. The 300 route is an amalgamation of three sections of route:
 - Penzance to Lands End

Penzance to Lands End is by far the busiest part of the 300. For 2014 we are increasing the frequency of our route 1 between these two points to hourly, and will be operating the route with open top buses (weather permitting). For most of the day, this will give an hourly open top service between Penzance and Lands End, instead of the previous two-hourly route 300

- St Ives to Penzance

St Ives to Penzance is also a busy section, and we will be strengthening the 17 route group for the summer season; 17B will run hourly via Marazion (for St Michael's Mount) with open top buses, instead of the previous two-hourly route 300.

- St Ives to Lands End

St Ives to Lands End is by far the least used section of the 300. While it is difficult to viably run any service over this route, we understand the importance of the link for local businesses, and indeed residents. Because of this we have committed to running a less frequent service on this route, with an early and mid day and afternoon departure from St Ives, and a morning, afternoon and late afternoon departure from Lands End. This will provide the opportunity for a half or full day visit to Lands End for visitors, but also provide a level of service in both directions through the day.

We are looking at providing this service, which will be numbered 300, with either a vintage or an open top bus.

For people in St Ives who want to get to Lands End, it will also be possible to make the journey by open top bus, every hour by changing at Penzance.

6. While the route will no longer be a continuous circle, it will be possible to make connections across all three of the component routes.

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