

SERVICE 532: CARTMEL- GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

13th February 2024

Using funding made available through the Department for Transport's "Bus Service Improvement Plan", Westmorland & Furness Council are introducing a new service between Grange-over-Sands and Cartmel next week. It will be operated by Blueworks, on a Monday; Wednesday and Friday and is intended to complement the existing Service 530 to Kendal provided by Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches.

<https://legacy.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/buses/532/>

The service will replace journeys lost when the previous 530/532 operator Travellers Choice, withdrew local services in late 2019, to allow them to replace the withdrawn Stagecoach service to Kendal. This has since resulted in difficulty for anyone wishing to only travel into Grange-over-Sands.

The timetable has been designed to fit around the existing Monday to Saturday, Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches service. Passengers may board anywhere on the route to travel into Grange-over-Sands.

Both operators participate in the Government's maximum £2 fares scheme and also in the English National Concessionary Travel scheme, so passengers can travel out with one operator and return with the other, if that is more convenient

The new contract is only short term, initially running until the end of June, and there will be a further change in late March, when both operators' timetables will change to include the Lakeland Leisure Park. It is however intended that the contract will be replaced after June by a longer term contract, and we would welcome any feedback on how that can better serve the local community, whilst remembering that eventually the service will need to cover the full costs of operation through fares collected, so journeys at peak (school) times which are more expensive to operate, may be more difficult to provide.

Timetable leaflets are being produced and timetable posters are being updated, but we may not have them in place for the start of the service.

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