

Breathing new life into Scotland's oldest operational railway station

Photo/interview opportunity: Celebrating more rail services at Broughty Ferry

Venue: Broughty Ferry Station

Time: 10.30

Date: Monday 12 December

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New life is being breathed into Scotland's oldest operational railway station at Broughty Ferry - with nine more trains calling daily from Monday 12 December, 2011.

The number of services is increasing from four to 13 a day - Mondays to Saturdays, providing more rail travel opportunities for commuters and day trips as well as late evening services.

Tactran Director Eric Guthrie, Dundee City East MSP Shona Robison and Councillor Ken Guild, leader of the administration, Dundee City Council, will be among those celebrating more trains calling at the station on Monday - with the photocall coinciding with the arrival of the 10.43 call at Broughty Ferry of the Dyce-Glasgow train.

Broughty Ferry station, which opened in 1838, is currently being renovated by Network Rail, including a disused building being turned into a restaurant.

Meanwhile, Tactran and ScotRail have agreed to fund the installation of a customer information system on platforms at Broughty Ferry which will provide real time travel information. The CIS system will be installed once Network Rail has completed much of the refurbishment work in Spring next year. There are also plans to increase cycle parking facilities at the station.

Eric Guthrie, Director of Tactran, the Regional Transport Partnership for Tayside and Central Scotland, said: "Tactran has been working with the rail industry for some time to bring forward these Broughty Ferry services.

"I am also delighted that station buildings are being renovated and that Tactran and ScotRail are able to provide improved travel information at the station for commuters, business users and visitors alike."

"It is good to see new life being breathed into this historic station and restoring its place in the community. I encourage people to make use of these new services and support their local rail station."

Steve Montgomery, ScotRail's managing director, said: "The new services underpin our commitment to build on existing service improvements which have helped boost opportunities for employment, business and tourism.

"They will also make it easier for people to switch to rail travel, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy."

Shona Robison, Dundee City East MSP, said: "I welcome the nine extra trains stopping at Broughty Ferry and the work done by the partnership of Tactran and ScotRail to bring about these additional services."

She added: "I have long campaigned for more trains to stop at Broughty Ferry at reasonable times, in the belief that more people would use them, particularly for short local trips into the city centre - and now the message is to encourage people to use these extra services."

"Additional customer information and increased cycle parking facilities are very welcome."

"It's also very encouraging that the old railway building is being renovated to become a restaurant which will help to raise the profile of the station and the rail services on offer as well as the facilities which the new restaurant will offer."

Councillor Ken Guild, leader of the administration, Dundee City Council, said: "This is great news for commuters who now have a wider choice of rail services stopping at Broughty Ferry to choose from."

"Improvements at the station are also welcome and will help in efforts to attract more people to use this local facility."

"Tactran is to be congratulated for the good work they are doing to improve local rail services in Dundee and the wider Tayside and Central Scotland region"

A leaflet providing the Broughty Ferry train times can be also downloaded from Tactran's websites www.tactran.gov.uk or www.tactranconnect.com.

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Notes to Editors

Usage of the new services at Broughty Ferry will be monitored from December, 2011 and subject of review for the December, 2012 timetable.

Tactran is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership covering the Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Council areas. Tactran has produced a Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), which is a statutory strategic plan setting out a vision and objectives for improving the region's transport infrastructure, services and facilities over the 15 years to 2023. Improving local and regional rail services and infrastructure, through implementation of proposals identified in its Tay Estuary Rail Study (TERS), is a key priority within Tactran's RTS Delivery Plan.

Further information on Tactran and the Regional Transport Strategy can be obtained and downloaded free of charge from the Partnership's website at www.tactran.gov.uk or by calling 01738 475775.