

News Release



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Park and ride with a Castlevue

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Stirling Council's commitment to providing a sustainable environment whilst looking to reduce the areas carbon footprint and providing a reliable transport alternative, took another leap forward with the opening of the new Park and Ride facility at Castlevue.

Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change officially opened the new Castlevue Park and Ride facility on Monday 25 August, saying: "This is a fantastic new facility which not only reduces the number of cars on our roads network, it is great for our environment. 200 cars a day will now be removed from the important roads linking Stirling, the central belt and the Highlands."

The new facility located at Castlevue to the west of Stirling, will operate six-days a week with parking spaces for over 200 cars. The new bus service is open to all and will give tourists a stunning view of Stirling Castle as they pass below on their route into the City. The site is part of Stirling Council's City Transport Strategy that has been funded in partnership between Stirling Council, Tactran and the Scottish Government.

Mr Stevenson added: "People now have the chance to take advantage of facilities like this one - limiting the use of their car in favour of public transport. It can be more cost effective, is better for the environment, and can be a lot less stressful, removing the frustration associated with the daily commute by car.

"Reduced congestion, fewer cars on our roads, and a less polluted environment - this facility, and others like it across the country, will deliver real benefits for Scotland."

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Stirling Council's Executive member with portfolio for Environment, Councillor Jim Thomson and Tactran Partnership Board member for Stirling explained: "The opening of Stirling's second park and ride site demonstrates our commitment to reducing congestion on our roads, and it's an important element of our Local and Regional transport strategies.

"Our roads are getting busier each year and the more we can do to provide alternatives and give the public a choice, the more it improves the experience of visiting Stirling. It's not just about tackling congestion, this new bus route provides an opportunity for people who don't have their own transport to access destinations along the route.

"High quality Park & Ride facilities like the one here at Castleview also contribute significantly to Tactran's objectives of supporting economic prosperity, improving access to key facilities and helping to protect our environment. In line with Government thinking Tactran is developing a regional Park & Ride strategy which looks to build on the success of the schemes in Stirling and extend the benefits of this best practice by investigating further opportunities for bus-based and also rail-based Park & Ride around Stirling, Perth and Dundee."

Castleview will open up the west side of the city to commuters and tourists, to Stirling's first park and ride service on the east of the City at Springkerse in 2005. Stirling Council has a long term commitment to reduce traffic on the City's roads, and visitors to Stirling have already been beating the traffic queues in the City Centre, and it is down to the popularity of this site that led Stirling Council to extend its park and ride facilities and provide a new service from the west of Stirling at Castleview.

The new Castleview site, which is just of Junction 10 of the M9 motorway, opposite Castle Business Park, is conveniently located for visitors from the north and west of Stirling, and gives visitors from the south an alternative route to the City.

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Bus services from Castleview will start from 7.30 am and will run every 10- 12 minutes to Stirling City Centre. The service operates all day Monday to Saturday, with the last bus leaving the City Centre at 6.30 p.m., except Thursdays when the last bus leaves at 8.30 p.m. The return journey costs £1 for adults with children travelling for just 50 pence.

The route which starts at the Castleview site will stop at Castle Business Park, The Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road (near Prot Street), St. Ninians Road (outside Viewforth), before returning to the park and ride site via King's Park and Stirling Golf Club.

The purpose built site boasts high quality facilities, including internal waiting area, friendly site attendants, CCTV and has been awarded the Park Mark, Safer Parking Award. The site also incorporates energy efficient technology, aimed at reducing the carbon emission of the site and includes, solar panels and ground source heat pump providing heating and electricity, sun pipes to maximise natural daylight, sustainable construction materials and energy efficient lighting for the car park.

Images show: (1) Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change unveiling the plaque at Castleview Park & Ride with Stirling Council Portfolio holder for the Environment, Cllr Jim Thomson. (2) L-R Eric Guthrie (Partnership Director, Tactran), Alistair Dawson (Roads Projects Engineer, Stirling Council), Keith Yates (Chief Executive, Stirling Council), Brian Roberts (Roads Improvement Manager, Stirling Council), Stuart Stevenson MSP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change), Andrew Simpson (Stirling Councillor), Jim Thomson (Stirling Council Portfolio holder for the Environment), Graham Reed (Stirling Councillor), Mick Stewart (Head of Planning, Stirling Council), Niall Gardner (Project Manager, Tactran). (3) Stewart Stevenson MSP on the Park and Ride bus with Cllr Jim Thomson. (4) Eric Guthrie with Stewart Stevenson MSP on the Park and Ride bus.

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