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MARR AREA partnership

Dear All,

A message from Aberdeenshire Council for people with private water supplies. There are parts of Aberdeenshire where water levels are at what is described as 'significant scarcity' by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, which means that there may be pressure on water supplies. Please keep using water wisely.

We are working with Scottish Water and the Scottish Government to provide bottled water and tanks to those whose private supply is running dry, at no cost. This would normally be something that we would expect owners to source themselves, but these are not normal circumstances. We are prioritising requests from those more vulnerable in the first instance. If you need help, please contact the council by emailing environmental@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or phoning 01467 539539 (during office hours). The Environmental Health Service will respond as quickly as possible to your enquiry.

Long term, the service is providing advice on looking at future solutions such as support to help connect to the mains. If that is not possible, improvements to the current source or forming a new supply can be considered. Grants may be available for some of this work.

There are over 7500 private water supplies in Aberdeenshire serving approximately 11500 properties. This is by far the highest number of any local authority in Scotland. There is some useful advice online here: <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/you-and-your-home/your-home/water-efficiency>

A2B Dial-a-bus proposed changes. Please see below the proposed changes to A2B dial-a-bus services in particular the suggestion that the Braemar – Ballater – Banchory service be withdrawn. Prior to making a final decision we are seeking views and contacting our customers to find out more about the transport they use. We hope this might assist us in trying to facilitate local voluntary transport. We are talking to the RVS and Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd. If you have any suggestions or advice that could help us please get in touch with Heather Dey, 01467 539084.

Here are the full proposals for consideration, and a summary of Deeside A2B services:

Banchory Town A2B

This service was introduced in summer 2017 to replace the previous timetabled service operated by Stagecoach. The door-to-door service is very popular so we are unable to accommodate all transport requests and it is therefore proposed to operate two minibuses in Banchory on Mondays to Fridays. This requires the redeployment of vehicles currently used for the following shopper services.

Durris – Drumoak – Banchory (Service 17)

It is proposed to withdraw this Monday shopper service. It only carries an average of three passengers who will have the option of travelling on Thursdays (Service 7).

Echt – Banchory (Service 12)

It is proposed to withdraw this fortnightly Tuesday shopper service. It only carries an average of three passengers. Echt passengers have the option of travelling to Westhill for shopping and other services on Mondays to Saturdays using Westhill A2B dial-a-bus <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/a2b-dial-a-bus/westhill/>. The service to Banchory was initially introduced because passengers were finding it difficult to book onto the Westhill A2B service but this is no longer an issue.

varies from three to ten with an average of seven (two or three travelling from Braemar with the remainder from Ballater). The building of the new Co-op in Ballater and the availability of internet shopping has meant that the requirement for a shopping bus service has reduced. For those who require to travel to Banchory, Stagecoach's 201/202 bus service operates daily and is suitable for passengers who have reasonable mobility. It is acknowledged that the A2B dial-a-bus service from Braemar/Ballater plays a social role in providing an opportunity for people to meet and the withdrawal of the service would be unpopular. However, Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd has a community minibus which is under-used and could be hired out for social outings subject to finding volunteer drivers. The Council provides grant-funding towards the operation of this minibus and is keen to see the usage of the vehicle increase and the possibility of BRDL providing transport that would benefit the current A2B customers has been raised with them on more than one occasion. The operation of client transport home from the Scolty Centre is significantly disrupted on the days that the current service operates because it is not possible to get the minibus back to Banchory in time. This operational problem would be removed by the withdrawal of the Braemar/Ballater service as the vehicle would be redeployed to operate trips on the Banchory A2B town service and it would be available to carry out client transport duties at the normal time.

We are seeking comments, queries or suggestions **by Friday 27 July**.

[Deeside_A2B_review_2018.docx](#)

Greencoat Kildrummy, Lumsden & Towie Community Fund. Community groups and businesses from Kildrummy, Lumsden and Towie can apply for grants of £250 - £4,000 from the Greencoat Kildrummy, Lumsden & Towie Community Fund. The Fund will provide grants to support charitable activities that reflect the ambitions and activity of the Kildrummy, Lumsden and Towie Community Action Plan. This round of grants (Round 1 of Year 6) will close on 30 July, and awards will be made in mid-September. The maximum award is £4,000 per applicant per year. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kildrummy.aspx>. If you have any queries please contact Foundation Scotland at communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk or 0131 524 0300.

2018 Canvass. Canvass forms for 2018 have been arriving in households across Grampian. Making sure your details are correct on the electoral register is vital if you are to vote in any local or national elections. That's why every year a form is sent out with members of the household listed, seeking confirmation that the details are correct. This process is called the annual canvass.

The Grampian Electoral Registration team is encouraging people to use the automated response function to make their return as soon as possible. This enables householders in **Aberdeenshire/Moray/Aberdeen City** to respond online, by text or telephone - all the details are provided on the form received.

kind regards
Natasha

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