



Proudly supporting bus users in
Brighton, Hove and the
surrounding areas

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March 2025

Compass take on routes

Compass Travel Ltd has been awarded the tender for routes 16, 47 & 52, effective from Monday 31st March 2025. Eleven new Enviro200 MMC buses, similar to the current ones, are being introduced as soon as April. All Compass routes in the City (including 16) will come under a refreshed 'Citybuzz' branding.



Farewell Big Lemon

The Big Lemon will finish the subsidised routes on Sunday 30th March, after 13 years of operation. The last bus being the 19.40 route 47 bus from Bannings Vale to Brighton Marina. The Big Lemon will remain in Brighton running buses on private hire, MET and Legal & General shuttles. Drivers, who are already familiar with the routes have moved over the Compass Travel. Buswatch wishes The Big Lemon well on their future activities.

37/37B altered

From Monday 31st March, both routes 37 & 37B eastbound (towards Bristol Estate) will run via Buckingham Road and Dyke Road, serving the now redundant stop at Imperial Arcade (stop J). This restores the link previously used by Coaster routes between Brighton Station and North Street.

Brighton & Hove April Changes

Brighton & Hove buses have announced changes, with some starting from as early as the Friday 18th April. Amongst the changes, the 13X will run every 30 minutes all four days over the Easter holiday and then every Sunday, at the same frequency- from 27th April. Also from the 27th April, route 46 joins the 24 and 26 with revised timetables to improve punctuality. All service 24 & 26 buses will continue to/from Churchill Square, with earlier daily journeys from Hollingbury ASDA, and improved early morning frequencies at weekends. The '25' will be increased to run every 4-5 minutes. The 46 will see earlier journeys on Monday - Saturdays from Portslade and Southwick, with additional early journeys from Hollingbury. The evening extension to Southwick will be doubled, to run every 30 minutes. Route 50 will have a revised timetable.

New express route announced

At Brighton & Hove City Councils March's Cabinet meeting, issues such as supported bus services, proposals for infrastructure and route improvements- taking account of bus use, were all discussed. These proposals were accepted and will be presented to the Departments for Transport. A new Express route was also approved. Details are sparse, but it is expected to be based around one of the key cross city routes.

Breeze continues

It has been announced that funding for the Breeze routes will continue. On 27th April, the Summer timetable will be introduced on services 77 & 79- including more journeys on Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays. Route 78 will have an additional evening journey added. It is hoped that funding will be secured to support these services through to 2028/2029.

Park & Ride details being awaited

Buswatch awaits with interest- plans for a new or expanded Park & Ride for Brighton. Brighton & Hove City Council with Cllr Trevor Muten, paid a visit hosted by Portsmouth City Council, to see their Park and Ride in action. Various ideas have been suggested including something eastward, centred around Peacehaven; or Mill Road, currently used for Amex Park & Ride on match days. Park & Ride in Brighton is currently provided by route 27, between Withdean Stadium and the City Centre.

Worthing and Littlehampton changes

Buswatch visited Durrington Tesco on Wednesday 26th March, to attend one of Stagecoach South's customer information sessions, to discuss the changes. We were given some explanation for the changes, that centred around the level crossings along the route. The changes are due to take place on Sunday 6th April. This includes the withdrawal of the 'Pulse' service and a major reorganisation of routes including the 5, 10 & 11. Brighton route 700 will be diverted to terminate at Durrington Tesco. And instead the new route 701 will be introduced, connecting Worthing and Littlehampton, to provide the existing 700 with onward connections. It was stated that the changes were a compromise to original plans, with services retained for passenger convenience. Other issues around Social media and service updates were discussed.

Two further events take place, the last of which is Saturday 5th April at Worthing South Street (1000 – 1400). Timetables and a gift bag should be available for visitors.

Devolution

There are less than two weeks left to take part in the devolution consultation, ending on Sunday 13th April 2025. This would include a Mayor responsible for local issues including housing, transport and local infrastructure. The consultation can be found by searching 'Sussex and Brighton Devolution Consultation'. Buswatch is expected to make a statement, available on the website soon.

RTI fail

The twice annual clock change caused a headache for Brighton and East Sussex passengers, when many of the Real Time Information (RTI) boards failed to show the correct time. Leading many passengers to believe that they had over an hour wait for their bus. This continued into Monday 31st March.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on 16th April at 16.00 in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall. Space is limited so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group if you would like to attend as a guest or raise an issue. If you wish to become a member of Brighton Buswatch please e-mail the address on the header.

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Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

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