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## Bus services set to be scrapped

by ADRIAN JENKINS

BUS passengers are to lose key services under a massive shake-up triggered by swingeing Government spending cuts.



But operator Arriva Midlands said the overhaul would include the introduction of some new services which would ensure it 'continued to provide a regular, reliable and robust network'.

The company's communications manager Keith Myatt said: "We have had to review all of our network and make these changes

following the announcement by the Government that it will cut up to 20 per cent from concessionary fare reimbursements to bus operators from April.

"In Staffordshire alone, that's £1 million of support the business will lose. It's £500,000 in Leicestershire and a similar sum in Derbyshire.

"There are some cuts in certain areas but there are some additional services.

"The changes will ensure we continue to provide a regular, reliable and robust network of bus services that our customers expect and deserve." T

he changes earmarked for introduction from Sunday, March 27, see the 6pm number 2 and 2A service from Burton to Stapenhill axed, and the number 7 shuttle service from Burton to Lichfield will run up to once an hour instead of twice in the daytime from Monday to Saturday.

The infrequent number 10 Burton town centre, Railway Station and Acorn Inn service and 10A Burton, Moor Street and Acorn Inn link will be withdrawn, as will the periodic number 17 Burton, Wetmore and Beech Inn service.

Buses will also run up to every hour instead of every 30 minutes between Tutbury and Uttoxeter in the daytime (1/1A); the twice-daily Linton to Pingle School 241 service will be withdrawn from April 16 and provided by another operator; and the 16 and 16A Ibstock to Ashby link will be axed.

However, Rolleston will get a service running up to twice an hour instead of hourly on the Burton to Tutbury 1 and 1A route from Monday to Saturday, and a new Sunday 9 and 9A service will link Burton, Newhall, Swadlincote, Ashby, Coalville and Leicester.

Arriva Midlands will also offer a new number 4 service linking Burton, Stanton, Newhall, Swadlincote, the Gresleys, Linton, Overseal, Netherseal, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe, Measham and Ashby.

The service will partly replace the 3, 3A, 3E and 3S between Burton, Newhall,

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dialogue with all the local authorities.

“Once everything has been finalised, we will be printing new timetables and guides explaining all the changes and will be holding roadshow events in each of the main centres prior to the launch of the new network.

“These dates and times will be advertised shortly.”

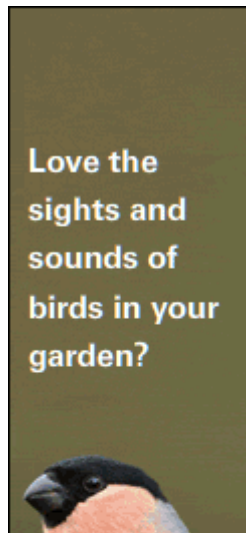
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