

Press Release 30th November 2010

Up to 15 new jobs are being created at Reays Coaches of Wigton as the company expands its successful new City Hopper public bus services in Carlisle.

More drivers will be taken on next month to enable the family-run firm to launch a new 64A City Hopper service out to Houghton Hall Garden Centre in January.

The 63 and 64 City Hopper services, which were launched in Carlisle last month, are also being extended to run on Sundays for the first time and later in the evenings to meet passenger demand.

The new full-time and part-time drivers' jobs will take the number of people working for Reays past the 100 mark.

Managing director Chris Reay said: "I'd like to thank all our passengers who have travelled on our City Hopper routes since we launched them less than two months ago. Our passenger numbers are growing all the time and we are now carrying more than 10,000 people a week. This tremendous support has encouraged us to expand our existing services and to launch a new route."

An extra 10 drivers are required within Reays' Carlisle Bus Division for the revised City Hopper services, which come into effect from January 5. The new 64A route will run between Wigton and Houghton Hall via Carlisle city centre and Stanwix from the same date. Reays also operate the 75 public bus service between Dalston and Cotehill as well as the 63 and 64 cross city routes.

Two more drivers will be taken on at Reays' Egremont depot, from where the company runs its west Cumbria operation, including its on-site Sellafield staff contract. Another two or three will be employed in Reays' UK & Europe Holidays department at its Strawberry Fields headquarters at Syke Park outside Wigton.

Chris added: "We have listened to what our customers are saying and expanded the service to fit in with what they want. That's why we'll be running an extra four City Hopper buses from January 5, making it 16 in Carlisle in total.

"We're a local company trying to work with local people for local people. Our new drivers will need PCV licences and be smart and clean and capable of working as part of our award-winning team. Full uniform and training will be provided."

The closing date for the PCV drivers' jobs is December 13. More information is available from Reays on 016973 49999. Online application forms are available on www.reays.co.uk.

Reays were short-listed for the Medium Business of the Year award in the CN Group's annual awards last month. Besides public bus services, the firm also operates private coach hire, wedding cars and school buses.

Reays had already taken on 15 extra staff to launch its 63 and 64 City Hopper routes and invested nearly £800,000 in buying eight brand new buses for the services, which link Carlisle's major housing estates directly with the city centre and Cumberland Infirmary.

- Reays will be running coaches to Carlisle United's FA Cup third round tie at Torquay United on Saturday January 8 for a £30 return day-trip. Details of overnight packages including hotel accommodation are being finalised.

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