

Council

12 December 2012

Questions to Joint Authority Representatives

1. Councillor Bevan (Committee for GMT)

Bury and Ramsbottom residents received unexpected news in November that Rossendale Transport's bus fares were due to increase as of 1 December 2012. The bus fare rises are targeted not in Rossendale, but at those living within Greater Manchester - namely Ramsbottom and Bury.

Rossendale Buses provide an important service to our residents. They provide access to jobs, to Hospital and healthcare facilities, to education etc. Rossendale Transport's bus services are more important than ever, particularly in these difficult economic times.

I would therefore ask that as Bury Council's Representative on TfGM, that you urgently ask TfGM to liaise with Rossendale Transport to ascertain if they will reconsider their bus fares policy for Ramsbottom and Bury residents.

A. TfGM has regular discussions with public transport operators; including on a one-to-one basis. This issue can be raised in that forum. It should be pointed out however that we have very little influence over commercial decisions.

2. Councillor O'Hanlon (Committee for GMT)

Could the representative to the Committee for Transport Greater Manchester Transport please update members on any issues with the installation of automated bus stop panels?

A. TfGM has run a pilot of automated bus stop panels which provided real time bus information to assist bus users (and especially those with visual and hearing impairments). This was on the A6 Manchester to Stockport.

Although the pilot worked reasonably well, one of the key outcomes was the confirmation that full sign-up is needed from all Greater Manchester bus operators for the system to work effectively.

Since this pilot, through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (and other projects), TfGM are investigating more effective ways that 'real-time' bus information can be provided to bus users.

This will use mobile phone technology, of which two pilots have already been run and has given TfGM the evidence it needs that this approach offers an improvement of the positioning of static real time information in relation to 'bus stop panels'.

3. Councillor Pickstone (Committee for GMT)

Could the representative to the Committee for Transport Greater Manchester Transport please inform members on the ratio of ticket machines at Metrolink stations to current passenger numbers, and the ratio of ticket machines to anticipated passenger number across the extended network when the current construction phases are complete?

A. This is an interesting question, but a complex one to answer. The Metrolink directorate are currently assessing this and I hope a response once I receive it can be circulated at the next council meeting.

However, customer satisfaction surveys have shown that the new ticket machines are easier to use, reducing the time that customers spend at the machines.

And, with the advent of SMART ticketing, there will be a decreasing proportion of passengers buying paper tickets- and this will further reduce waiting times.

4. Councillor Pickstone (GM Fire and Rescue)

Could the representative to GMFA please update members on how many Improvement & Prohibition Notices have been issued by each Division of GMF&R over each of the last three years?

Answer will be provided and graphical information will be circulated following meeting.