

COUNCIL

11 DECEMBER 2013

JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

Transport for Greater Manchester

Councillor Pickstone

Transport for Greater Manchester

Is the Authority's representative on the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee aware of the 400+ signature petition which has recently been submitted to T4GM protesting about the re-routing of the 154 bus service? What can be done to address the travel needs of people who now have no direct public transport options between the Bury Old Road areas of Prestwich and Pilsworth?

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

Transport for Greater Manchester has received the petition that has been submitted.

The subsidised service 154 operates Monday to Saturday hourly daytime and is operated by First. Transport for Greater Manchester officers have been concerned about punctuality problems on this service for some time and initial changes were made in January 2013 when the service was revised to no longer call into Tesco, Cheetham Hill. Due to continuing punctuality problems, TfGM officers carried out further work with First to look at further options for addressing these.

Service 92 between Bury and Manchester, which operates commercially Monday to Saturday daytime half hourly, was revised to serve Pilsworth in January 2013 following representations from local Councillors and Whitefield Township Forum. This service covers a significant proportion of the route previously served by the 154. Therefore it was decided that service 154 be re-routed from Monday 2 September to operate directly via Manchester

Road and Bury New Road to Stanley Road and Moss Lane then as the previous route via Ribble Drive.

Passengers to/from Pilsworth to Prestwich can use service 92 to Besses o' the Barn, where they can change to high frequency service 135 via Bury Old Road or alternatively change at Prestwich Centre for service 154.

For hospital journeys, passengers can use service 92 to Bury Interchange or Besses o' the Barn before using Metrolink to visit the North Manchester General Hospital.

A survey carried out before the changes were made showed that an average of one unique passenger per trip was affected by the changes. Whilst we do not wish to inconvenience residents, in an era of reduced public finances, this is a rational decision to maintain costs and the performance of the network as a whole.

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority

Could the Authority's representative on the Waste Disposal Authority please outline what options the Authority is currently considering about the closure of Household Waste Disposal facilities in the forthcoming financial year?

(Councillor Cummings to respond)

Thanks to Cllr Pickstone for his advance notice of the question.

As he is aware the latest round of cuts heaped on local government by the Coalition Government will see a further 12.4% average local reduction in 2015/16 in spending power for the GMWDA districts. That is on top of the 30% plus already imposed to 2014/15.

As a levying body the GMWDA is not immune from those pressures, and has been asked by AGMA Leaders and also through the budget challenge process, to look to maximise potential budget reductions and hence reduce the burden of the levy on Bury and other districts.

As always the GMWDA treats such challenges very seriously, but with over 95% of our spend associated with a 25 year

PFI Contract reductions have to be looked at in that area. The GMWDA is therefore exploring a range of options to meet cost reductions, including examining its HWRC network. That process is however being conducted in a very robust fashion and at its 22nd November meeting the GMWDA Members asked for further information to be brought forward on a range of budget reduction measures. A Special Purposes Committee has been set up for the 20th December and following that it is envisaged that a range of options will be approved for consultation to begin. In turn that will allow a robust budget and levy to be set on the 7th February 2014.

At this stage I cannot give a list of possible sites because there is not yet one that has been agreed by Members. I will however ensure that after the 20th December all Members of the Authority are advised of proposals and I will seek their views to take back to the 7th February GMWDA meeting.'