

COUNCIL

9 JULY 2014

JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

1. Councillor Carter

Transport for Greater Manchester

Can Cllr Bayley tell me, in the light of the threat to the 480 bus service, whether talks with Rossendale Buses have been able to resolve the matter in a manner that enables the service to continue, or has a commercial decision on the grounds of profitability been taken?

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

A. Service 480 is operated on a commercial basis and the decision to change the service is a commercial decision made by the operator. In response to this change, TfGM officers are exploring a range of options and discussions are continuing with Rossendale Transport and other operators in the area.

2. Councillor Daly

Transport for Greater Manchester

Can the Council's representative for transport please give an update on what is being done to get Transport for Greater Manchester and Rossendale buses to continue to provide the same service to all the rural communities in Bury North that are currently being served?

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

A. 80% of the bus network in Greater Manchester is run on a commercial basis and decisions on the routes, frequencies and fares are made by the operators concerned. Whilst TfGM will endeavour to work in partnership with operators, it has no direct influence over the commercial network and does not have the powers to compel operators to specify the level of service operated.

Where operators are unable to run services on a commercial basis, TfGM will consider providing financial support although, due to continuing public sector budgetary pressures, the available funding is reducing by £7.1 million (approximately 20%) from 2014/15.

3. Councillor FitzGerald

Transport for Greater Manchester

Whilst we accept that the works at Victoria are necessary the service from Bury has been severely impacted with the loss of half the direct trams to Manchester during peak times. What is the record of punctuality of these remaining services and what efforts is Metrolink making to ensure these services are protected?

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

A. There are some key pieces of work that still need to be undertaken during the Metrolink improvement works at Victoria Station.

The main piece will be the reopening of Victoria from single line to twin track working. This will enable the connectivity with a gateway to the city centre and a radically improved station for passenger use. This is scheduled to be completed by winter. This means that there may be a weekend possession in winter, although the date is to be confirmed.

Other works include the Tram Management System (TMS) installation at Irk Valley. TMS is vital to protecting and improving network performance and the provision of passenger information at passenger information displays and via other sources. This is a significant piece of signalling work which would enable the operation of more new trams onto the network. There is a date of 13 July for TMS enabling works, however a weekend possession may be required, but a date has not yet been agreed.

Planned network improvement information is usually available online at <http://www.metrolink.co.uk/pages/pni.aspx> up to six weeks in advance of the planned maintenance.

Metrolink and TfGM are committed to reducing and limiting the impact of disruption to passengers through this period of improvements. Other passenger experience improvements include the Greater Manchester Growth Deal increasing the double units on the Bury Metrolink line in the coming years.