

COUNCIL

2 APRIL 2014

JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

1. Councillor Pickstone

Transport for Greater Manchester

Could the Council's Spokesperson to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee outline if consideration can be given to providing a later last service to Simister Village. Currently the last 96 leaves Manchester at 5.46 and the last 495 leaves Heaton Park Metrolink at 5.23pm, too early for many journeys from work.

A. TfGM has previously received requests for a later service between Manchester and Simister Village and officers have looked into the provision of additional journeys in conjunction with the operator of the service.

TfGM is facing significant budgetary pressures and has to reduce expenditure on subsidised bus services by £7.1 million over 2014/15 and 2015/16. As a result of this, many services have to be reduced in frequency or withdrawn and the potential to provide new services or increase existing services is severely constrained.

TfGM will continue to review the services which it supports, including service 96, to ensure that services are provided as cost effectively and efficiently as possible and any opportunities to enhance the level of provision within our available resources are explored.

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

2. Councillor Pickstone

Transport for Greater Manchester

Could the Council's Spokesperson to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee give members an update on the usage of the Heywood Link Service from residents in the Heywood Old Road area. Access to the service was extended to this area when this long stretch of road was left without any bus service after the 167 ended in January 2012. Has the Heywood Link been meeting the needs of local residents with public transport needs?

A. In Jan 2012 a section of the 167 bus service between Norden and Manchester was withdrawn by First. This left Heywood Old Road unserved or poorly served by public transport.

Since frequent alternative bus services operate in Heywood itself and from Manchester Old Road onwards into Manchester, only the section covering Manchester Road and Heywood Old Road remained unserved. The distance to the nearest bus service being just over 500 metres.

At that time Heywood Local Link was already covering Manchester Road, Birch between Langley Lane and Newhouse Road.

In order to address any unmet transport need, TFGM extended the Heywood Local Link service in January 2012, to serve Heywood Old Road and Manchester Road as well as Sainsbury's Supermarket.

Since the extension was put into place, 1929 trips have been made.

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)