

## **Transport Update for Bury Council Local Bee Network Forum**

**April-June 2025**

### **Strategic Activity**

- Regional leaders went to Westminster to set out proposals for a new Liverpool-Manchester Railway that would deliver jobs, growth and regeneration across the North West, while offering a new, more effective model for building big projects: led locally, delivered faster, and designed around communities. A report published in May outlines the case for the new line, which would run from Liverpool Lime Street to Manchester Piccadilly, with stops at a new Liverpool Gateway station, Warrington Bank Quay and Manchester Airport. It estimates that construction of the railway could deliver a £15bn boost to the economy and create 22,000 jobs – and kickstart a £90bn economic transformation across the North. You can find out more and read the [full press release here](#).
- The Mayor of Greater Manchester has launched a new campaign - “Backing Our Taxis: Local. Licensed. Trusted.” - calling for new powers for Mayoral Combined Authorities to tackle ‘out of area’ licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs). In Greater Manchester, nearly half (49%) of private hire vehicles are now licensed by authorities outside of its ten councils. Further information can be found in [the press release](#), as well as at the campaigns landing page ([www.backingourtaxis.com](http://www.backingourtaxis.com)).
- £1.3m of active travel funding has been allocated for the delivery of new and enhanced School Streets in Greater Manchester. The programme has had a strong response across the city-region so far, with all 10 Local Authorities requesting funding to deliver new schemes, with the number of schemes in operation set to increase from 37 to 60 in the next year. The full article can be [found here](#).
- In collaboration with GMCA, TfGM, the police and fire services, the UK’s three biggest food delivery companies - Deliveroo, Just Eat and Uber Eats – all signed the new Greater Manchester Food Delivery Charter to improve the safety and conditions of food deliveries in GM. The charter positively reinforces how couriers should always ride safely and legally – on roadworthy bikes – with delivery schedules that are realistic and do not incentivize them to break the law. Under the charter, couriers are also encouraged to report collisions involving injury to the police to help identify hotspots and reduce incidents. More information about the charter is available in [the press release](#).
- Greater Manchester has expanded its free bus travel initiative for care leavers, now including those aged 18 to 25, up from the previous limit of 21. This expansion aims to support care leavers in their transition to independence by offering free anytime bus travel within GM. Additionally, half-price off-peak day travel and weekend travel on Bee Network trams will be introduced later this year following feedback from care leavers. Read more in the [press release here](#).

- TfGM has published the most recent edition of our Inclusion & Equalities Annual Report, covering activity in 2023-2024. This year's report shows how we have delivered against our equality objectives, the progress we are making and what still needs to be done to ensure the Bee Network works for everyone. The link to all formats [is here](#).
- A Licence for Greater Manchester (LfGM) scheme has been launched to make becoming a Bee Network bus driver a more attractive and flexible career. This initiative, agreed upon by TfGM, bus operators, and Unite the Union, allows drivers to move between operators without starting at entry-level pay, recognising their years of experience. The scheme builds on previous efforts to improve terms and conditions, including the adoption of the Greater Manchester Good Employers Charter by operators. Read more in the [press release here](#).
- Following a ten-week consultation between November 2024 and January 2025, the Greater Manchester School Travel Strategy went to May's Bee Network Committee and GMCA meetings for endorsement and adoption. The Strategy outlines our vision of more young people choosing to walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or use public transport to get to school and access further education. To help achieve this, TfGM have proposed eight overarching activities;
  1. Create safe street around schools;
  2. Continue to deliver walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure;
  3. Increase access to cycles and cycle storage;
  4. Support young people to become travel champions;
  5. Improve the customer experience on public transport;
  6. Make our network safe and secure;
  7. Create an integrated network; and
  8. Engage schools and community groups.

### **Network Updates**

- Punctuality of the first buses to come under local control (Tranche 1) is now consistently above 80% (up from c.69% on the pre-franchised network). Reliability in Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 is also better than before franchising (both tranches consistently above 70% since the beginning of March), with work ongoing to improve performance across the whole network. The latest punctuality report (published weekly here) during the period 18-24 May shows the following:
  - Tranche 1 punctuality: 84.2%
  - Tranche 2 punctuality: 77.4%
- The launch of Contactless PayGo in Spring 2025 has been a huge step forward in how people can travel across our city-region, enabling contactless 'tap in' payments across buses and trams – making travel easier and guaranteeing passengers pay the lowest possible fare for their journey. Since its launch this payment method has already amassed over 5 million journeys.
- As part of the ongoing programme of proactive maintenance and renewal works across the Metrolink network there has been ongoing work on the Bury line to replace beams in the

Whitefield Tunnel. This has caused service disruption in May, but work will be completed by Monday 2 June.

- Work on the Metrolink network in Manchester City Centre will also mean that no services will be running between Bury and Picadilly or Piccadilly Gardens, services from Bury to Altrincham will continue to run via Market Street. These works will be taking place from Tuesday 3 June to Sunday 10 August.
- Aimed at delivering joined-up, reliable services, a programme of local bus network reviews continues. Network Reviews will explore how buses can better serve communities, making improvements that would not have been possible before franchising. Work on the Bury network progressed through initial engagement in late 2024, and we have now undertaken a detailed GM-wide connectivity assessment, identifying gaps and opportunities in the current provision. An overview of the assessment as well as a revised process for taking forward changes is due to be considered by the GM Bee Network Committee in June. Subject to approval, further engagement will follow later in 2025.

#### **Wider local updates**

- **Bury Interchange** – Ministerial approval for the OBC was received in March 2025, together with confirmation that the scheme has been de-retained. The planning application for the Phase 1 early enabling works package to create a new southern access to Metrolink was submitted to Bury Council on 2 April 2025 and has been validated. TfGM are continuing to develop the design for the main interchange in partnership with Bury Council and other stakeholders. The opportunity to include residential development alongside the interchange is in development in partnership with GMCA, with a RIBA 2 design and OBC shift statement ongoing. TfGM anticipate that a decision will be made in summer 2025.
- **Elton Reservoir New Stop** – TfGM are continuing development work on proposals for a new Metrolink stop, Travel Hub and Park & Ride, to be delivered as part of the strategic allocation for around 3500 homes and supporting infrastructure, identified in Places for Everyone. TfGM will continue to work with Bury Council, the site developers and other stakeholders to develop these proposals as part of the wider masterplan for the site.
- **Metrolink Stop Improvements Programme** – Heaton Park Phase 1 has now received “Programme Entry”, and the team will begin preparing a combined OBC/FBC and engagement with contractors. Additional work is required to refine the prioritisation for the wider stop improvements programme and secure funding.