

Have your say on how your buses are run

Consultation runs from:
Monday 14 October 2019 to
Wednesday 8 January 2020

gmconsult.org

How buses are run now

Since 1986 bus services in Greater Manchester have been deregulated.

Individual bus companies decide their own routes, timetables, tickets and standards. In areas they don't run, the public sector pays to fill in the gaps in the market where it can.

The bus companies receive the revenue from fares and retain the profits.

It's hard to make our buses work together, or with other kinds of public transport, and the fares and tickets available can be confusing.

Greater Manchester's current bus services

- Fares and ticketing are complex. There are more than 150 types of ticket.
- There is no single brand or source of travel information.
- Bus companies decide which routes to run based on commercial reasons meaning some routes are well served and others less so.
- Customer standards vary.
- Difficult to plan a network that meets the future needs of the city region.

Buses are important

Buses are vital for Greater Manchester. They're used for three out of four public transport journeys and thousands of us depend on them to get to work, the shops or services like our local GP.

Buses also help reduce the number of cars on our roads, this means less congestion and less pollution.

But bus use is falling.

- 17% decline in bus journeys over 10 years
- 61% of daily trips in Greater Manchester are made by car
- Target of 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by foot, bike and public transport (including bus) by 2040

Our vision for bus

Buses are a key part of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040.

This strategy describes how we'll make travel easier across Greater Manchester and shows how a sustainable and accessible network will support economic growth.

Our vision for bus is set out below.

GMCA wants buses that:

- Integrate with the rest of the public transport network
- Have simple fares and tickets
- Provide a consistent customer experience
- Offer value for money

Reforming the bus market

Buses can be improved and Greater Manchester now has a chance to do buses differently.

On behalf of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) has completed an assessment of a proposed franchising scheme for Greater Manchester.

We are now consulting on this proposed franchising scheme.

Franchising means that bus services would be under Greater Manchester's control and we would decide which services would be provided. We would set the routes, timetables, tickets and standards, while the bus operators would run the services.

Other options considered by GMCA in the assessment were:

Do minimum

- Bus services in Greater Manchester would continue to be deregulated with bus operators choosing the services they provide.

New partnership

- Working with the bus operators in different ways to improve services, either through a voluntary agreement or through a legal scheme.

Have your say

We want to hear your views on the proposal to introduce a bus franchising scheme for Greater Manchester.

Your responses will help inform a future decision on how Greater Manchester's buses should be run and whether the proposed franchising scheme should be introduced.

Bus franchising is currently in place in London and other cities globally, and means bus services – including routes, timetables, fares and standards – would be brought under local control.

Find out more about the proposals inside this leaflet.

Who can take part?

Anyone can take part in the consultation.

You don't have to live in Greater Manchester or be a regular bus user. In fact, we would like to hear from people who don't currently travel by bus.

Our Network

Launched in June 2019, and aligned to the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, Our Network is Greater Manchester's vision for public transport in 2029.

To keep Greater Manchester moving, we need to create an integrated, simple and convenient public transport system with simple fares and ticketing and an improved customer experience across all types of transport – trains, trams, cycling and walking and buses.

Where do I get more information?

You can find more information, including the Consultation Document, on **gmconsult.org**

You can also find copies of documents and questionnaires in key public buildings like libraries and town halls across Greater Manchester. A full list can be found at **gmconsult.org**

If you have any questions, please email **gmbusconsultation@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk** or call **0161 244 1100**.

How do I take part?

Responses will be accepted through the following channels:

Complete and submit a questionnaire at **gmconsult.org**

Email a completed questionnaire or your comments to **gmbusconsultation@ipsos-mori.com**

Post a completed questionnaire or your comments to **Freepost GM BUS CONSULTATION**

There are two versions of the questionnaire – a short version or a longer one. You can decide which version of the questionnaire to answer, and you do not have to answer all the questions in either questionnaire in order to submit a response.

If you need to respond in a different way, or require the consultation materials in a different format, please contact **gmbusconsultation@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk** or call **0161 244 1100** to discuss your requirements.