

**GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
BUS SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

Date: 11 September 2020

Subject: Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network – Part A (ADDENDUM)

Report of: Alison Chew, Interim Head of Bus Services, TfGM

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- i. To inform Members of the changes that have taken place to the bus network since the publication of Part A of the report for this Committee meeting.
- ii. To seek guidance from Members on proposed Transport for Greater Manchester action.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Members are asked to:

1. note the cessation of services operated by G B Coaches Ltd under the North Western trading name with immediate effect and that TfGM officers have reported the matter to the Traffic Commissioner for the North West of England.
2. note and comment as appropriate on the changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace the de-registered commercial services as set out in Annex A;
3. agree that no action is taken in respect of changes or de-registered commercial services as set out in Annex A;
4. note that no services fall under Annex B; and
5. approve the proposed changes to general subsidised services set out in Annex C.

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Equalities Implications – n/a

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures – n/a

Risk Management – n/a

Legal Considerations – n/a

Financial Consequences – Revenue – n/a

Financial Consequences – Capital – n/a

Number of attachments included in the report: main report only

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network report to the Greater Manchester Transport Committee, 10 July 2020

Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network report to the Greater Manchester Transport Committee Bus Services sub-committee, 11 September 2020

<b>TRACKING/PROCESS</b>		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
<b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN</b>		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		n/a
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
n/a	n/a	

## **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This addendum to Part A of the report is being provided to update members following the cessation of services operated by G B Coaches Ltd under the North Western trading name.
- 1.2 G B Coaches Ltd are a coach company who have not previously operated any commercial services. They have previously operated registered local services, all of which being school services under contract to TfGM, the last of which ceased in September 2019.
- 1.3 Two services operated by G B Coaches were registered to commence from the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 service change date, with both services commencing after the bank holiday on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Both services were registered to nominally reinstate services which were withdrawn by Stagecoach from the same date, albeit with some changes to the routes.
- 1.4 Officers from both TfGM and Derbyshire County Council contacted the company prior to commencement to confirm that G B Coaches were satisfied that the services were viable in the current climate and was given reassurances that this was indeed the case.
- 1.5 Despite this, officers from both authorities maintained their concern that the new services were not viable and determined not to make any changes in the area until the new services were established, with proposals for changes to tendered services in Denton as a consequence of the commercial introduction set to take place from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- 1.6 Passenger use on the new services was significantly lower than the company's expectations and the operator advised TfGM officers on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 that they wished to cancel the services as soon as possible. TfGM officers proposed service cancellations at the next service change date of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to allow notification to take place.
- 1.7 Both services failed to operate on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and following contact from TfGM officers, the company confirmed that they had taken the decision to cease the services with immediate effect as the losses were unsustainable.
- 1.8 TfGM officers have reported the matter to the Traffic Commissioner for the North West of England, to invite him to consider action on the G B Coaches Ltd operator licence on which North Western buses were operating.
- 1.9 A former employee of G B Coaches has indicated via social media channels to the public and local elected members that they are trying to put together a 'rescue package'; this individual does not hold an operator licence and TfGM officers are not in contact with this person.
- 1.10 Details of changes as a direct consequence of the cessation of North Western services are presented in this addendum.

## **2. CHANGES TO COMMERCIAL SERVICES (ANNEX A)**

2.1 Annex A to this report lists changes to commercial services which, in the view of Transport for Greater Manchester, are not sufficiently significant to require the provision of subsidised service replacements. Brief details of the implications of the changes are provided.

## **3. CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK (ANNEX B)**

3.1 Annex B to this report lists changes to commercial services and provides brief details of the implications of these changes, which officers believe are of sufficient importance to require action by Transport for Greater Manchester. Details of the proposed actions are also provided.

## **4. CHANGES TO GENERAL SUBSIDISED SERVICES (ANNEX C)**

4.1 Annex C to this report lists proposals for changes to general subsidised services on which the views of Members are requested. Information is given about the reasons for proposing these changes.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

**Alison Chew**

**Interim Head of Bus Services**

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK**

**ANNEX A**

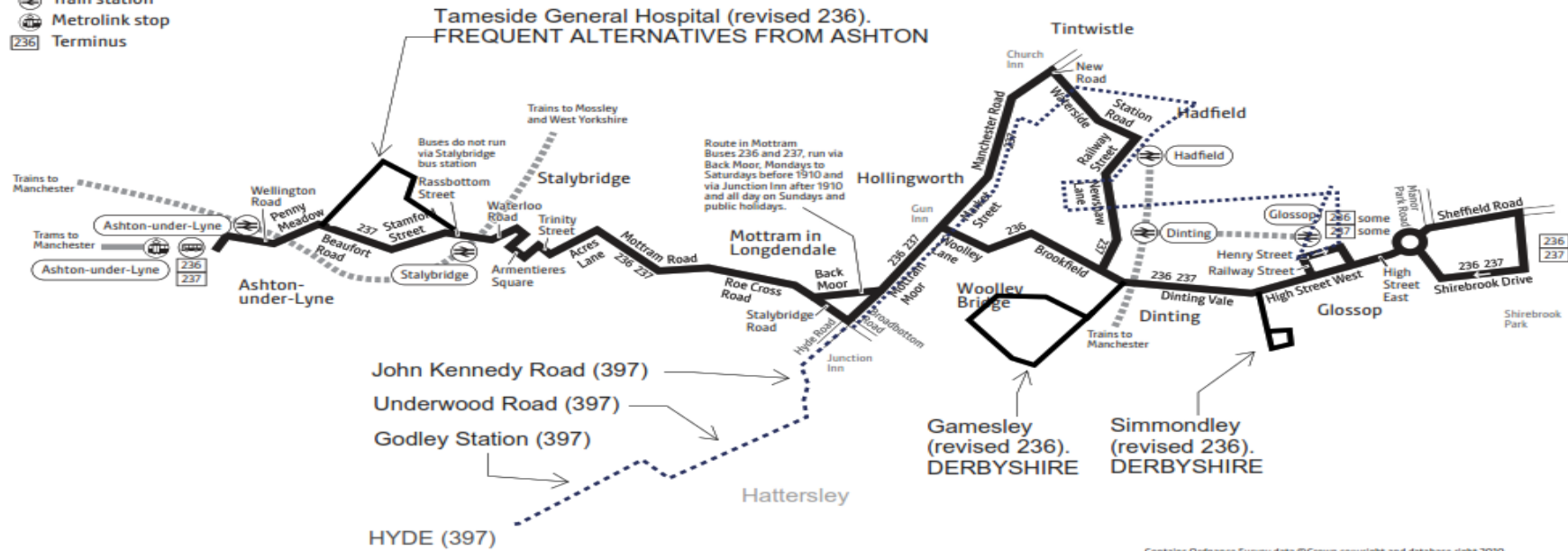
The Committee is requested to note the following changes to commercial services:

<b>Dist</b>	<b>Service No. and Route</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Effective From</b>	<b>Alternative Services</b>	<b>Integration impact (modes/ticketing)</b>	<b>Comments/TfGM officer recommendations</b>
<b>TE</b>	<b>236</b> Glossop – Hollingworth – Stalybridge – Ashton	North Western	Service ceased after 3 days of operation.	<b>4 September 2020</b>	Stagecoach 237 runs every 20 minutes between Hollingworth and Stalybridge/Ashton; Stagecoach 389 runs every 30 minutes between Stalybridge, Tameside General and Ashton.  In addition, Hulley’s new service X57 will serve all stops between Hollingworth and Glossop (see separate report for full details)	n/a – start up service that didn’t have any passenger base.	<b>No TfGM action required as a result of this cessation which reinstates the position as endorsed by GMTC on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020. However, officers are undertaking a wider review of provision in this area.</b>

North Western 236 (Ashton to Glossop)  
 Stagecoach 237 (Ashton to Glossop)  
 North Western 397 (Hyde to Glossop)

North Western services 236 and 397 would not have served TfGM bus stations

- Key**
- Bus route
  - Train line
  - Tram line
  - Direction of travel
  - ⊕ Bus station/connection point
  - ⊕ Train station
  - ⊕ Metrolink stop
  - 236 Terminus

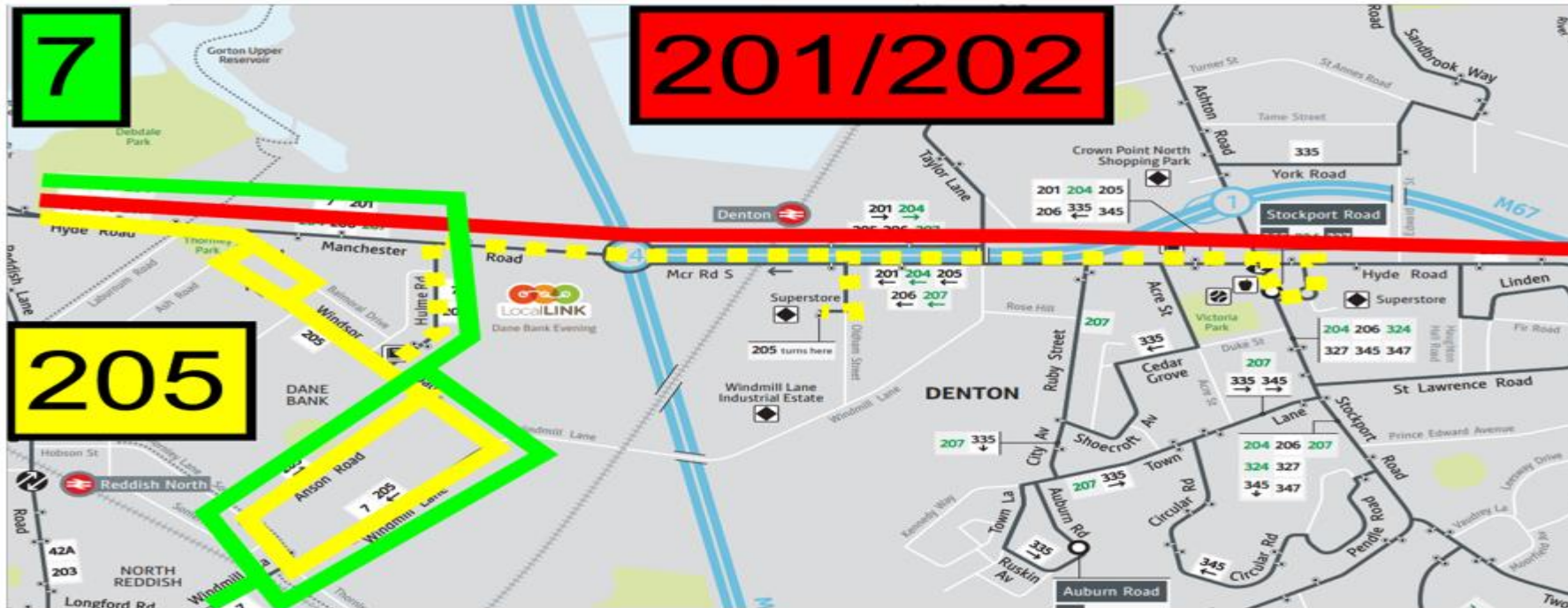


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<b>Dist</b>	<b>Service No. and Route</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Effective From</b>	<b>Alternative Services</b>	<b>Integration impact (modes/ticketing)</b>	<b>Comments/TfGM officer recommendations</b>
<b>TE</b>	<b>397</b> Glossop – Hadfield – Tintwistle – Hattersley – Hyde	North Western	Service will not be introduced.	<b>25 October 2020</b>	Service 201 provides a frequent link between Hyde, Godley and Hattersley. Service 237 provides a frequent link between Glossop, Tintwistle and Mottram.	n/a – start up service that didn't have any passenger base.	<b>No TfGM action required as this service never commenced and hasn't run since 2011. However, officers are undertaking a wider review of provision in this area.</b>
<b>TE</b>	<b>305</b> Denton (Morrisons) – Auburn Road/Dane Bank	North Western	Service ceased after 3 days of operation.	<b>4 September 2020</b>	Dane Bank to Denton direct link re-severed. Journeys can be made by interchange at Gorton or Reddish Bridge between medium/high frequency services (every 20 minutes or better). Direct access maintained to district facilities at Gorton (7/205), Openshaw (7) and Reddish (7) and direct access to town centres at Ashton (7), Manchester (205) and Stockport (7).	n/a – start up service that didn't have any passenger base.	<b>No TfGM action required as a result of this cessation which reinstates the position as endorsed by GMTC on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</b>

## Connections from Dane Bank to Denton (September 2020):

- Service 7 or 205 to A57 Manchester Road/Hyde Road (4 buses per hour Mon-Sat Daytime)
- Service 201 or 202 to Denton (8 buses per hour Mon-Sat Daytime)



Former 205 route shown as yellow dotted line.



**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK**

**ANNEX B**

The Committee is requested to note that no further action is proposed in direct response to changes to commercial services.

**CHANGES TO THE SUBSIDISED NETWORK**

**ANNEX C**

The Committee is invited to consider officers' proposals on the following services:

<b>Dist</b>	<b>Service, route and operator</b>	<b>TfGM officer comments and recommendations</b>
<b>TE</b>	<b>335</b> Ashton – Denton <i>Operated by Stotts</i>	Changes originally proposed to service 335 based on the commencement of service 305 will not now take place. <b>Members are asked to approve the retention of the existing service pattern, following the cessation of service 305.</b>
<b>TE</b>	<b>345</b> Ashton – Denton <i>Operated by Stagecoach</i>	Changes originally proposed to service 345 based on the commencement of service 305 will not now take place. <b>Members are asked to approve the retention of the existing service pattern, following the cessation of service 305.</b>