

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To respond to the impact of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic on the bus network TfGM has undertaken to review supported services across Greater Manchester with a view to rationalising these in response to commercial network changes and to reflect the pronounced and continuing reductions in patronage.
- 1.2 This piece of work is being undertaken in the context of large and continuing drops in passenger numbers of as much of 90% in some cases alongside shortages of operating staff.
- 1.3 While each service is subject to local variations in demand, characteristics, and the nature of the areas served, the following overarching principles have been adopted to ensure access to hospitals and food retailers (usually in the district centres) is maintained in particular, as well as a more general level of coverage for other essential travel:
- Where a hospital or other healthcare facility is served, maintain a minimum two hourly frequency (although frequencies may vary depending on operational circumstances), with first and last journey times remaining unchanged;
 - Where a daytime service provides links to food retail, consider reduced operating period or lower frequency; and
 - As a reasonable level of patronage data becomes available, reducing or removing services which have not demonstrated demand.
- 1.4 This report contains details of work undertaken and it is emphasised that this will be an iterative process. It is anticipated that further adjustments and revisions will be needed over the coming days, weeks and months in response to changing circumstances. Each individual measure will be kept under continual review due to the dynamic situation and in response to commercial service changes which are likely to be occurring on a regular basis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

Alison Chew

Interim Head of Bus Services

EMERGENCY CHANGES TO THE SUBSIDISED NETWORK

ANNEX A

The Chief Executive is requested to note the following changes to subsidised services, in response to the changing demands on the network during the Covid-19 pandemic:

| Service No. | Operator | Days of Operation | Journey Description | Current frequency | District | Action | Effective Date |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|---|----------------|
| 9 | Stagecoach | Daily evenings | Higher Folds - Leigh - Platt Bridge - Wigan | Hourly | WN | Reduced to two hourly, last bus times unchanged | 19/04/20 |
| 584 | Stagecoach | Daily evenings | Crankwood - Plank Lane - Leigh | Hourly | WN | Reduced to two hourly, last bus times unchanged | 19/04/20 |
| 576 | Diamond | Daily Evening | Wigan - Horwich - Bolton | Hourly | BN/WN | Re-route Monday to Saturday to cover Old Lords Estate, Horwich following the commercial withdrawal of the Mon-Sat evening 575, no lost coverage to service 576 as a result. | 14/04/20 |
| 307 | MCT | Monday to Saturday | Stockport - Cheadle Hulme - Bramhall - Hazel Grove Circular | Hourly | ST | MCT withdrawing from market - low patronage can currently be accommodated on an extended Wythenshawe Local Link as an interim arrangement | 20/04/20 |
| 308 | MCT | Monday to Saturday | Stockport - Hazel Grove - Bramhall - Cheadle Hulme Circular | Hourly | ST | MCT withdrawing from market - low patronage can currently be accommodated on an extended Wythenshawe Local Link as an interim arrangement | 20/04/20 |
| 373 | MCT | Monday to Saturday | Stockport - Hazel Grove Circular | Hourly | ST | MCT withdrawing from market - low patronage can currently be accommodated on an extended Wythenshawe Local Link as an interim arrangement | 20/04/20 |
| 1 | Go North West | Daily | Piccadilly - Chinatown - Spinningfields circular | 10 mins | MR | Suspend - passengers can use service 2 which serves all key locations, including the Nightingale hospital. | 26/04/20 |
| 98 | Go North West | Sunday/Bank Holiday evenings | Bury - Radcliffe - Whitefield - Manchester | Hourly | MR/SD/BY | Reduced to two hourly, last bus times unchanged | 3/5/2020 |