



**Transport for
Greater Manchester**

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Stockport Town Hall
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Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Motion – Restoring a resilient Airport express service in Stockport

Dear Mr Eaton,

Thank you for your letter regarding Stockport Council's recent motion, 'Restoring a resilient Airport express service in Stockport'.

As the organisation responsible for development and delivery of the Bee Network, the city region's integrated transport system, Transport for Greater Manchester works closely with Manchester Airport to support connectivity for workers and travellers alike. Bus services play a vital role in enabling these journeys and, through the delivery of the Bee Network, we are working to improve passengers' experience of the public transport system.

At present, Stockport Interchange is served by three bus routes which provide connectivity to Manchester Airport: the 199, 313 and (at some times of day) the 368. The 199 is operated by High Peak Buses between Buxton and Manchester Airport, providing an express service between Stockport and the Airport.

The 199 provides important connectivity for people in Derbyshire and Cheshire, as well as residents of Stockport who need access to Manchester Airport or the Peak District. Unfortunately, as the Council's motion describes, due to high levels of traffic congestion at points along its route, the 199 can suffer from delays and poor reliability. TfGM works closely with operators to mitigate these issues wherever possible and would be pleased to work with Stockport Council to consider what measures could be used to support improved reliability and punctuality on this route.

TfGM will also discuss the capacity issues raised with the operator and ask them to consider possible solutions e.g. larger vehicles.



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Bus services in Stockport are due to become part of the Bee Network – i.e. under local, franchised control – from January 2025. As a service that originates outside of Greater Manchester and is not part of the published franchising scheme, service 199 will not form part of the franchised Bee Network. However, such services can continue to operate within Greater Manchester with a 'Service Permit', with conditions which would be expected to include the retail and acceptance of Bee Network ticketing products and other quality criteria.

Franchising will however provide the opportunity to review the local bus network through a process of area network reviews. Stockport's network review, likely to commence in 2026, will allow us to consider fully opportunities to reshape local bus routes to enhance connectivity to Manchester Airport and other key destinations. TfGM will undertake this exercise in partnership with Stockport Council and in close collaboration with other local stakeholders.

In the longer term, it may also be appropriate to consider other options that would enhance connectivity between Stockport town centre and Manchester Airport. Greater Manchester's Five Year Transport Delivery Plan 2021-2026 committed to developing options for tram-train between Manchester Airport and Stockport, in alignment with aspirations to bring Metrolink services to Stockport.

I hope the Council finds this response helpful and that it underlines TfGM's commitment to improved connectivity across the conurbation.

Yours sincerely,



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