

**ANDY BURNHAM**

**MAYOR OF  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER**

Carolyn Wilkins  
[Carolyn.wilkins@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Carolyn.wilkins@oldham.gov.uk)

19 December 2019

Our ref: 111947MB

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Bus Regulation in Greater Manchester following the motion discussed at Full Council meeting at Oldham on 6<sup>th</sup> November. I acknowledge Oldham Council's support in favour of bus regulation in Greater Manchester.

The situation you describe is exactly why I am committed to improving our bus network – buses are vital to Greater Manchester's economy and society and need to be a part of an effective, joined up transport network that supports economic growth by improving access to retail, health services, employment, education, and leisure. On top of this, if people have viable alternatives to car travel, we can tackle the congestion on our roads and in turn improve our air quality.

You may be aware that I campaigned with Greater Manchester MPs and Leaders for the Bus Services Act 2017 and I am pleased that Greater Manchester is now leading the way nationally in using the Act's powers to consider how best we can improve our bus services.

On behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), TfGM prepared an assessment which described the options available to Greater Manchester to reform the local bus market. In particular, the assessment described the effects that a proposed franchising scheme could produce and compared franchising against our objectives to improve both our bus services and our wider transport network. The assessment also considered other options for reform such as partnerships. However, the assessment identified franchising as the best option for Greater Manchester.

The assessment has since been reviewed by an independent auditor and a public consultation is now being undertaken to allow the travelling public of Greater Manchester to have their say on the proposed franchising scheme. The consultation closes on 8 January 2020 and following this, responses to the consultation will be independently analysed and used to inform a report that the GMCA will publish. I will then take the report and consultation responses into account when making any decision on whether to introduce the proposed franchising scheme.

You can find out more about the proposals and how to take part in the ongoing consultation at the following link: <https://www.gmconsult.org/>

Best wishes,

  
Andy Burnham  
Mayor of Greater Manchester

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