

## Motion 10 - DELIVERING A NEW DEAL FOR TRANSPORT

**Proposed by** Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
**Seconded by** Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council

- a) welcomes the action of Members who raised the issue of changes and reductions to Wirral bus services at the Transport Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 18 July 2019
- b) remains frustrated that changes introduced in September 2019, with the removal of good connections and direct links, affect access to Arrowe Park Hospital and other communities
- c) recalls that a Motion put forward by Cllr Stuart Kelly and seconded by Cllr Allan Brame in December 2018 called on Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram to exercise powers devolved under the Bus Services Act 2017 and move towards a fully franchised bus network for LCR and Wirral (minute 90 refers)  
<http://s03vs-intrcm.core.wcent.wirral.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=46436>

Council notes that the Transport Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority considered the Transport Plan on 13 June 2019...

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/documents/s37842/09b%20-%20CA%20Transport%20Plan%20-%20Appendix%20Two.pdf>

and that there is, within it, 'Priority Action 3.2' that is ...

*" To consider the opportunities set out within the 2015 LCR Devolution Deal and Bus Services Act 2017 relating to new forms of ownership and control of local bus services. An Outline Business Case will be developed by spring 2020"*

Whilst Council understands that Merseytravel is currently evaluating two potential alternative models, enhanced partnerships and franchising, it has concerns over the length of time to achieve this whilst the Wirral's residents suffer from gaps in services and services that do not meet local needs.

Council observes that in June 2019, the Mayor of Greater Manchester set out to progress the franchising model...

<https://ilovemanchester.com/andy-burnham-announces-our-network-plan-integrated-modern-accessible-public-transport-system/>

though this has brought the predictable reaction from Stagecoach...

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/bus-firms-legal-action-manchester-16481755>

In view of the likely progress in Manchester, this Council considers it essential that Merseyside collects information from other areas, learns from their experience and speeds up the process of securing bus services that meet local needs, provide services that are reliable and efficient and, in this process, cuts carbon emissions to deal with the climate emergency.

Accordingly this Council requests that our Metro Mayor ensure that Merseytravel's evaluation is brought forward, concluded speedily and effected as soon as practicable.