



MOBILITY BUS SERVICES – PROPOSED CHANGES

London Buses currently operate 4 mobility bus networks:

- NorthEast London, operated by Hackney Community Transport
- Havering, operated by First Essex
- West London, operated by Thorpes
- SouthEast London, operated by Tellings Golden Miller

The various routes that constitute the above networks are operated for the following reasons: to cover small holes in the main bus network, to provide direct links which are not covered on the main network, or to offer a wheelchair accessible service in areas where fully accessible vehicles are yet to be introduced on the main network.

Over the past 2 years London Buses has been reviewing the mobility bus network in order to ensure that resources match demand which has necessitated withdrawing services that carry few, if any passengers, especially when fully accessible buses have been introduced on the main network.

In many of the cases that follow, where once fully accessible buses were not in operation, they are now provided on the main network. A number of the proposals outlined below also incorporate route changes following the result of detailed route reviews using loading data collected by drivers on a daily basis with due consideration given to the alternative services available. As a consequence we anticipate very few passengers who currently use the individual services will not have a direct alternative.

NorthEast and Havering Network

Route 902 (Enfield – Southgate – North Finchley) – Fridays (including Good Friday)

This route currently operated by Hackney Community Transport would be withdrawn however would in part be replaced by new route 907 (see below).

Route 903 (Clapton Park - Leyton Asda) Mondays

This is a new route that would be operated by First running on Mondays between Clapton Park and Leyton (Asda) and would partly replace routes 920 and 923 using fully accessible single deck vehicles. The proposed routeing is: Clapton Park via route 923 to Mare Street, route 920 to Stratford, route 158 to High Road Leyton, then Alexandra Road, York Road, Ruckholt Road to Leyton (Asda).

Route 905 (Chingford – Walthamstow – Chingford [Circular]) *Mondays and Friday (including Good Friday)*

The operation of this route would be transferred from Hackney Community Transport to First using fully accessible single deck vehicles. It is proposed that the route be withdrawn on Mondays and Fridays and introduced on Thursdays (market day in Walthamstow) and that a new timetable incorporating minor timing changes be introduced.

Route 907 (Edmonton (Cambridge) – Southgate (Asda)) *Saturdays*

This is a new route that would be operated by First running Saturdays between Edmonton (Cambridge) and Southgate (Asda) partly replacing routes 902 and 922 using fully accessible single deck vehicles. The proposed routing is: Edmonton (Cambridge) via route 922 to Sydney Road, The Town, London Road, Cecil Road, then route 922 to Southgate (Asda).

Route 909 (Canning Town – Beckton – Stratford) *Wednesdays*

The operation of this route would be transferred from Hackney Community Transport to First using fully accessible single deck vehicles. No changes to the timetable or days of operation are proposed.

Route 920 (South Hackney – Ilford – Romford) *Wednesdays*

This route currently operated by Hackney Community Transport would be withdrawn however would in part be replaced by new route 903.

Route 922 (Wood Green – Edmonton – Enfield) *Thursdays*

This route currently operated by Hackney Community Transport would be withdrawn however would in part be replaced by new route 907.

Route 923 (Clapton Park – Stepney – Isle of Dogs) *Mondays*

This route currently operated by Hackney Community Transport would be withdrawn however would in part be replaced by new route 903.

Route 952 (Lakeside – Cranham – Romford) *Mondays to Saturdays (including Good Friday)*

This service would be rerouted between Main Road (Romford) and Gallows Corner direct via Main Road instead of Balgores Lane, Station Road and Upper Brentwood Road. A new timetable incorporating minor timing changes would be introduced.

Route 953 (Thames View Estate – Becontree – Romford) *Tuesdays*

The operation of this route would be transferred from Hackney Community Transport to First using fully accessible single deck vehicles. It is proposed to reroute the service (subject to route survey) between Alfreds Way and Dagenham Road via Ripple Road, Scrattons Farm Estate, Ripple Road, Merrilands Crescent, Dagenham Asda, Chequers Lane, Heathway, Church Elm Lane, Charlotte Road, Exeter Road, Church Street, Aldborough Road, Manor Road, Goring Road, Norton Road, Auriel Avenue, Western Avenue and Rainham Road South.

It is further proposed to withdraw this route on Tuesdays and instead run it on Fridays with alterations to the timetable. This rerouting will partially replace routes TG1 and TG2 currently operated by Havering Community Transport, which will be withdrawn during February and March 2004.

Route 955 (Romford – Hainault – Newbury Park) *Mondays to Saturdays (including Good Friday)*

This route would have a new timetable that reduces the number of journeys from five return journeys to two return journeys. This will still cater for the vast majority of passengers who currently use the service.

Route 958 (Woodford – Wanstead – Ilford) *Tuesdays*

The operation of this route would be transferred from Hackney Community Transport to First using fully accessible single deck vehicles. There would be no change to the timetable or the day of operation.

Route 974 (Pimlico – Paddington – Ladbroke Grove) *Thursdays*

This route currently operated by Hackney Community Transport would be withdrawn.

SouthEast Network

Route 912 (Pollards Hill – Croydon – Purley Way) *Mondays*

This route currently operated by Tellings Golden Miller would be withdrawn but would in part be replaced by an extension of route 917.

Route 917 (Shirley Park – Croydon – Purley Way) *Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (including Good Friday)*

This route would be extended from Purley Way (Sainsbury's) to Pollards Hill (South Lodge Avenue/Wide Way) via Purley Way and Thornton Road to Thornton Heath Pond, then existing route 912 to Pollards Hill. It is proposed that the route be withdrawn on Wednesdays and Fridays but retained on Mondays and that a new timetable be introduced.

Route 919 (Colliers Wood – Tooting – Wandsworth) *Tuesdays & Thursdays*

This route would be withdrawn between Colliers Wood Station and Tooting Bec Station, and withdrawn entirely on Thursdays. On Tuesdays a return journey will operate between Tooting Bec and Wandsworth to a new timetable.

Route 931 (Crystal Palace – Catford – Lewisham) *Fridays (including Good Friday)*

This route would be withdrawn between Kingswood Drive and Crystal Palace and altered to run non-stop between Fountain Drive and Lewisham via Westwood Hill, Kirkdale, Dartmouth Road, Stanstead Road, Brockley Rise, Brockley Grove and Ladywell Road. A new timetable would be introduced. This reflects the current usage of the route.

Route 934 (Crystal Palace – Sydenham – Bromley) *Wednesdays*

This route would be withdrawn between Kingswood Drive and Crystal Palace. The following reroutes are proposed; via Westwood Hill instead of Crystal Palace Park Road and Lawrie Park Road; direct along Southend Lane instead of serving Randlesdown Road and Swallands Road; between Bromley Road and Valeswood Road via Downham Way instead of Farmlands Road. The day of operation would be transferred from Wednesday to Friday and a new timetable introduced.

Route 938 (Abbey Wood – Erith – Bexleyheath) *Thursdays*

The following reroutes are proposed; a direct run between Erith and Perry Street, no longer serving Slade Green; Federation Road in Abbey Wood area to be served (exact routing to be determined following route test). A new timetable would be introduced.

Route 940 (Bromley – Petts Wood – Orpington) *Wednesdays*

This route currently operated by Tellings Golden Miller would be withdrawn. Hereafter it would in part be replaced by the proposed new route R7, currently being consulted on, for a proposed introduction of 7 December 2003. Route R7 runs as follows: Orpington, Gravel Pit Way (for the Walnuts Centre) via Spur Road and Station Road, Orpington Station, Crofton Road, Allington Road, Andover Road, Tandridge Drive, Crofton Lane, Saint John's Road, Tudor Way, Queensway, Franks Wood Avenue, Southborough Lane, Blackbrook Lane, Oldfield Road and Southborough Road to Bickley Station.

Route 942 (Lewisham – Grove Park – Bromley) *Mondays & Fridays (including Good Friday)*

This route would be withdrawn between Lewisham and Lee Green, and rerouted from Marvels Lane direct to Chinbrook Road, to no longer serve Grove Park Road, Framlingham Crescent, Kimmeridge Road and Charminster Road. It is proposed to withdraw the service on Mondays and Fridays, but introduce the route on Wednesdays.

Route 944 (Falconwood – Wickham Street – Bexleyheath) *Mondays*

This route currently operated by Tellings Golden Miller would be withdrawn but would in part be replaced by the proposed extension of route B15, currently being consulted on, for a proposed introduction of 24 January 2004 (B15 extended from Welling Town Centre to Eltham Station via Bellegrove Road, Welling Way, Rochester Way, Riefield Road, Bexley Road, Eltham High Street and Well Hall Road).

Route 949 (Barnes – Wandsworth – Nine Elms) *Tuesdays*

This route currently operated by Tellings Golden Miller would be withdrawn however Route 969 provides an alternative facility for Arabella Drive in Barnes.

Route 950 (West Side Common – The Downs – Wimbledon Station) *Tuesdays*

A new timetable incorporating minor timing changes is proposed.

Route 962 (Cuddington – Belmont – Sutton) *Tuesdays & Thursdays*

This route would be withdrawn on Thursdays but the Tuesday service would be retained.

West Network

Route 964 (Kew Gardens Station – North Road – North Sheen) *Mondays*

This route currently operated by Thorpes would be withdrawn.

Route 969 (Whitton – Barnes – Roehampton Vale) *Fridays (including Good Fridays)*

The Friday service would be retained while a Monday service would be added.

Subject to the outcome of consultation initiated by this document it is proposed to introduce these changes from 21 February 2004*. Comments about these proposals should be returned by **Friday 16 January 2003**.

Consultation No. 03024

5 December 2003

* *Except for Route 944 planned to change 24 January 2004.*

Environment & Culture

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8th December 2003

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Dear Stephen

CONSULTATION No. 03024 - MOBILITY BUS SERVICES

Thank you for your letter of 5th December. I have to admit to being somewhat surprised by this proposal as when we spoke a few weeks ago I was assured that there was no truth in the rumor that further service reductions were in hand.

As you are aware a major restructuring took place last year, about which the Council had serious reservations. We stated then that the action was likely to lead to the demise of Mobility Buses, which was clearly not understated.

To withdraw both the 920 and 923 removes the compromise that was agreed with the Council at that time and could be considered a breach of faith. In a letter from Beverley Hall (7 November 2002) to the Chair of the Council's Accessible Transport Forum, London Buses stated that "Routes 920 and 923 are reasonably well used and there are no current plans to discontinue these services" This is contradicted by the current proposals.

It is unclear what area the replacement 903 service will cover, and it would be helpful to have a detailed route map from you as soon as possible. It would appear that the link to the Isle of Dogs and Asda will be lost but I am assuming that Stepney and Shadwell links will be retained?

The next meeting of the Council's Accessible Transport Consultative Forum is at 10.30am on Thursday 15th January 2004 at Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road. Could you attend this meeting as I am sure this will be considered to be an important issue? This is the day before your deadline for comments. I note that London Buses are planning to implement the changes 8 days later, and given lead in times, leads me to believe that this is more of a notification rather than genuine consultation.

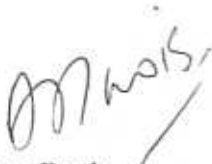
Cont/d.,

*Acting Corporate Director
Environment & Culture*
Ray Gerlach

Please take this letter as a formal objection to the proposal and I would like to express disappointment that these changes have been developed without any prior consultation with the borough, not least because this puts London Buses in direct conflict with assurances made to the Council at the time of the last change. Whatever happened to the "Stage 1" consultation?

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Davis', with a diagonal line underneath.

Tony Davis
Public Transport Officer