

LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT:

12.3 MOTION REGARDING D3 AND D7 BUS ROUTES

Proposer: Cllr Amy Lee

Secunder: Cllr Mufeedah Bustin

Added text is underlined.

Deleted text is scored out.

This Council notes:

- with great concern, the short-sighted approach by the Conservative Government in its refusal to provide a fair funding deal to Transport for London causing a devastating impact to local bus services, in particular the proposed cut to the D3 and D7 bus services.
- that buses help improve Community Health by encouraging walking to bus stops.
- the likely impact on Air Pollution. Research suggests that leaving a car at home can reduce carbon dioxide emissions significantly and buses connect parts of the borough in practical ways.
- that a good bus network helps to reduce road congestion, provides equitable transportation & improves Community Mobility.

This Council further notes that:

- bus routes are often used by our borough's poorest residents, who cannot afford the luxury of a car or regular use of the train system - buses are significantly cheaper to use.
- the removal of these routes will financially punish the poorest and most economically vulnerable communities at the height of a cost of living crisis, following the havoc caused by the Pandemic.
- the Deputy Mayor wrote to the Mayor of London on the 2nd of June 2022 raising the point that the D7 is critical for connectivity in the local economy.
- Cllr Sirajul Islam, the Leader of the Tower Hamlets Labour Group and Unmesh Desai AM, Labour London Assembly Member for the City and East wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport on 8th June 2022 to express their concerns about the proposed cuts to bus routes across Tower Hamlets and to request the Government work with the Mayor of London to protect public transport in London.
- children rely on the service to get to and from school
- elderly residents use it to make essential trips to the shops - trips that would otherwise go unmade
- vulnerable residents see the D7 route literally as a matter of life and death as they rely on the service to take them to GP and other appointments . The D3 is similarly essential to residents.
- the loss of the bus routes means removing a vital transport lifeline and represents an unacceptable attack on the poor and vulnerable at a time when they need support.

This Council believes that:

- residents will suffer a loss of quality of life if the proposal is implemented.
- the thinking behind the proposals fails to put people before profit.
- the economic benefit of Public Transport has not been taken into account, especially the research that indicates for every £1 invested, there is a £4 return.

- Public Transport improves Commuter Productivity by enabling use of travel time to catch up on social correspondence, read, relax, or even sleep - enabling workers to arrive in a positive state of mind.

This Council further believes that:

- the Green Agenda will be impacted negatively, especially those aspects built on the use public transport and the reduction of air pollution.

This Council resolves that:

a. ~~a letter supporting the Deputy Mayor's letter of 2nd June 2022 should be sent to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, The Mayor write a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport in order to amplify the request that the decision to axe the bus routes should be reconsidered and to support the Labour Group's push for the Government to provide a fair funding deal to Transport for London to ensure local bus services are protected.~~

b. ~~the Mayor and his administration issues a sincere apology to residents that the Council did not send a formal response to the Transport for London's Consultation before its deadline of 7th August 2022, a response should be sent to Transport for London's Consultation,~~ highlighting the reasons why the proposal to remove the D3 and D7 services should be dropped.

c. ~~a letter should be sent to our GLA Representative, seeking support for retaining the bus service.~~ Further to the letter sent to the Secretary of State for Transport from Tower Hamlets Labour Group which was co-signed by our GLA representative, Unmesh Desai AM, that the Assembly Member be kept updated with the Council's actions going forward to ensure he can support Tower Hamlets residents against these local bus cuts in any way he can.

d. the Community should be encouraged to support the Council's efforts to save the bus services.