

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

23rd June 2020

Dear Mayor Khan,

RE: Go Sutton Bus

We are writing to ask that you urgently review the decision to stop the Go Sutton Bus trial.

Can we firstly express our disappointment that not one of us were contacted in advance to give advance notice of this decision? Neither the MPs, Councillors or London Assembly Member were given any notice and only found out today via a press release in the Sutton Guardian.

All of us have spoken with Transport for London (TfL) and City Hall about this service over the past few months, whether that be letters to the Commissioner, questions in City Hall, conversations over the phone or site visits within the Borough. We have emphasised that in a Borough as poorly connected as Sutton, new transport options such as the Go Sutton Bus were vital to improve public transport.

When the trial was paused due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we made the plea that it would return when it was safe to do so. Elliot Colburn MP wrote to the Commissioner to that effect on 26th March. Since then, we have heard nothing about the future of the service until today.

The London Borough of Sutton is one of the worst, if not the worst, connected Boroughs in London. We have no access to the London Underground, London Overground, DLR or Crossrail services. The London Tramlink scrapes the north east corner of the Borough, but is inaccessible to many without having to make a journey and then change. We also have no date for the planned extension. In addition, Crossrail 2 only plans to touch on the north west corner of the Borough, and there is no information on where the plans for Crossrail 2 are now.

In short, we are only served by a limited number of National Rail and Bus services, giving the Borough an overall PTAL rating of just 2, with many parts ranking even lower than that.

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought challenges, and of course we understand that a severe and sustained drop in passenger numbers would present problems for TfL. However, this scheme has

been a lifeline for many residents in the Borough, helping to address issues of poor accessibility, but also loneliness and isolation. The news has been met with devastation by many.

Therefore, we would urge you to reconsider this decision, allow the trial to continue, and help make this Borough that little bit less poorly connected.

Regards,

Paul Scully MP

Conservative MP for
Sutton and Cheam

Elliot Colburn MP

Conservative MP for
Carshalton and Wallington

Steve O'Connell AM

London Assembly Member for
Croydon and Sutton

Councillor Tim Crowley

Leader of the Conservative
Group on Sutton Council

Councillor Neil Garratt

Belmont Councillor and London Assembly
Candidate for Croydon and Sutton

P.S. Please reply C/O Elliot Colburn MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

CC:

Mike Brown MVO, Commissioner, Transport for London
Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport