



Delivering Better Buses for Greater Manchester

Manchester Airport Transport Forum, 25 November 2025

Nick Fairclough, Interim Deputy Director of Bus, Transport for Greater Manchester



BEE NETWORK



Transport for
Greater Manchester

We're building the Bee Network

- A fully-integrated transport network for the people of Greater Manchester.
- Bringing together bus, tram, active travel and by 2030, local rail services into one system with integrated ticketing, information and a high-quality user experience.

The Bee Network will...

- **Drive economic and productivity growth;** enabling housing and job creation
- **Connect people** to new opportunities, essential services and each other. Manchester Airport is a key destination for our customers.



Greater Manchester Bus Franchising

T2 – 24 March 2024

- Tranche 1 – 20% of the network – 24th Sept 2023
- Tranche 2 – 30% of the network – 24th March 2024
- Tranche 3 – 50% of the network – 5th January 2025

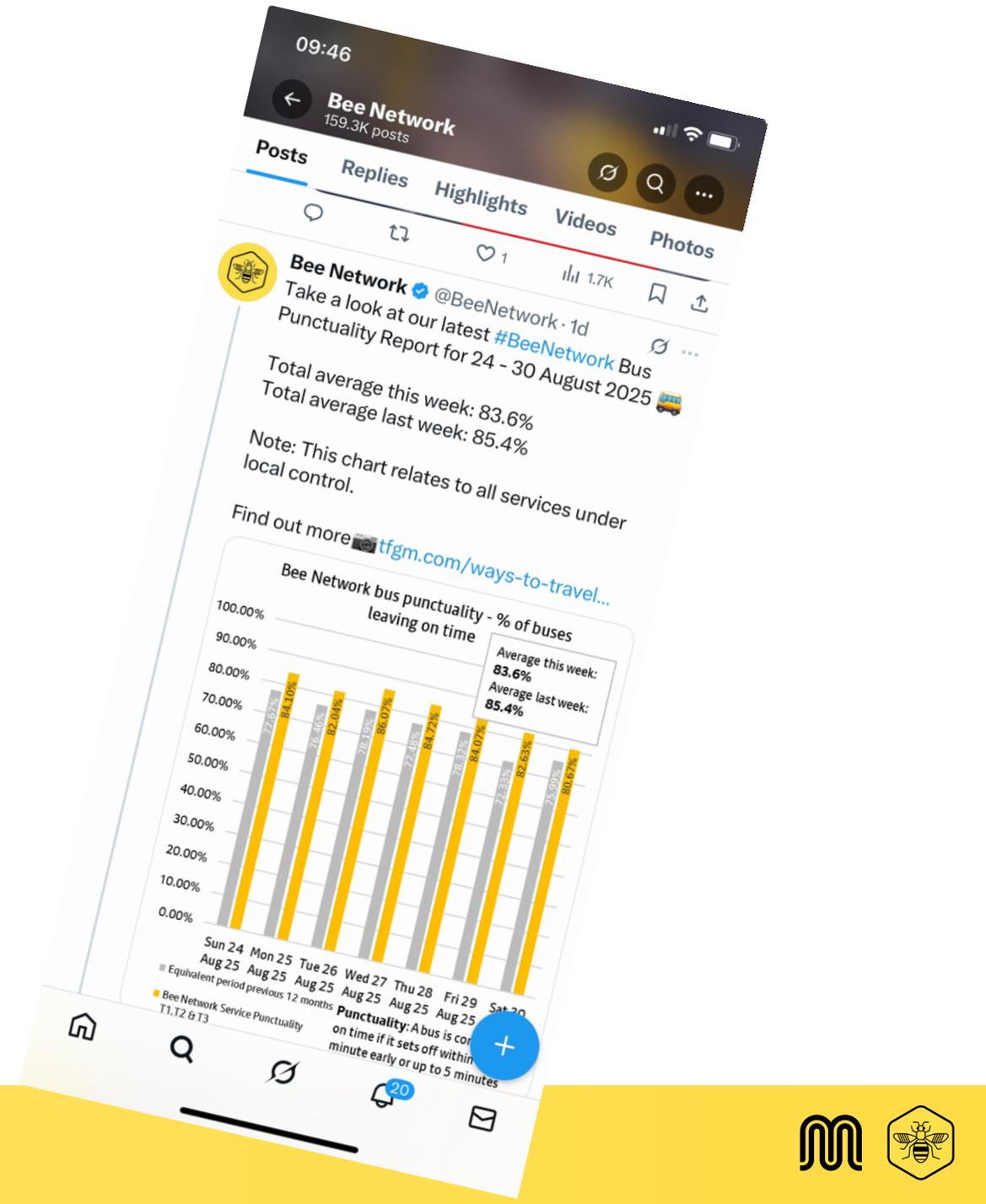
T1 – 24 Sept 2023



T3 – 5 January 2025

Outcomes to date: Better Punctuality and Network Performance

- **Buses are more reliable;** regularly exceeding our target of 80% on time punctuality compared to approximately 66% pre-franchising.
- **Performance is transparent;** Weekly Performance reports published on the Bee Network website and a weekly X post.



Outcomes to date: Increasing Bus Usage

↑ **12%**

Increase in journeys
year on year

Buses that joined the
Bee Network in
September 2023

↑ **14%**

Increase in journeys
year on year

Buses that joined the
Bee Network in
March 2024



Target:
30%

increase in bus
patronage by 2030

Outcomes to date: Growing the Netwo

Improved routes

Changes have already been made to around **75 routes** to provide earlier, later, more frequent and better connected services.

Better connected communities

Approximately **84%** of residents are now within a five-minute walk of a half hourly service (Daytime, weekday bus or tram services, up from 78% in November 2022).

24/7

Pilot of **24/7 bus services** launched, reinstating night time connectivity to the north-west of Greater Manchester for the first time in over a decade.



Outcomes to date: Improved Fleet and Sustainability

75%

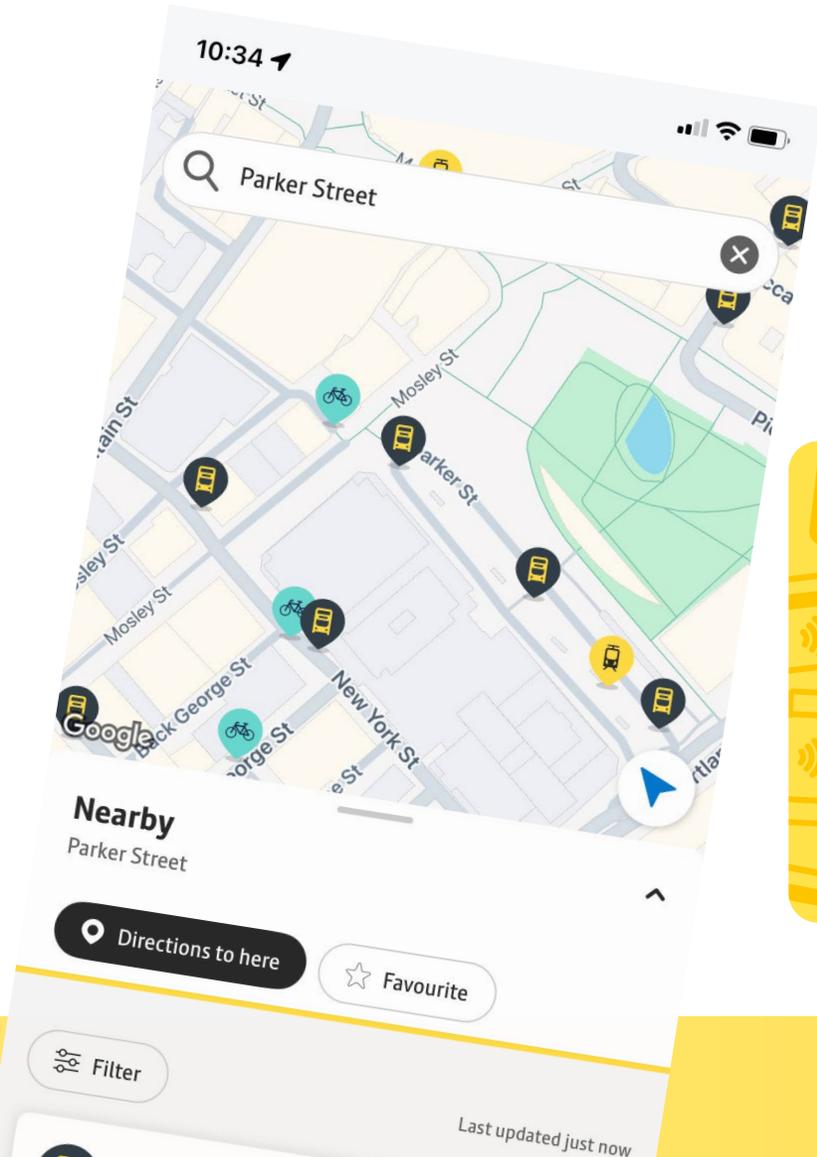
75% of the Bee Network bus fleet is less than four years old (compared to an average fleet age of 9.5 years in 2019).



17%

17% of the fleet is **zero emission**, compared to below 2% pre-franchising.

Outcomes to date: Improved Customer Experience



More affordable fares

Single fares have been **£2**, and day tickets **£5** since September 2022. Annual bus tickets for **£800** are available with a credit union loan at no extra cost. Weekly and monthly tickets are available for **£20** and **£80** respectively.

Tap and go

Tickets are more convenient – customers can now **pay with just a tap** across both bus and tram services.

113

113 new TravelSafe Support & Enforcement Officers introduced, collectively providing a presence on board **60,000** buses.

The Greater Manchester Bus Strategy

- 30% increase in bus patronage
- Buses every 12 minutes on key routes
- 90% of Greater Manchester's population with a 30-minute frequency weekday bus or Metrolink service within 400m of home
- 70km of on-street bus improvements
- Keep fares as low as possible
- 100% electric bus fleet



Greater Manchester Bus Strategy

Better buses for the Bee Network



THANK
YOU

