



# **The Bee Network ... and bus services the Greater Manchester way**

**Stephen Rhodes, Director of Bus, TfGM**  
**31st October 2023**



# Greater Manchester's Bee Network

## We're building the Bee Network...

- A fully-integrated transport network for the people and businesses of Greater Manchester.
- Bringing together bus, tram, active travel and ultimately rail into one system .
- Fares, integrated ticketing, information and high quality services.

## The Bee Network will...

- Deliver more jobs, businesses, homes and inclusion.
- Change mode share from 60/40 to 50/50 private vehicle/sustainable mode.
- Accommodate rapid population growth in a sustainable way.



BEE NETWORK



# Bee Network Customer Commitments

- Our customer commitments are our promise to users of the Bee Network.
- They set out what customers can expect from the Bee Network and how to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.



## Safe

We will create a safe and secure network



## Accessible

Everyone can use us



## Reliable

We will deliver a reliable network



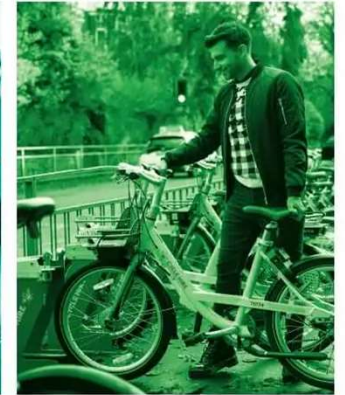
## Affordable

We will keep the cost of travel as low as possible



## Accountable

We will use your feedback to shape the Bee Network



## Sustainable

We will take the lead in creating a greener, healthier Greater Manchester

# Greater Manchester Bus Strategy

**Our strategy sets out our vision for better buses in Greater Manchester, including:**

- Ambitions for the bus network beyond franchising.
- How the network will be designed and governed.
- How it will develop to 2030.
- The need for appropriate support and funding from government and others.
- It is not a funded delivery plan. Full delivery is likely to require additional funding.

**As part of the Bee Network, we want the bus to be the first choice for more journeys in Greater Manchester.**



# Initial targets to 2030

## Patronage

- A **30% increase in bus patronage** from 2022/23 levels, with Bee Network targets to be confirmed through LTP process.

## Frequency

- By 2030, we will aim for **buses to run at least every 12 minutes on key orbital and radial routes**.
- We will aim to provide **90% of the entire Greater Manchester population with a 30-minute frequency bus or Metrolink service** on weekdays within 400m of their home. Other options (e.g. DRT) will be put in place in parts of the city region where this is not possible.

## Infrastructure

- We intend to **deliver on-street bus improvements across 70km of high frequency, strategic bus routes** across Greater Manchester by 2030.

## Affordability

- We will **keep fares as low as possible** across the Bee Network and reinvest any surplus back into the transport system.

By 2030, we want  
our buses to carry over

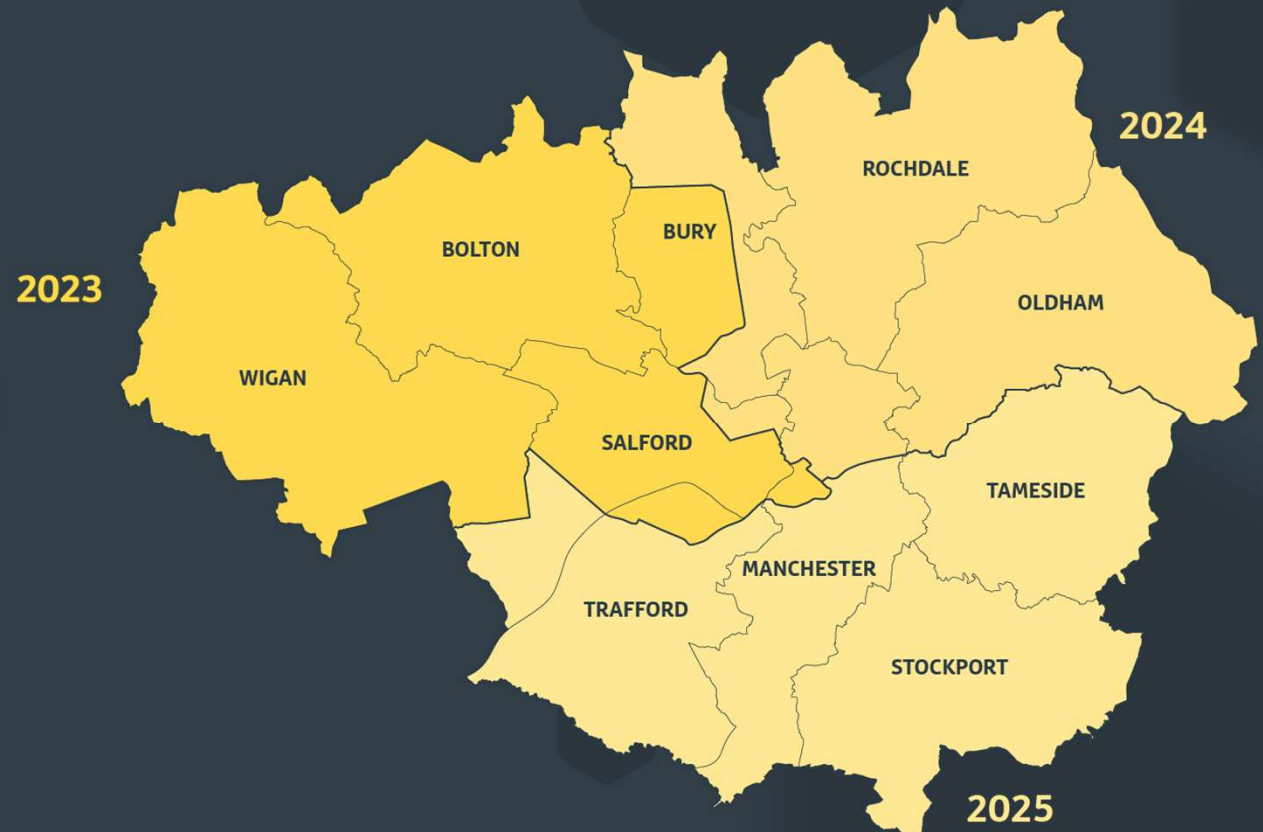
**200 million**  
journeys per year.

# Delivering the vision

- Bus franchising is the first step towards delivering our vision, giving local control of the bus system.
- Local control will allow us to integrate the bus system at the heart of the Bee Network.
- Franchising will support greater integration between bus services and other modes.
- Costs for franchise contracts have been competitive, particularly when compared to the costs of tendering individual services.

# GM Bus Franchising

- **24 September 2023** – tranche one went live, covering Bolton, Wigan, and parts of Salford and Bury.
- **24 March 2024** – tranche two will go live, covering Oldham, Rochdale, and parts of Bury, Salford and north Manchester.
- **5 January 2025** – tranche three will go live, covering Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and the remaining parts of Manchester and Salford.





# Franchise Operators ... so far

## Tranche 1

### Go North West

Bolton and Wigan  
large franchises



### Diamond

Seven small  
franchises



Tranche 1 schools provided by:

- Stagecoach
- Vision

## Tranche 2

### Stagecoach

Middleton, Oldham and  
Queens Road large franchises



### Diamond

Oldham small franchise

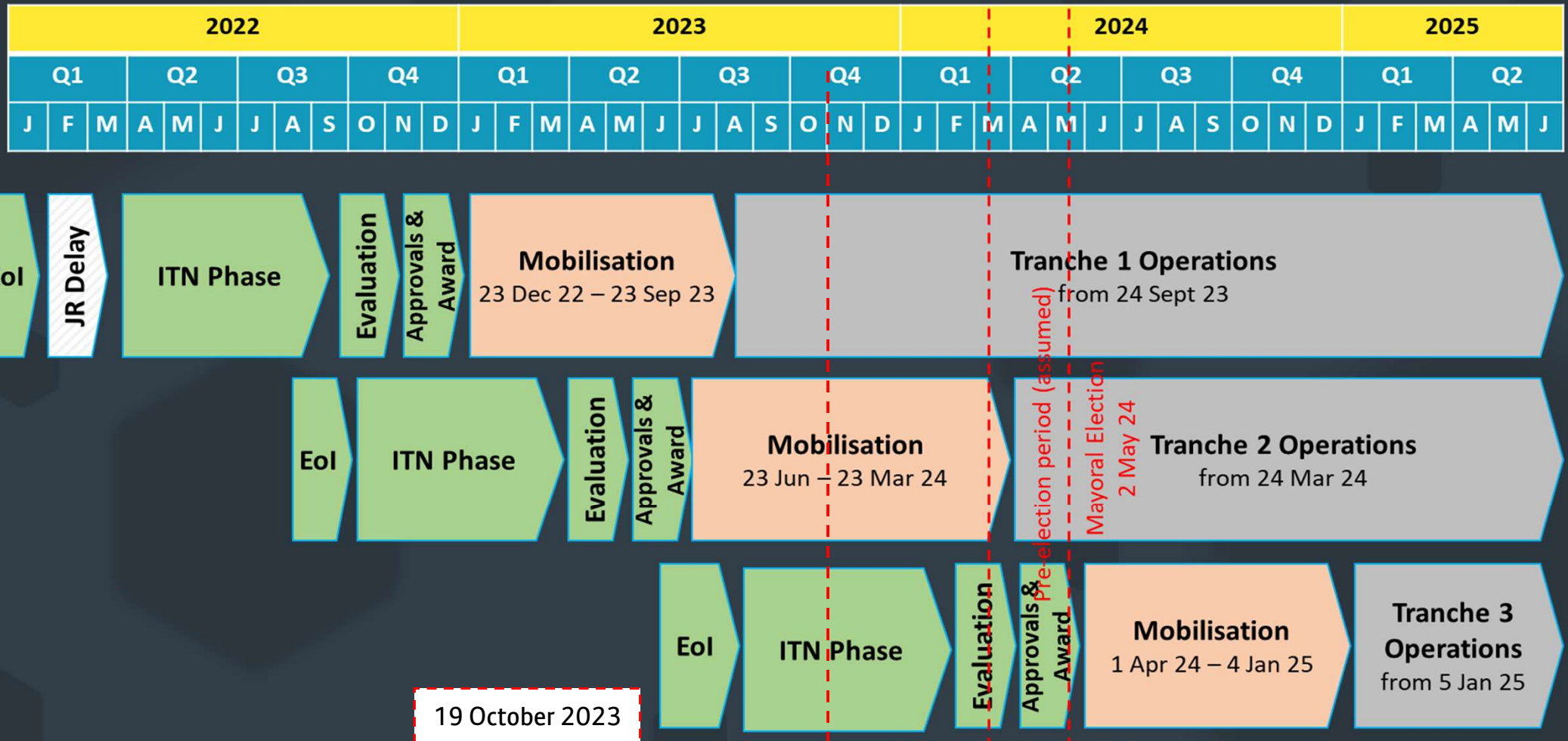


### First

Rochdale A & B small franchises



# Programme Timeline



# Fleet

Each Franchise will include:

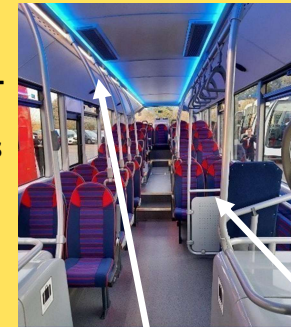
- **New Zero Emission Buses** – 50 in each of the first two tranches.
- **New Euro VI Buses** – provided by operators.
- **Buses provided by TfGM** – leased to franchised operators.

All new buses will be best in class.



Anti-slip flooring

Two wheel-chair spaces



CCTV LED interior lighting



Audio-visual announcement system

Accessibility ramp (already a requirement)



Hearing induction loop

## Existing Buses - Enhancements



High back seating

USB charging ports



White LED exterior destination displays

## New Buses



# Franchising in Action – the start of a historic day!

24 September 2023







# Bolton 25 September 2023



# Looking Ahead to Tranche 2 and Tranche 3

## Tranche 2

- Mobilisation is making progress with all 3 Operators
- First's new vehicles ordered
- Diamond's new fleet ordered
- 3 x Depot are agreed and in legals to purchase Queens Road and Oldham and to lease Middleton.
- 50 ZEB on track for delivery
- Oldham dept electrification design underway,

## Tranche 2 Schools

- Procurement Complete
- Contract Award – 13th October

## Tranche 3

- T3 Procurement remains on track for contract award on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and Go Live 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
- 3 Operators have left the process
- T3 interim evaluation complete and feedback sent to bidders

# In the future...

## **We want Greater Manchester's bus system to:**

- Provide consistent and attractive car-free connectivity for all
- Connect to other parts of the Bee Network and longer distance public transport
- Support attractive urban places, including town centres and new developments
- Have a positive impact on public health and the environment
- Provide people with more travel options in the day and night
- Be accountable and a source of shared local pride



