



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Mark Roberts

Town Hall, Edward Street,
Stockport SK1 3XE

Tel: 0161 474 3284

Email: cllr.mark.roberts@stockport.gov.uk

Andy Burnham
Mayor for Greater Manchester
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Tootal Buildings, 56 Oxford Street,
Manchester, M1 6EU,

17 December 2025

Dear Mayor Burnham,

Allow disabled people and older people to use their bus passes before 9.30am and after 11pm

I write as Stockport's Liberal Democrat Council Leader and representative on the Combined Authority, along with both local Liberal Democrat MPs, Lisa Smart and Tom Morrison, on behalf of our residents and at the request of our local councillors.

We write to ask you to lift the time restrictions on concessionary travel passes for older and disabled persons' across Greater Manchester and to lobby the Government to lift the current time restrictions on concessionary travel passes across the country.

This is something we Liberal Democrats believe could dramatically improve the lives of people within our local area but we also believe it should be rolled out nationally, to avoid the post code lottery the public currently face as a legacy of the last Conservative Government.

As we have discussed, most recently at the last Combined Authority meeting, the current regime where these passes cannot be used before 9.30am or after 11pm has huge impact on our residents, and not just those who qualify for such a pass.

The 9.30am start time means those residents who have to travel before this for work, medical appointments or for other reasons have to use their often limited means to pay to travel or travel by alternate means, such as by car, which adds to peak time congestion. It also means our buses are disproportionately busy around the time the travel passes become valid.

Cllr Mark Roberts
Leader of the Council
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group



I recently spoke to a chronically ill resident who needed to regularly attend Stepping Hill Hospital. Over the last two months they have had to attend various appointments and clinics with no control over the timing. They often had to leave their home well before 9:30am, and therefore pay. Whilst we appreciate the £2 fare cap limits these charges, in the spirit of the concessionary pass this resident really should not have to be burdened by the cost at all. From our conversations I know you agree.

Removing this restriction would aid efforts to tackle congestion and boarding times and improve passenger experiences for everyone, all of which would help ensure the wider use of more environmentally friendly, mass transit options.

The night-time end point restricts our older and disabled residents from accessing the full range of cultural and other experiences available to them and penalises those who are working non-standard hours of employment. This probably has less overall impact but if the morning start time is lifted, there is no need for an end time at night.

We ask that you share with Government the lessons from the recent pilots conducted in Greater Manchester and to argue the case that these restrictions are archaic and positively harmful to our ambitions of enabling modal shift, and inhibit our aim to support all residents to live the fullest lives they can.

I hope you will support disabled and older people in our community and step up where previous Governments have been content to let people fall through the net.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Mark Roberts
Leader of the Council
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Lisa Smart MP
Member of Parliament for Hazel Grove

Tom Morrison MP
Member of Parliament for Cheadle