

# Improved bus services to East Midlands Airport

## 1. Introduction

From 31 January a new express bus service from Nottingham to the Airport will be introduced. This will be a fast, limited-stop service and it will complement the existing Skylink Nottingham service that operates via Long Eaton.

## 2. Skylink Express

The new service will be operated using high-specification coaches. It will operate on a limited stop basis with the only calling points at:

- Broadmarsh Bus Station
- Nottingham Railway Station
- County Hall
- Clifton NTU Campus
- Clifton South Park and Ride (for NET interchange)
- Pegasus Business Park
- East Midlands Airport

Limited stop operation allows a fast service that can reach the airport within 35 minutes at most times of day. In the daytime the service will operate every 30 minutes. Buses will run between 4.30am and midnight.

The route and timetable are a commercial decision by Trent Barton Buses. However, some initial pump priming funding is being made available by the Airport and the City Council. It is expected that the service will become entirely commercial within the first few years.

Fares will be as follows:

- £5 Adult Single (or £4.25 with a Trent Barton Mango card)
- £9.90 Two Trip (Return) ticket
- £16 Family Return
- £25 Ten Trip ticket (aimed at workers)
- £5 Single interchange ticket with tram (£22 for family group)

The service is priced so as not to compete with local bus and tram services between the City, Trent Bridge and Clifton.

A summary timetable is shown in below:

Nottingham to Airport	0430	0530	0610	0635	0715	0740	0820	0900	Then half hourly
Airport to Nottingham	0515	0615	0655	0725	0805	0835	0915	0945	
Nottingham to Airport	1530	1600	1630	1700	1745	1830	Then hourly	2230	
Airport to Nottingham	1615	1650	1725	1755	1840	1915		2315	

### 3. Skylink Nottingham

There is an existing service between Nottingham and the Airport. This runs through Beeston, Long Eaton and Castle Donington. It operates every 20 minutes in the daytime and runs 24 hours a day. It is scheduled to take around 55 minutes to make the journey.

The fares are:

- £5 Adult Single (or £4.25 with a Trent Barton Mango card)
- £8 Anytime Return
- £16 Family Return
- £25 Ten Trip ticket (aimed at workers)
- £5 Single interchange ticket with tram (£22 for family group)

A summary timetable is shown below:

Nottingham to Airport	0000	Then hourly	0500	0520	0540	Then every 20 mins	1840	1900	Then hourly	0000
Airport to Nottingham	0010		0510	0540	0600		2020	2110		0010

### 4. Commentary

Skylink Express is a welcome addition to the commercial bus network available from Nottingham. With an element of initial funding, it satisfies a key commitment of the Nottingham Labour Party Manifesto at the 2015 City Council Elections to “reinstate Skylink as a fast direct bus link between the city centre and East Midlands Airport”.

A fast and direct service is available between the City and the Airport between 4.30am and 11pm. At other times, the existing Skylink Nottingham service operates 24 hours a day on a route through Beeston and Long Eaton.

Skylink Express is a limited stop service, but it will interchange with frequent NET trams at Clifton South Park and Ride site and special through tickets between trams and Skylink will be available. It will not serve East Midlands Parkway Station, but interchange with more heavy-rail services will be available at Nottingham Station.

### 5. Conclusion

Skylink Express is a welcome addition to the local transport network. It will provide a fast, high-specification coach service between the City and the Airport that will be used by people working at the airport and inbound and outbound tourists or business travellers.