



Nottingham

City Council

E X T R A C T from

the minutes of the Area 8 Committee

held on 12 September 2012

13 CONNECTIVITY AND BUS ROUTES
(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services that provided the committee with a variety of connectivity provisions and encouraged the Area Committee to identify other areas for improvement in the area.

A motion was circulated around the meeting and discussion took place about the issues faced by residents and in particular accessing the City Hospital during evenings and weekends.

RESOLVED that, the motion as set out below be submitted to the next available meeting of the Executive Board:

The Committee draws the attention of the Executive Board to concerns re bus connectivity eg: the Navy Line with Yellow and Brown Lines especially in the evenings and Sundays when Centre Link and service 53 and medi-link do not run. Given that workplace parking levy funding is not now available to fund a restoration of evening and Sunday services on route 53. This Committee is especially concerned at the plight of elderly and disabled residents who have relatives on the Hucknall Road side of the City Hospital site, given that evening and Sundays are popular visiting times, we ask the Executive Board finds a solution to this problem as a high priority. We know that there are plans to change bus connectivity in 2 or 3 years time but in fairness to our residents we need a solution sooner than that.

Response:

The whole of Nottingham's public transport network is focussed on the City Centre where interchange is required to access non-central locations, such as the hospitals.

There are few direct services linking district centres with these non-central locations – they are extremely expensive to operate due to their low usage and congestion in crossing main radial roads. The current daytime Locallink 53 service along the Ring Road from Clifton to Arnold already has significant subsidy and is becoming increasingly expensive to operate reliably. The same goes for the Medilink service.

Many bus routes go through the Victoria area, making interchange between them reasonably short. However, due to the lack of kerb space in this area and operational costs, a significant number of other services terminate elsewhere in the City – in the Market Square or Broadmarsh areas.

To assist in interchange the City Council subsidises the very popular Centrelink service, connecting the main parts of the City Centre. This currently runs frequently from 8am – 6pm Monday to Saturday, but not at all on Sundays or in the evenings.

In addition, Nottingham City Transport runs regularly loop services, connecting Carrington Street and Collin Street with the Victoria area, which also run on Sundays and evenings.

The current government cuts to Nottingham mean that the Council does not, at this time, have any additional funding to put to Link buses and, therefore, is unable to extend the hours of Centrelink operation in the short term.

Funding is currently being sought from INTU to improve the Centrelink service at off-peak times, as part of the shopping centre redevelopment proposals.

In around 3 years time, planned bus priority measures around the south and east of the City Centre may reduce the operational costs of taking more bus services across the City to improve connectivity, matched by similar changes in the tram network.

In the interim, the best option for Clifton residents to access the City Hospital during the evening or Sunday is to interchange on Carrington Street with the NCT Green Loop services, alight on Parliament Street and take the NCT Yellow/Brown from Milton Street.