

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Caroline Russell AM**

By email

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 07 June 2024

Dear Caroline,

Thank you to Sian Berry for presenting the petition about extending route 463 to Netherne-on-the-Hill to the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on Thursday 7 December. Please pass on my apologies for the delayed response to the residents of Netherne-on-the-Hill.

Transport for London (TfL) and I are committed to enhancing outer London's bus network and providing a comprehensive and reliable bus service across London and, in some places, into the larger towns in the Home Counties. TfL keeps the network under constant review to ensure resources are invested where they are needed most.

As Netherne-on-the-Hill is located in Surrey, it is Surrey County Council that is responsible for funding any public transport service that is not provided commercially by bus operators, and this extends to some of TfL's existing contracted services operated within Surrey. TfL has carefully assessed the cost of providing this service using the same criteria it applies for assessing all changes to its route. TfL's assessment suggests that extending the service to Netherne-on-the-Hill would cost around £1 million per year. This assumes a 3 bus per hour service extended from Coulsdon Town Station and resulting in 180,000 extra bus kilometres per year. TfL has also calculated rough fare income and projected that, based on the settlement of roughly 1,500 people, it would cover only a fraction of this cost.

As you know, TfL does not have a long-term funding settlement from the Government, relying on one year capital funding deals instead. Given this context, TfL does not have the budget to extend the route at this time, but it remains open to discussions with Surrey County Council, who are responsible for bus services in the area, about how services could be provided to residents of the county and how these could be funded.

I do appreciate that this will be disappointing to read and that it is not the answer that you would have been hoping for; however, TfL's funding is constrained, and it is necessary to make difficult decisions about where to focus funding.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Seb Dance". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

**Seb Dance**

Deputy Mayor for Transport