

Emergency Motion: Isle of Dogs Bus Restructure

Proposed by: Cllr Maium Talukdar

Seconded by: Cllr Peter Golds

Council notes:

Transport for London has launched a consultation on proposals to restructure bus routes serving the Isle of Dogs. These proposals include the complete withdrawal of the D7 bus route, a service that has provided an essential east–west link across the Island for over 120 years.

The proposals also include significant changes to other routes:

- 277 — rerouted, taking over parts of the D7 but leaving gaps in Millwall and Cubitt Town.
- 135 — rerouted, altering connections to Crossharbour.
- D6 — rerouted, covering some areas but not replacing the full D7 link.
- SL4 — diverted through Wood Wharf, changing existing connections.

TfL states that demand has fallen and that services should “match usage better”, but these proposals would remove direct links, complicate school journeys, and disrupt long-standing community connections across the Isle of Dogs.

The withdrawal of the D7 would leave pupils on the Millwall side with no bus to George Green’s Secondary School, and children from Cubitt Town with reduced access to Harbinger, St Edmund’s and Arnhem Wharf schools.

The Council further notes that Island councillors and local communities have previously campaigned to protect this route when TfL attempted similar cuts in the past, and acknowledges the longstanding cross-party support for maintaining essential bus links — including the efforts of Cllr Peter Golds, who now serves as seconder of this Motion.

Council believes:

- The D7 provides a vital east–west connection that must be preserved.
- The proposed restructure will divide communities, reduce accessibility, and undermine public transport provision on the Isle of Dogs.
- Public transport should connect neighbourhoods, not isolate them.

Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the withdrawal of the D7 bus route.
2. Submit a strong and urgent response to the TfL consultation, setting out the impact on schools, residents, and community connectivity.
3. Call on Transport for London to review and amend its proposals to ensure a bus link continues to serve the whole Isle of Dogs — east and west, Blackwall to Millwall, Cubitt Town to Burdett Road.
4. Write to the Director of Public Transport Service Planning expressing the Council’s concerns and urging TfL to maintain essential bus connectivity across the Island.
5. Engage with local residents, schools and community groups to support their participation in the consultation before it closes on 16 November 2026.