

Dear Andy,

Thank you for the ongoing engagement with the Greater Manchester Student Partnership. Ahead of our next meeting on 14th November, we would like to raise the issue of the cost of the tram network.

The tram is a popular mode of transport with students across Greater Manchester. For example, we know that around 44% of students enrolled at Manchester Metropolitan University live near a tram stop, and 21% of students at Arden University travel to their place of study by tram.

Students who use the tram often do so as it is quicker than taking multiple buses and more convenient than parking close to a place of study.

However, the tram is expensive.

If a student living in zone 4 is travelling into zone 1 regularly for lectures, the most economical ticket is the 28-day pass, which will cost £101.80. **There is currently no student pricing on the tram network.**

If they were to get the bus, the termly (3 month) bus ticket for students costs £35 per month. This means that a local student commuting from home, using the tram, could be paying nearly 3 times the amount of a student using the bus.

We also know that students are currently in a very difficult financial situation. The average student has around 50p a week to live off after paying for accommodation and bills **University students in England 'have 50p a week to live on after rent' | Student finance | The Guardian**

In this video we see Aimee, a student at MMU who grew up in Greater Manchester, highlighting her daily commute.

Aimee's story is only one of many across the region.

www.instagram.com/reel/DKrodBio3Jp/?igsh=MWR4amFzM3VvNG93bg==

Like you, we are committed to a fairer deal for the North. In London, students get a 30% discount on bus and tram travel passes and can also use their railcard to get discounts on trains and the underground.

We believe that more affordable transport will make the region more equitable and encourage residents to choose Greater Manchester as their place to study - and to stay.

We would like to discuss two options with you:

- The introduction of a 30% student discount on all tram tickets that can be purchased on the Bee Network app. This discount would be like the current discount on weekly, monthly, and termly bus tickets.

- Allowing students to purchase a 'bolt on' to the current student bus passes to include tram travel.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
GMSP

Komal Ashfaq -
President, The Union of Manchester Metropolitan University

Elliot Briffa -
City & Community Officer, University of Manchester Students' Union

George Charlton -
Wellbeing Officer, The Union of Manchester Metropolitan University

Megan Cornes -
Health & Society Officer, Salford Students' Union

Ruby Donnelly -
President, Royal Northern College of Music Students' Union
Hina Rehman Khalil - SEE Officer, Salford Students' Union

Saad Mehmood -
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