

Summary of responses to consultation on proposed closure of Woodlands Road Metrolink station in Manchester and Government reply

Addendum

Introduction

On 9 December 2010 the Department for Transport (DfT) issued a public consultation on a proposal by the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE), now Transport for Greater Manchester, to cease passenger services at Woodlands Road station on the Bury line of the Manchester Metrolink light rail system and open two new stations. Under the provisions of the Railways Act 2005, proposals to close stations and cease passenger services on light rail networks must be referred to DfT.

Next steps

Following consideration of the replies, and having received confirmation from Transport for Greater Manchester that planning consent for the new station at Queens Road was granted on 27 February 2013 and that there is a timetable for its opening, Norman Baker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, allowed the proposed closure to proceed. The closure is first subject to ratification by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), which is not automatic. The Minister, accordingly, referred the proposal to the ORR for ratification on 16 April 2013.

The ORR has published the closure ratification request on its website at: <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/stn-closure-ratification-notice-woodlands-rd.pdf>

Additional Reply and Response

In reaching the decision to allow the proposed closure to proceed the Minister considered the responses to the consultation included in the document “Summary of responses to consultation on proposed closure of Woodlands Road Metrolink station in Manchester and Government reply”

One response was not included in the summary of responses document. This was a petition, containing approximately 1,300 signatures, opposing the closure. The Minister has now considered this document. Whilst he notes the opposition to the proposed closure, consideration of the petition has not altered his conclusion that the proposal satisfies the criteria set out in the statutory Closures Guidance.

Having reached this conclusion, the Minister has confirmed that the proposed closure be allowed to proceed, and that the ORR be requested to formally ratify the closure.

**Department for Transport
May 2013**