



Transport for London  
Bus Operations

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[tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)

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Dear 

**RE: Garth Road, Morden, SM4 – Proposed new Go-Ahead London Bus Depot**

I am writing to express support for the pre-application inquiry for a new bus depot (garage) located in Garth Road, Morden, SM4, proposed by the London bus operator, Go-Ahead London, who operate bus routes on behalf of Transport for London (TfL).

TfL and the Mayor (as stated in the London Plan) seek to protect bus garage capacity in London and support the creation and expansion of bus depots.

Furthermore, we are progressively converting our 9,000 strong red bus fleet to zero-emission (electric or hydrogen buses) between now and 2034, if not sooner. This requires all bus depots across London to be upgraded and have the capability to charge/refuel zero-emission buses – therefore the stability of long-term tenure on this new facility will assist TfL's transition to a zero-emission fleet, supporting TfL and Go-Ahead's wider decarbonisation plans.

It is essential the Garth Road site pre-application inquiry is given consideration for change of use of land to protect garage capacity in the area. Go-Ahead London have previously been forced to vacate sites in South-West London due to the landlord serving notice on the short term leased sites.

TfL confirms that the Garth Road is a suitable alternative site for a new bus depot. Without a depot in this location, this will have a detrimental impact on the bus network, employment within the borough and efficiency of operations.

The proposed garage will be constructed on land within an industrial estate. If consent is approved, Go-Ahead London plan to significantly invest and develop the existing site by demolishing a dilapidated asbestos building which covers most of the site and removing these materials and building a new workshop facility with a larger open yard presence. The build will also capture multiple

environmental benefits. As a result, the new depot will make far more efficient use of the under-used land and TfL supports safeguarding such land for sustainable transport.

The location of the depot is good strategically, it is away from residential housing and accessible to major roads. Strategically placed bus depots minimise out of service running and vehicle emissions, which reduce the costs of operation as well as being accessible to existing and new potential employees and the travelling public.

The new bus depot will have several positive benefits within the borough, including employing up to 200 people (in stable jobs), including drivers, engineers, management and administrative roles. Additionally, the new facility will attract roles for residents boosting the local economy.

The depot is expected to accommodate up to 50 buses, all of which will meet the latest emissions standards (Euro VI) from the outset. Go-Ahead London plan to newly electrify the site in the next few years, allowing them to operate electric buses (on behalf of TfL) on routes which operate in the borough, improving air quality for residents and London. Currently there are no zero-emission vehicles on the existing demise. This will require significant investment from both TfL and Go-Ahead London as we seek to convert all buses to zero-emission.

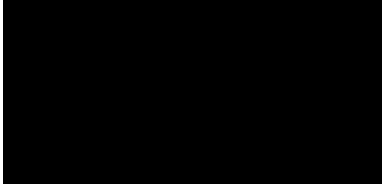
As the Morden area is experiencing population growth combined with large residential developments, buses will continue to play an integral role for the provision of public transport now and in the future. The proposed depot will help minimise car usage and contribute overall to enhancement of bus services throughout the borough and South-West London.

Finally, the current London Plan policy 6.7 and Intend to Publish London Plan policy T3 recognises the importance of buses and the Mayor's commitment to improving bus services across London. This commitment includes providing for bus standing, garaging and driver facilities where needed, which this proposal materially assists in delivering.

I would be grateful if you could take time to kindly consider the pre-application inquiry from Go-Ahead London.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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