

Proposed Consultation Response - Transport for London's (TfL) consultation on Bus Service Proposals; Routes 13, 82,113, 139 and 189

September 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposals for changes to bus routes 13, 82, 113, 139, 189 and N189.

In general terms Barnet supports the principle of matching bus provision to demand, subject to delivering a minimum level of service; however your proposal gives us cause for concern. The proposal suggests a number of negative impacts and potential challenges to Barnet residents which should be taken into consideration.

You consulted on a similar proposal previously. Both that and the current consultation involve replacing the current route 13 with a route following that of the current route 82 from North Finchley to Victoria. Your previous consultation retained the designation of this new route '82'. The current consultation designates it '13'.

You received significant opposition to removal of bus route 13 in your previous consultation. While we understand that some of this may have related to an attachment to a longstanding route rather than the level of service, other concerns expressed remain.

Notably the loss of the frequent direct link currently provided to the West End is a concern for many. The extension of the 139 to Golders Green provides an alternative that would be both less frequent and involve significantly increased journey times.

The introduction of a one-hour 'hopper fare' may reduce the financial burden of changing for some travellers but the inconvenience remains. If this proposal were to proceed we would want to see provision of clear publicity provided about alternative routes to the West End and locations of safe and convenient interchange points.

We hope that the increased frequency of the proposed route 13 would mitigate issues currently experienced of overcrowding on route 82 into Central London by the time it reaches Golders Green.

We are concerned that the frequency should be sufficient to cater for the passengers that would previously have been shared between routes 13 and 82. This is a particular concern between Golders Green and Hendon Way as the increased capacity of the 113 would not be available on that stretch and the 139 is unlikely to serve the same passenger demand.

Recent performance on the current route 82 has been less good than on route 13. The potential for the new route to be less reliable overall is a concern and in particular we are concerned that the proposals should not lead to increased curtailment of services short of the end of the route. Replacement of two routes (the 82 and 13) with a single route over much of its length could also increase the impact on passengers in the event of any incidents in Central London that affect the single route (since all buses on the combined route would be affected).