

# LIVING BANKSIDE

Mr Gareth Powell  
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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Mr Powell

## **WITHDRAWAL OF RV1 BUS SERVICE**

Further to our previous letters (**Living Bankside was formerly known as Bankside Residents' Forum**) I write to you on this occasion on behalf of the residents of Bankside and its surrounding areas to object to Transport for London's proposal to withdraw the RV1 bus service.

We share the concerns raised by Councillors Victor Chamberlain, David Noakes, Adele Morris, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark and other stakeholders.

Many residents including young people and the elderly use the RV1 bus service to get to school, to visit Guy's Hospital and St Thomas's Hospital and to visit London's wonderful cultural and historical institutions.

There are dozens of residents with disabilities and mobility issues especially the elderly who rely heavily on the RV1 bus service. Withdrawing the RV1 bus service without taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged Londoners indicates a step backwards from London becoming a truly age-friendly and disability-friendly city. Withdrawing the RV1 bus service does not indicate that London is open and accessible to all.

There are also a large number of students travelling between the hospitals and the various departments of Kings' College and the London School of Economics located along the route. These students are heavily dependent on the RV1 bus service. The withdrawal of the RV1 bus service does not take into consideration the affect it will have on these large number of students.

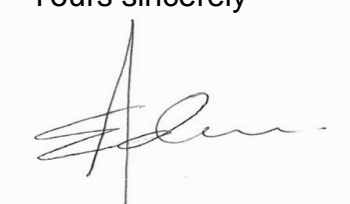
Living Bankside (formerly known as Bankside Residents' Forum) and Better Bankside are working hard to improve air quality in the Bankside and surrounding areas. The hydrogen fuel buses are a core part of that strategy and therefore it is vital that the hydrogen fuel buses remain in service.

We appreciate the difficulties with regards to Transport for London's finances and the need to make efficiency savings. However the withdrawal of the RV1 bus service is not an efficiency saving but a decision without proper rationale. There is no adequate substitute to the RV1 Bus Service and its withdrawal will have a significantly negative affect on thousands of people who live, visit, learn and work in London. Furthermore

a recent reduction in the use of the RV1 bus service has been because of a number temporary circumstances such as road works. Therefore the recent reduction in the use of the RV1 should not indicate a need to withdraw the service.

We trust Transport for London will make the right decision - not to withdraw the RV1 bus service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Eden', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke on the left side.

Amir Eden  
Executive Chair of Living Bankside

Copies (by email) to:

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan  
Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor of London for Transport  
The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark  
The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark  
Neil Coyle MP  
Florence Eshalomi AM  
Cllr Peter John OBE, Leader of Southwark Council  
Borough & Bankside Ward Councillors (Cllr Adele Morris, Cllr David Noakes,  
Cllr Victor Chamberlain)  
Peter Williams, CEO of Better Bankside