

CONNECTING SOUTHAMPTON

Bus service changes

From 30 August 2026



Hampshire
County Council



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

Over the last two years, Southampton City Council has invested in local bus services to help more people access jobs, education, healthcare, shops and leisure opportunities without needing to rely on a car.

The improvements have made it easier for residents to travel across the city during the day, evenings and weekends which has seen the number of passengers using the bus grow.

The council has also funded two new services – Bluestar 19a serving Hill Lane and Winchester Road and a new weekend Park & Ride service from Adanac Park.

In the east of the city, **the council has funded Bluestar 7, 10, 13, 15, and 19, First Solent X4 and X5 and the Bitterne Hoppas**. These services have helped people to access services in Bitterne, Woolston, the City Centre and west of the city more easily by enhancing and maintaining frequencies.

Every journey made by bus helps reduce pressure on the road network, supports cleaner air and gives people more travel choices when moving around the city.

In 2025, 11.6M journeys were made on buses travelling to and from the east of the city; 52% of all bus journeys in Southampton.

During this time, overall satisfaction with bus journeys has grown from 83% to 88% with 92% of passengers holding a bus pass being satisfied and 85% of fare-paying passengers.

When it comes to waiting time at bus stops, around 27% of fare-paying passengers said that they waited longer than expected for a bus; around 9% higher than passengers with a bus pass.

Residents have told us they want buses that are more dependable and run more often. Improving reliability and increasing frequencies will help people spend less time waiting and make public transport a more convenient option for everyday journeys.



What's changing from 30 August 2026?

Residents living in the east of the city will see the following service changes:

NEW! **Bluestar 6** connecting Townhill Park with Bitterne and the City Centre via Peartree and Woolston. This means Peartree Avenue will now have a bus every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime and hourly Sunday daytime.

Bluestar 16 will be extended to Northam, City Centre, Southampton Central Station, Hill Lane, St James' Road to the General Hospital and will terminate at Aldermoor Shops.

This will provide a bus every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime, hourly on Sunday, linking Bitterne with the General Hospital and providing a regular bus service through St James Road in upper Shirley, enabling another cross-city link.

Bluestar 7 will now terminate every day of the week at the Aldermoor Road bus turning circle and will no longer extend to Lordshill Centre. Bluestar 7 will also see an improved timetable.

NEW! **Nightstar N9**

N9 will be introduced on Friday and Saturday nights as two journeys from the City Centre towards Totton and the waterside.

Bluestar 10 will no longer serve Peartree Avenue and will run direct from Bitterne to the City Centre via Northam, providing a quicker and straighter route from Sholing. The frequency will remain hourly daytime.

Bluestar 13, 14, 19/19a - Revised timetables.

Bluestar 21 will now run via Milton Road, Wilton Avenue and Bedford Place instead of the Central Station which will be covered by Bluestar 16. Bluestar 21 will provide a Monday to Friday service through the Polygon area.

NEW! **Bluestar 26** Thanks to funding from Hampshire County Council, a new Bluestar 26 will run hourly on Monday to Saturday and two hourly on Sunday between Whiteley shops, North Whiteley, Botley, Hedge End Village Centre, Bitterne and the City Centre.

Combined with Bluestar 3 this will provide a bus every 30 minutes daytime along Bitterne Road East to the City Centre. Bluestar 3 will no longer serve Turnpike Way in Hedge End, serving Charles Watts Way instead. Please note that Bluestar 26 will not serve the Hedge End Sainsburys/M&S superstores.

Bitterne Hoppas

From the same date the Bitterne Hoppa daytime shopping services will no longer operate. Residents in the Midanbury, Sholing and Thornhill areas will be able to use alternative bus services including the updated Bluestar 6, 10 and 16.

For further information:

New timetables and maps will be available from the Bluestar bus website and travel shop (opposite the Albion Place Bus Hub) leading up to 30 August.

bluestarbus.co.uk

A new Southampton Area Public Transport Map & Guide will be available from the Southampton City Council website leading up to 30 August. Printed copies will also be available at the Bluestar Travel Shop in September.

southampton.gov.uk



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