

East Staffordshire District Council



1974 - 1985

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Cover Illustration: East Staffordshire No. 10 (GFA10L) was one of a number of vehicles inherited from Burton-upon-Trent Corporation in 1974. It was a Daimler CRG6LX with Willowbrook H44/33F bodywork, new in 1973. (Richard Simons).

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Created by local government re-organisation on the 1 April 1974, the East Staffordshire District Council inherited 35 vehicles from Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Transport Department. 14 were conventional two-man operated rear-entrance double-deckers, whilst the remainder were rear-engined vehicles suitable for one-man operation.

In the face of heavy losses for 1974 an order for three new vehicles was cancelled and it was decided to purchase second-hand vehicles for the following year. As a result two former Portsmouth Atlanteans (new in 1963) were purchased, followed by another four in 1976. At the same time it was decided to withdraw the remaining conventional double-deckers and replace them with one-man operated vehicles. An order for 16 (later reduced to 13) was budgeted for with a corresponding reduction in the fleet strength to 33 vehicles.

The first new vehicles for East Staffordshire arrived in 1978; two Dennis Dominator chassis (Nos. 22-23) with East Lancs H75F bodywork and three Leyland AN68 Atlanteans (Nos. 24-26) with similar bodywork. However the demand on vehicles was such that the fleet remained understrength and several elderly vehicles approaching withdrawal had to be kept running, especially as the two Dominators were in the main unreliable in service, adding further to costs.

In 1979 two routes were transferred from Midland Red, who also operated throughout the area, although neither were substantial - one operated only two days a week, whilst the other was a peak period only service.

By 1980 more service rationalisation was needed as passenger numbers continued to fall, which resulted in one route being withdrawn completely and two others merged with existing services. Five more new Dennis Dominators were purchased during the year, Nos. 30-34 were again bodied by East Lancs to H75F. More service alterations followed in 1981 and a pair of second-hand Bristol RE's from Blackburn Corporation were acquired.

In keeping with the Council's intention to develop bus services, two new routes (to Abbots Bromley and Stretton) were inaugurated in 1983 and construction of a new depot on former brewery land at Derby Street commenced. At the same time plans for de-regulation of the bus industry were beginning to surface. Although welcomed by private operators, the Council were apprehensive. Rather than engage in a costly 'bus war' it was decided to merge their interests with those of Stevensons of Uttoxeter, a prominent local company, with Stevensons having the controlling share. A new board would have council representation and would take effect from the 1 October 1985. And so it was that on 30 September 1985, Atlantean No. 26 operated the final Council service without ceremony, bringing to an end over 80 years of municipal transport in Burton-upon-Trent.

Bus Fleet List 1974-1985

This listing is in the format - Fleet No; Reg. No; Chassis; Chassis No; Body; Seating.

Vehicles transferred from Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Transport Department 1.4.74:

2	NLJ272	Leyland	PSU1/13	532054	Burlingham	B42F
3	RRU901	Leyland	PSUC1/1	553637	Park Royal	B42F
4	RRU904	Leyland	PSUC1/1	553658	Park Royal	B42F
10-11	GFA10-11L	Daimler	CRG6LX	67589/85	Willowbrook	H44/33F
12-14	NFA12-14M	Daimler	CRG6LX	67586-88	Willowbrook	H44/33F
15-21	NFA15-21M	Daimler	CRG6LX	67890-96	Willowbrook	H44/33F
88-89	BFA588-89B	Daimler	CCG5	21036-37	Massey	H33/28R
91	BFA591B	Daimler	CCG5	21039	Massey	H33/28R
92-95	EFA292-95D	Daimler	CCG5	20161-64	Massey	H33/28R
96-99	GFA96-99D	Daimler	CCG5	20182-85	Massey	H33/28R
100-102	JFA600-02F	Daimler	CCG5	20191-93	Massey	H33/28R
103-104	MFA703-04G	Daimler	SRG6LW	63134-35	Willowbrook	B44F
105	MFA805G	Daimler	SRG6LW	63136	Willowbrook	B44F

*Vehicles transferred from Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Transport
Department 1.4.74 (continued)*

106-108 RFA406-08J Daimler CRG6LX 63783-85 Northern Counties H42/33F

Nos. 2, 4 re-numbered 22, 24 respectively in 1976.

Nos. 103-108 re-numbered 03-08 in March 1983 and then re-numbered again to 3-8 in May 1983.

Nos. 104-108[4-8], 10-21, to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 104, 105A, 109, 107, 108, 110-121 respectively).

Withdrawn **1975** (3), **1976** (2[22]), **1977** (91), **1978** (4[24], 92-93), **1980** (94-101), **1981** (88-89, 102), **1984** (103[3]).



No. 98 (GFA98D) was a 1966 Daimler CCG5 with Massey H33/28R bodywork, formerly in the Burton fleet, it was withdrawn in 1980. (John Law).

1975

5-6	205-06BTP	Leyland	PDR1/1	623978/629061	MCCW	H43/33F
7	JJP507	Leyland	PD2A/27	622356	Northern Counties	H38/26F
8	JJP502	Leyland	PD2A/27	622126	Massey	H37/27F

Nos. 5-6 ex-Portsmouth Corporation (Nos. 205-206; new 1963). No. 204 (204BTP) was also acquired but not operated.

Nos. 7-8 ex-Greater Manchester PTE (Nos. 3249, 3244 respectively; new 1962 [to Wigan Corporation Nos. 131 and 35]).

Withdrawn **1978** (7), **1980** (8), **1982** (5-6).

1976

1-2	221-22BTP	Leyland	PDR1/1	629226/36	MCCW	H43/33F
3	216BTP	Leyland	PDR1/1	629182	MCCW	H43/33F
4	220BTP	Leyland	PDR1/1	629227	MCCW	H43/33F

Nos. 1-4 ex-Portsmouth Corporation (Nos. 221-222, 216, 220 respectively, new 1963).

Withdrawn **1978** (2), **1982** (1, 3-4).



No. 2 (222BTP) was an ex-Portsmouth Corporation Leyland PDR1/1 with MCCW H43/33F bodywork new in 1963 and acquired in 1976. (John Law).

1978

22-23 XRF22-23S Dennis Dominator DD101A/109-110 East Lancs H43/32F

24-26 XRF24-26S Leyland AN68/1R 7705040/42/83 East Lancs H43/32F

Nos. 22-26 to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 22-23, 94-96 respectively).

1979

27-29 FBF127-29T Dennis Dominator DD110A/145-147 East Lancs H43/32F

50 PJH453H Leyland PSU3A/4R 7001324 Plaxton C51F

No. 50 ex-S & M Coaches, Benfleet (new 1970).

Nos. 27-29 to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 27-29).

Withdrawn **1984** (50).

1980

30-34 LBF230-34V Dennis Dominator DD120A/199-203 East Lancs H43/32F

Nos. 30-34 to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 30-34).



No. 23 (XRF235) was a 1978 Dennis Dominator with East Lancs H43/32F bodywork. It passed to Stevensons of Uttoxeter in 1984 when the fleets were merged. (Richard Simons).

1981

35-39 PRE35-39W Dennis Dominator DD120A/250-254 East Lancs H43/32F

No. 37 to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 37).

Withdrawn 1985 (35-36, 39).

1982

8 HTD324K Bristol RESL6L RESL-8-263 East Lancs B47F

9 STC890L Bristol RESL6L RESL-8-366 East Lancs B47F

Nos. 8-9 ex-Blackburn Corporation (Nos. 174, 176, new 1971 (174) or 1972 to Darwen Corporation [Nos. 2, 4]); to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 67-68).

1984

1 YED274K Bristol RESL6L RESL-8-227 East Lancs DP40F

No. 1 ex-Warrington Corporation (No. 1, new 1972); to Stevensons of Uttoxeter 1.10.85 (numbered 66).

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Additional information, corrections and photographs are always welcome.
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