

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
REPORT FOR RESOLUTION

DATE: 28th August 2009
SUBJECT: Vehicle Funding for Yellow School Bus
REPORT OF: Interim Bus and Rail director, GMPTE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Members approval to purchase a new Yellow School Bus from the 2009/10 SEMMMS Minor budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to

- (a) approve funding up to a maximum of £150,000 from the 2009/10 SEMMMS Minor budget for the procurement of a further Yellow School Bus and:
- (b) endorse the introduction of the associated Yellow School Bus service to Reddish Vale College in Stockport from October 2009.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Bus Network and PTE Services Committee – 7th August 2009,
Transport Network Committee - 20th February 2009 and 27th March 2009

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report asks Members to approve up to £150,000 funding from SEMMMS Minor for the procurement of a Yellow School Bus (YSB) vehicle and to endorse the introduction of the associated service to Reddish Vale College in Stockport from October 2009. This will increase the total number of YSB vehicles and services in operation to 42 serving 26 schools in 9 districts.

2. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW YELLOW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE IN STOCKPORT

- 2.1 At their meeting on 7th August 2009, Members of the Bus Network and PTE Services Committee agreed, subject to the approval of the Authority at this meeting of funding for vehicle purchase, to introduce a new YSB service for Reddish Vale Technology College.
- 2.2 This service will operate from Brinnington in Stockport, an area with high levels of social deprivation. While school attendance levels are high from the this area, current usage of the existing conventional home to school service is low, with only approximately 60 of the 150 (40%) Brinnington based students using the existing school bus service. Given that the service bus alternative is unattractive, requiring a change of bus in Stockport, it is assumed that the majority of remaining students are walking 2.5km across the Reddish Vale Country Park. This has raised concerns for student safety and security and can result in students arriving at school wet.
- 2.3 To be introduced after October half-term, the YSB, which will operate in addition to the existing service, will replace a second conventional bus being introduced from September to increase overall capacity on the route. The YSB, which will be targeted at pupils in Years 7 to 9, will provide a more attractive alternative offer to students who currently walk. The service will form part of the college's existing full school travel plan.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Because the Authority's capital settlement is fully committed for this year, officers have, as in previous years, sought alternative funding from other sources, in particular Transport Infrastructure Fund and SEMMMS.

- 3.2 A new Yellow School Bus would cost £150,000 including Repair and Maintenance cover. However, at the time of writing this report a former manufacturer's demonstrator vehicle of the same model is currently available at a total cost of £101,000 including 4 years Repair and Maintenance. Officers are pursuing this option and will report on progress at the meeting.
- 3.3 Contract operating costs will realise an estimated annual revenue budget saving of approximately £18,000 (gross) over the replaced existing conventional contract.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Please see front sheet for recommendations.

Michael Renshaw
Interim Bus and Rail Director