

## MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS NETWORK AND GMPTE SERVICES COMMITTEE OF GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2009

**PRESENT:** Councillor White (in the Chair).

Councillors Corris, Creswell, Davison, Dillon, Godson, McCulley, Shaw, Theckston, Warner and Whitehead.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Jones and Smith.

### **BN/09/38 URGENT BUSINESS**

A. First Manchester Industrial Action.

The Chair allowed for this item to be reported as urgent business to inform members, at the earliest opportunity, of potential industrial action that may affect the Bus Network.

The Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE, informed Members that following a recent ballot of the workforce, the pay offer was rejected by Trade Union Members, which may lead to further industrial action.

The Chair expressed concerns that the travelling public was to be affected by this action, urged both sides to continue to negotiate, and wished for a speedy resolution of such.

### **BN/09/39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

There were no declarations of a personal or prejudicial interest made by a Member in respect of any matter to be discussed on the agenda.

### **BN/09/40 MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Network and GMPTE Services Committee held on 9 October 2009.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Network and GMPTE Services Committee, held on 9 October 2009 be approved as a correct record.

## **BN/09/41 BUS SHELTERS PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE submitted a report that updated the Committee on the provision of passenger shelters throughout Greater Manchester and associated issues.

It was reported that there were currently 4,376 shelters provided at 12,367 bus stops throughout Greater Manchester. It was considered that through the delivery of the shelter programme, shelters had now been provided at the vast majority of popular stops across the conurbation and emphasis was now placed on maintaining current levels. It was however estimated that a further 30 shelters were to be provided during this financial year and budget provision for such had been included within GMITA/PTE's 2009/10 Minor Works Capital Programme.

Work was currently under way in respect of procuring new contractual arrangement for the supply of shelters for five years and spare parts for a period of up to 15 years. As part of the tendering process, suppliers were required to temporarily install specimen shelters and Members were to be invited to undertake a site visit to view such.

A Member requested that in future reports, the town as well as the district should be indicated, allowing members to identify locations with greater ease.

### **RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That the contents of this report in respect of the number of shelters provided throughout Greater Manchester and resulting maintenance liabilities, be noted;
- 2.) That the progress made in discharging the shelter register be noted;
- 3.) That progress made to date in respect of re-tendering the shelter contract be noted and that Members be invited to undertake a site visit to view those sample shelters installed as part of the tendering process;
- 4.) That the progress made in obtaining electrical connections and the installation of solar power systems, be noted;
- 5.) That future reports should indicate the town as well as the district to enable members to identify locations with greater ease.

## **BN/09/42 BUS SHELTER REQUESTS**

A report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director was submitted that requested Members to consider the provision of shelters at specific locations in line with agreed policies.

It was reported that since the last report to this committee on 7 August 2009, six patronage surveys had been undertaken, of which three had achieved the minimum passenger criteria. Members considered those sites that met this criteria and instructed officers to undertake public consultation on the proposed introduction of bus shelters at the following locations:-

- WA2199 Bolton Road, Waters Nook Bolton
- SB3188 Alexandra Road Whalley Range Manchester
- WF2105 Manchester Road East Walkden Salford

Further to those installations set out above, officers explained that it was proposed to introduce a number of temporary shelters on replacement bus service routes affected by the closure of the Oldham Loop line.

In addition, Members considered officer recommendations regarding Stop EH2061 - St Albans Avenue, Ashton, which had been resubmitted as part of the appeal process. Four options were reported, namely:-

**Option 1** - To leave the stop in the current position, on the lamp-post on the boundary of 13/15 St Albans Avenue;

**Option 2** - To install a bus stop pole at the front of the footway, in line with the lamp-post outside of 13 St Albans Avenue;

**Option 3** - To install the bus stop pole at the back of the footpath, at the gable end of 13 St Albans Avenue;

**Option 4** - To install the bus stop pole on the boundary of 11/13 St Albans Avenue.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That with regard to Stop EH2061 - St Albans Avenue, Ashton, Members ratify officers' recommendations to install the bus stop pole on the boundary of 11/13 St Albans Avenue, as set out in the report;
- 2.) That the outcomes of the latest patronage surveys as set out in the report be noted;
- 3.) That Members endorse the officers' proposed actions as a result of the patronage surveys at those locations identified in this report; and
- 4.) That a further report be submitted in due course.

#### **BN/09/43 METROSHUTTLE PATRONAGE AND PERFORMANCE**

Members received a report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director that informed them of patronage and performance on the five Metroshuttle routes in Greater Manchester, three in Manchester and one each in Bolton and Stockport.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

#### **BN/09/44 YELLOW SCHOOL BUS DEVELOPMENT**

The Interim Bus and Rail Director submitted a report that informed Members of the current status of the Yellow School Bus project and those various approaches being pursued to increase the number of Yellow School Buses in Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That the increased patronage and positive effects on modal shift and antisocial behaviour resulting from the Yellow School Bus scheme be welcomed;
- 2.) That the approach that officers were taking to expand the fleet and develop bidding options for Yellow School Buses within the DfT's Green Bus Fund, as set out in the report be noted.

**BN/09/45 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES 2009/10**

A report was submitted that provided members with an update on the progress made towards public transport provision during the 2009/10 Christmas and New Year period.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the provision of bus, rail, tram and information services during the 2009/2010 December and New Year period, as set out in the report, be noted.

**BN/09/46 MONITORING OF DEMAND RESPONSIVE SERVICES**

Members received a report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director that informed them of monitoring results for demand responsive Local Link services.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**BN/09/47 FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK**

Consideration was given to a report which set out the changes that had taken place to the bus network since the last meeting of the Committee and the consequential action taken or proposed by the GMPTE.

A Member reported that he had received representations from a Bolton Member in support of the introduction of service 526 and the withdrawal of the Barrow Bridge Local Link. The Member concerned requested that should service 526 be ever removed then the local link service was to be re-instated.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That those changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace the de-registered commercial services as set out in appendix A to the report be approved;
- 2) That those proposed actions in respect of the de-registered commercial services as set out in appendix B to the report be approved; and

- 3) That those proposed changes to existing general subsidised services as set out in appendix C to the report be approved.
- 4) That with regard to service 526, should this service be removed then the local link service be replaced.
- 5) That final authority be delegated to the Clerk to the Authority and Interim Chief Executive GMPTE; in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Bus Network and GMPTE Services Committee, for the determination of any proposed changes to the bus network that may require action in December 2009.

**BN/09/48 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED/-**

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in paragraph 3 Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972”.

**BN/09/49 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS BUDGET**

A report was submitted which updated Members with regard to the current position on the 2009/10 subsidised bus services budget.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**BN/09/50 CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK**

The Interim Bus and Rail Director submitted a report which informed Members of financial and contractual information with regard to changes to bus services 277, 526 and the Barrow Bridge Local Link and Oldham Shopping Centre Local Link Service.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the recommendations with regard to the above services, as set out in the report, be approved.

**BN/09/51 SUBSIDISED BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the performance of subsidised bus contracts in Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**BN/09/52 ITA POLICY PRIORITY – ORBITAL BUS SERVICES – UPDATE**

A report was submitted that informed Members of the progress relating to the implementation of the Orbital Bus Services policy priority.

A Member raised concern that with regard to service 170, operating on motorways at peak times may impact on the time table of this service and as such should be monitored.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That the introduction of service 170 be approved, as set out in the report;
- 2.) That the introduction of service W1 be noted as set out in the report
- 3.) That further reports on progress be brought to future meetings of this committee for consideration by Members.

**BN/09/53 SCHOOL BUS SERVICES – TENDERING AND FUTURE ISSUES**

Members considered a report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director that informed them of the progress of school bus service tenders for 2009 and invited them to examine issues regarding such for the future. The report also sought recommendations on the future policy direction on school bus services.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That the report be noted;
- 2.) That periodic update reports on school bus services be brought to future meetings of this committee;
- 3.) That further work and review on policy issues proceeds with a view to reporting to Policy Committee in the New Year be agreed.

**BN/09/54 PUNCTUALITY AND RELIABILITY MONITORING SYSTEM – BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE QUARTER 1 - APRIL – JUNE 2009**

A report was submitted that informed Members of the results from the first quarter data on bus network performance, covering both subsidised and commercial services. A presentation was also provided.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1.) That the first results relating to Bus Network EWT, Punctuality, Reliability and fleet profile be noted;
- 2.) That the low figure for bus punctuality and support the proposed work stream for LTP 3 development be noted;
- 3.) That the work that will take place with Operators via regular Performance Reviews, covering performance of both subsidised services and the commercial network, be noted;
- 4.) That the work that will take place with Districts, via regular performance reports and engagement with District Officers, be noted;

- 5.) That the financial implications in terms of future investment to tackle on-highway performance issues, be noted;
- 6.) That Members seek to influence their District Capital & Revenue Programmes to address the issues of bus performance and highway management.



**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK****ANNEX A**

The Committee is requested to note or agree the following changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace de-registered commercial services:

<b>Dist</b>	<b>Service No. and Route</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Effective From</b>	<b>Alternative Services</b>	<b>Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations</b>
MR RE	<b>17</b> Manchester – Blackley – Middleton – Castleton - Rochdale	JP Travel	Introduction of new journeys on:  Monday to Thursday evenings between Manchester and Rochdale every 30 minutes. Currently these journeys are only operated on Fridays.  Friday evening between Manchester and Middleton every 30 minutes.  Saturday daytime between Manchester and Middleton every 15 minutes, and evening between Manchester and Rochdale every 30 minutes.  Sunday daytime between Manchester and Middleton every 15 minutes, and evening between Manchester and Rochdale every 30 minutes.	20/11/09	----	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>

<b>Dist</b>	<b>Service No. and Route</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Effective From</b>	<b>Alternative Services</b>	<b>Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations</b>
MR	<b>77</b> Lever Street – Phillips Park Cemetery – Newton Heath - Moston	JP Travel	Introduction of evening journeys every 30 minutes between 1855 and 2300, on Friday and Saturday evenings.	20/11/09	----	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>
MR BY	<b>135</b> Piccadilly – Shudehill – Cheetham Hill – Heaton Park – Whitefield – Bury	JP Travel	Introduction of early morning journeys on Saturdays and Sundays, operating every 30 minutes between 00:25 and 03:25.	20/11/09	----	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>
MR	<b>156</b> Shudehill – North Manchester General Hospital – Bank House – Rhodes – Middleton - Langley	JP Travel	This change re-introduces the service along Bowness Road and Windermere Road, which had been withdrawn on 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2009.	20/11/09	----	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
BY	<b>473</b> Bury – Ramsbottom – Edenfield – Rawtenstall – Waterfoot – Edgeside - Water	Rossendale Transport	The following journeys have been changed:  <u>Monday to Friday</u> – 0543 from Ramsbottom to Rawtenstall and 0620 from Bury to Rawtenstall withdrawn.  <u>Monday to Saturday</u> – 2305 from Rawtenstall to Ramsbottom extended to Bury. 2318 Ramsbottom to Rawtenstall to commence at Bury at 2335.  <u>Saturday</u> – 0655 Bury to Rawtenstall withdrawn.	1/11/09	Service 472 provides early morning journeys from Bury along Walmersley Road.	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>
BN	<b>514</b> Bolton – Ladybridge – Middlebrook Circular	South Lancs Travel	New Service 514 will operate hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.	14/12/09	----	<b>No GMPTE action at this stage.</b>

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK**

**ANNEX B**

The Committee is requested to agree that action is taken regarding the following changed or deregistered services:

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
BN	<p><b>526</b> Bolton – Halliwell – Smithills Hall</p>	<p>Maytree Travel</p>	<p>Service 526 operates Monday to Saturday, hourly daytime.</p> <p>This service has been extended to serve Barrow Bridge via Moss Bank Way, Captain’s Clough Road, Moss Lane and Barrow Bridge Road.</p>	<p>25/10/09</p>	<p>Barrow Bridge Local Link currently serves the Barrow Bridge &amp; Moss Bank Park area on Mondays to Saturdays between 0730 and 1830.</p>	<p>Service 526 is a supported service between Bolton and Smithills. The extension to Barrow Bridge has been provided commercially. The GMPTE supported Barrow Bridge Local Link service area is now being served by the extended Service 526.</p> <p>Local Link carries an average of 13 passengers per day, at a cost of £3.60 per passenger, 11 of which are able to make the same journey using Service 526. The unique link to Church Road Post Office would be lost, however Service 526 serves the Halliwell Road Post Office.</p> <p>As Service 526 provides an alternative service, officers would recommend withdrawal of the Local Link service and further details will be discussed in Part B of this meeting. <b>Members will be given costs and asked to approve the recommendation for withdrawal in Part B.</b></p>

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE SUBSIDISED NETWORK

## ANNEX C

The Committee are invited to consider officer's proposals on the following services:

Dist	Service Number, route and operator	GMPTE officer comments and recommendations
TD	<p><b>277</b></p> <p>Gorse Hill – Stretford, Arndale – Humphrey Park Station – Urmston, Somerfield – Trafford General Hospital</p>	<p>Service 277 operates hourly Mondays to Saturdays, between the peaks. Tenders have been invited for this service, which is due to expire on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010. The bids received and associated costs will be discussed with Members in Part B of this meeting.</p> <p>The criteria score for this service is 6.3, represented by high areas of deprivation and servicing of multiple facilities.</p>
<p><b>Members will be asked to approve the recommendation shown in Part B.</b></p>		
BN	<p><b>525 / 527</b></p> <p>Bolton – Halliwell – Smithills - Sharples – Astley Bridge – Hall I'th' Wood – Ainsworth Lane – Bolton Circulars</p>	<p>Circular services 525 / 527 operate daily, hourly daytime and evening.</p> <p>These services, previously only serving Smithills Hall in the evenings and on Sundays, were enhanced to include Smithills Hall during Monday to Saturday daytime. This improved level of service to Smithills Hall commenced on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009, at no additional cost to the Bus Services Budget.</p> <p>The criteria score for this service is 6.4, represented by high areas of deprivation and servicing of multiple facilities.</p>
<p><b>Members are asked to note the improved level of service, which commenced on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009.</b></p>		
OM	<p><b>Oldham Shopping Local Link Service (Oldham)</b></p>	<p>GMPTE officers are recommending an expanded service, which will provide a weekend shopping service to residents of areas west of Oldham to Tesco Supermarket (Chadderton) for fresh food shopping.</p> <p>The extension will be wholly funded by Oldham MBC from Section 106 developer contributions.</p> <p>The proposed service will operate between the hours of 8am to 10 pm on Saturdays and 10am to 2pm on Sundays.</p> <p>The existing service will continue to run on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30am to 5.30pm.</p>

Dist	Service Number, route and operator	GMPTE officer comments and recommendations
		<p>The GMPTE funded vehicle to be used is already used for the existing Oldham shopping service.</p>
		<p><b>Costs of the expansion will be provided in Part B to this meeting and Members will asked to approve the above recommendation for an extended Oldham Shopping Link Service to be introduced for an initial period of 12 months and that, subject to satisfactory review, this arrangement should continue thereafter.</b></p>