

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MEETING OF THE BUS NETWORK AND GMPTE
SERVICES COMMITTEE OF GREATER
MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY, HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor White (in the Chair).

Councillors Corris, Davison, Dillon, Fender, Godson, McCulley, Shaw,
Smith and Theckston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Dawson.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Creswell, Jones, Warner and Whitehead.

BN/09/55 URGENT BUSINESS

A. Chair's Communication

The Chair took an opportunity to offer thanks to all operators and staff on keeping things in operation during the recent extreme weather conditions. Thanks were also offered to the districts for their efforts.

B. Bus Operations During Severe Weather

The Chair allowed this verbal update to be reported so that members were made aware of those measures and actions put in place to enable bus movements during the recent heavy snowfall across the region.

It was reported that during the reported severe weather conditions, PTE worked with districts to clear main road surfaces to enable a prioritised bus network to be operated. Bus Stations were also cleared and gritted.

Officers liaised with local Children and Young People Services and those schools with dedicated bus services to ensure that they were informed of delays and cancellations of services.

The majority of bus services were now operating to normal timetables.

RESOLVED/-

That the update be received with thanks and noted.

BN/09/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor White declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10, Forthcoming *Changes to the Bus Network – Financial Issues*, and explained that he would vacate the Chair whilst the discussion on the Stockport Metroshuttle took place.

In light of the absence of a Vice Chair, Councillor Dillon was proposed and seconded to take the Chair during the course of any discussion on this item.

This proposal was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED/-

- 1.) That Councillor White's personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10, *Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network – Financial Issues*, be noted;
- 2.) That in light of the declaration of interest above, Councillor Dillon be appointed Chair whilst any discussions regarding Stockport Metroshuttle contractual matters be undertaken,
- 3.) There were no other declarations of a personal or prejudicial interest made by a Member in respect of any matter to be discussed on the agenda.

BN/09/57 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and GMPTE Services Committee held on 13 November 2009.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Network and GMPTE Services Committee, held on 13 November 2009 be approved as a correct record.

BN/09/58 PASSENGER INFORMATION

A presentation was provided that informed Members of the current functions within information provision, customer interfaces, information mediums and customer satisfaction/performance measurements.

A Member explained that whilst using the journey planning tools on the GMPTE website results showed a large volume of possible bus stops which could cause confusion. In response, officers explained that improvements to the website, including journey planner information, were to be carried out in April 2010.

RESOLVED/-

- 1.) That the presentation be received with thanks and noted;
- 2.) That thanks be given to staff for dealing with the large number of service enquiries during the recent heavy snowfall; and
- 3.) That a further report be provided to this committee in 6 months time.

BN/09/59 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL UPDATE

The Customer Services Director submitted a report that advised members of the current activity and project plans for the National Concessionary Travel Scheme 2009/10.

A Councillor raised concern that the Under 16 Pass attracted a £5.00 fee, even though it was being introduced on a mandatory basis.

In response, it was reported that this scheme enabled young people to benefit from concessionary travel. Agreement had been reached, in principle with operators that entitled card holders to receive discounted travel products. Discussions with third party organisations were also being undertaken to secure additional discounts.

A condition of the under 16 pass was that temporary or permanent withdrawal could be enacted due to the poor behaviour of the card holder on services.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the Chair was to discuss with officers those issues regarding charges for the under 16 pass and provide an update at a future meeting of this committee.

BN/09/60 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. Details of those services considered under delegated authority were also appended to the report for the information of members.

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 those changes to services agreed under delegated authority and set out at Appendix I to the report be noted.

BN/09/61 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/09/62 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.

The Chair requested that for future meetings, a Finance Officer from GMPTE was to be in attendance.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

BN/09/63 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 42A, 42, 67L and 486.

Consideration was also given to proposals for the awarding of the Marple/Mellor Local Link service. A Member requested that publicity for the booking arrangements be controlled from a central point. In response it was reported that the recommended operator would be able to accommodate this request.

A Member commented that with regard to the changes proposed to service 390, residents of the Racecourse Estate would not receive regular bus services and as such requested officers extend the local link service to Windgate Road. Officers were also requested to investigate the feasibility of reinstating a circular service to serve the Racecourse Estate.

COUNCILLOR DILLON IN THE CHAIR

At this point in the proceedings, Councillor White vacated the Chair and withdrew from the chamber whilst the discussion on the Stockport Metroshuttle contract award took place.

RESOLVED/-

- 1.) That the recommendations with regard to bus services 42A, 42, 67L and 486, as set out in the report, be approved.
- 2.) That approval be given for the Marple/Mellor Local Link service be awarded to Radio Cabs, at a cost identified in the report;
- 3.) That approval be given to award the Stockport Metroshuttle contract to Swans Travel, at a cost identified in the report.

COUNCILLOR WHITE IN THE CHAIR

BN/09/64 BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

A report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director was submitted that provided to Members an update on the work undertaken to monitor, understand and influence the performance of buses in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

- 1.) That the Observed Quarter 2 Bus Punctuality, Reliability and Fleet standards figures, set out in section four to the report, be noted;
- 2.) That those Bus Network Performance Indicators, developed as a baseline for future Bus Performance Monitoring, be noted;
- 3.) That the provision of commercially sensitive patronage data from First and Stagecoach and the initial analysis work undertaken, be noted;

- 4.) That the work undertaken on better understanding congestion and the link with bus performance, as well as the increasing focus on working with Districts to help inform future Network Management Plans;
- 5). That Members acknowledge the importance of continuous assessment of bus network changes to ensure that bus performance does not deteriorate and that priorities for Greater Manchester are identified and acted upon, subject to funding constraints.

BN/09/65 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/09/66 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.

RESOLVED/-

- 1.) That the implementation of the policy priority for introducing orbital bus services in Greater Manchester, be noted;
- 2.) That the current levels of patronage on those services contained in the report be noted;
- 3.) That Members noted that further surveys being were to be carried out;
- 4.) That Members receive a further update report at the March 2010 meeting of this Committee.

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:

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
MR SD	10 Shudehill – Pendleton – Salford Royal Hospital – Eccles - Brookhouse	Arriva Manchester	Service to be re-routed to operate via Verdant Lane, Trippier Road and Northfleet Road to Salford City Academy, then via Northfleet Road and Brookhouse Avenue.	24/1/10	----	No GMPTE action at this stage.
OM RE MR	57 Oldham – Chadderton – Mills Hill – Middleton – Rhodes – Trafford Centre	First Manchester	Service 57 operates hourly Saturday daytime only. This service will be withdrawn.	30/1/10	Passengers can access the Trafford Centre by changing in Manchester City Centre onto Services 250 & X50, which combine to provide 6 buses each hour.	No GMPTE action at this stage.

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
MR TD SD	100 Shudehill – Salford Shopping City – Eccles – Trafford Centre – Peel Green Lane – Irlam – Hollins Green - Warrington	First Manchester	<p>The Monday to Saturday daytime Service 100 operates every 10 minutes between Shudehill and the Trafford Centre, extending beyond the Trafford Centre to Warrington every hour.</p> <p>Four journeys each hour operate on Sunday daytime with one of those journeys extending to Warrington hourly.</p> <p>The daily hourly journeys to Warrington will be re-routed to serve Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street at Higher Irlam.</p> <p>In addition, the service will extend beyond Trafford Centre to Tesco, Irlam, hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.</p>	24/1/10	----	<p>The re-routing of the Service 100 daily hourly journeys to Warrington and the newly extended hourly journeys on Service 100 to Tesco, Irlam on Monday to Saturday, will give Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street a service every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime and hourly Sunday daytime. This replaces the withdrawn Service 67L, with the exception of School Lane.</p> <p>The Monday to Saturday evening journeys on Service 100 are subsidised by GMPTE and the timetable does not contain the additional time required to enable the service to be re-routed via Higher Irlam in the evening.</p> <p>Officers are investigating other alternatives, which will be reported under 67L in Part A and Part B.</p> <p>No GMPTE action at this stage.</p>

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
WN TD	132 Wigan – Hindley – Atherton – Tyldesley – Mosley Common – Boothstown – Trafford Centre	First Manchester	This Hourly Saturday daytime service will be withdrawn.	30/1/10	Alternative Saturday Service 132 is provided by South Lancs Travel every 30 minutes.	The Monday to Friday Service 132 is provided by South Lancs Travel. No GMPTE action at this stage.
BN TD	300 Bolton – Trafford Centre	First Manchester	Service 300 provided by First currently operates Saturday only, daytime every 30 minutes. This service will be withdrawn.	30/1/10	A Saturday hourly Service 300 will be introduced by South Lancs Travel, starting 30 minutes early than the current service.	No GMPTE action at this stage.
BN TD	300 Bolton – Trafford Centre	South Lancs Travel	Introduction of an hourly Saturday daytime service.	30/1/10	----	South Lancs Travel already operate the hourly Monday to Friday service 300. No GMPTE action at this stage.

Dist	Service No. and Route	Operator	Proposed Change	Effective From	Alternative Services	Comments/GMPTE officer recommendations
RE	442 Rochdale – Sudden – Meadway - Marland	Rossendale Transport	Service 442 operates Monday to Saturday daytime, every 30 minutes. The following pm peak journeys will be withdrawn: Monday to Friday 1615, 1645, 1715, 1745. Saturday 1545, 1615, 1645, 1715.	25/1/10	The following high frequency services are available within 400 metres: Service 471, along Bolton Road and Service 17 along Manchester Road and Drake Street.	Survey carried out on the pm peak journeys to be withdrawn have shown an average of 5 passengers per journey on Mondays to Fridays and 3 passengers per journey on Saturdays. As the number of passengers is low and alternative frequent services are available within 400 metres, officers are not recommending replacement of these journeys. No GMPTE action at this stage.
MR TD	X50 Manchester – Old Trafford – Trafford Park – Trafford Centre	Stagecoach	Service X50 operates every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday, daytime and evening and Sunday daytime. The Saturday timetable will be revised to make the last trip depart from the Trafford Centre at 2040 instead of 2140 hours.	24/1/10	----	The Saturday timetable is to be revised due to the Trafford Centre shops closing at 8pm rather than 9pm. No GMPTE action at this stage.

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
MR TD SD	53 Cheetham Hill Tesco – North Manchester General Hospital – Harpurhey – Sportcity – Gorton – Belle Vue – Rusholme – University – Old Trafford – Salford, Shopping City	First Manchester	Service 53 currently operates every 30 minutes daily daytime and evening. The following journeys are proposed for withdrawal: Monday to Friday - 1755 & 1835 from Cheetham Hill and 1800 & 1840 from Salford Shopping City. Saturday - 0635, 0705, 0735, 0755, 1755, 1825 & 1855 from Cheetham Hill and 0700, 0730, 0800, 0830, 1800 & 1830 from Salford Shopping City.	25/1/10	----	At present the daily evening journeys operate every 30 minutes and are subsidised by GMPTE, these are made up of hourly Cheetham to Salford and hourly Cheetham to Old Trafford. In addition some early morning journeys are also subsidised by GMPTE. Survey data has shown an average of 21 passengers per trip being carried on the daytime journeys proposed for withdrawal. In the evening an average of 8 passengers per evening trip are being carried. Each journey is an hour in duration end to end, with passengers boarding and alighting all along the route. Following negotiations with the operator and with the results of the survey data in mind, officers would recommend that the daily evening service be reduced from every 30 minutes to hourly and that the commercial journeys proposed for withdrawal be replaced.

					<p>The hourly evening service would cater for key visiting and staff changeover times at both North Manchester General Hospital and Manchester Royal Infirmary.</p> <p>This recommendation would have a nil effect on the budget and would be introduced on 25th January 2010.</p> <p>Members are asked to approve the officer recommendation for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The replacement of the commercially withdrawn journeys and• The reduction of the daily evening service from every 30 minutes to hourly. <p>Both recommendations would take effect from 25th January 2010, with a nil effect on the Subsidised Services Budget.</p>
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MR SD	67 Manchester – Pendleton – Eccles – Peel Green – Irlam – Merlin Road - Cadishead	First	Currently early morning, evening, bank holiday and Sunday journeys on Service 67 run via Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street. All journeys on Service 67 will operate directly along Liverpool Road, no longer serving Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street.	24/1/09	----	During the daytime Service 67L operates via Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street and connects with Service 67 on Liverpool Road. However, this service is to be withdrawn and replaced with the re-routed Service 100 during the daytime, as detailed in below. Officers are in negotiation with the operator in respect of the early morning, evening and Sunday journeys on Service 67 and will report further at the meeting.
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SD	<p>67L Irlam, White Lion – Tesco – School Lane – Merlin Road Circular</p>	<p>First Manchester</p>	<p>Service 67L operates Monday to Saturday, every 10 minutes during the peaks and every 30 minutes off peak.</p> <p>The service currently provides a connection with Service 67 on Liverpool Road, Irlam and extends to Tesco, Irlam during the off peak Monday to Saturday.</p> <p>This feeder service will be withdrawn.</p>	<p>24/1/10</p>	<p>Service 100 every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime and hourly Sunday daytime.</p>	<p>The re-routing of the Service 100 daily hourly journeys to Warrington and the newly extended hourly journeys on Service 100 to Tesco, Irlam on Monday to Saturday, will give Cutnook Lane, Merlin Road, Morillon Road and Silver Street a service every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime and hourly Sunday daytime.</p> <p>School Lane will become unserved, with the nearest stops approximately 650 metres on Liverpool Road or Cutnook Lane</p> <p>Officers are investigating the impact of this change. Options and costs for replacement will be discussed in Part B.</p>
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BY	<p>486 Bury – Walshaw – Ainsworth – Bradley Fold - Radcliffe</p>	Rossendale Transport	<p>Service 486 operates hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.</p> <p>This service will be re-routed to operate via Bradley Fold Road and Church Street, Cockey Moor Road, no longer serving Ainsworth Turning Circle.</p>	24/1/10	<p>Service 510 every 30 minutes between Ainsworth Turning Circle, Walshaw and Bury.</p> <p>The direct link between Ainsworth Turning Circle and Radcliffe will be lost.</p>	<p>This general service is currently subsidised and will be provided commercial by Rossendale Transport. The morning and afternoon school journeys currently provided will remain subsidised.</p> <p>Ainsworth Turning Circle is approximately 450 metres from the junction of Bradley Fold Road and Church Street for Service 486.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the commercialisation of this service. Budget implications will be shown in Part B.</p>
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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
MR SD	<p>27</p> <p>Shudehill – Adelphi Street – Salford Shopping City – Trafford Road – Weaste – Salford Royal Hospital – Swinton Park – Swinton</p> <p><i>Bu-Val Buses</i></p>	<p>Service 27 operates hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.</p> <p>This service currently operates along Deansgate and Bridge Street and is suffering serious reliability problems due to congestion. Officers have been working with the operator to investigate and find a solution to improve service reliability.</p> <p>As a result officers are recommending that the outward journeys, towards Salford, this service be re-routed in Manchester City Centre to run along Deansgate and Blackfriars Street to improve reliability. The journeys into Manchester currently run along Blackfriars Street.</p> <p>No criteria score is currently available for this service.</p> <p>Members are asked to approve the proposed route change on Service 27 to operate via Blackfriars Street. This change would take effect on 25th January 2010.</p>
MR SD BN	<p>31</p> <p>Shudehill – Salford Shopping City – Duchy Road – Irlams o'th' Height – Swinton – Walkden – Amblecote Drive – Farnworth</p> <p><i>Maytree Travel Ltd</i></p>	<p>On Sundays Service 31 operates an hourly daytime service.</p> <p>Surveys carried out on this service have shown 2 or nil passengers on the following Sunday journeys:</p> <p>1620 (2 passengers) and 1720 (0 passengers) from Farnworth to Shudehill</p> <p>1715 and 1815 from Shudehill to Farnworth, 0 passengers on both.</p> <p>As a result of the extremely low passenger use, these journeys have not been renewed and will cease to operate with effect from 25th January 2010.</p> <p>This service carries a criteria score of 4.3, which reflects mid point level of deprivation en route, and a low rating for facilities served on Sundays.</p>

Dist	Service Number, route and operator	GMPTE officer comments and recommendations
		<p>Members are asked to note that the above journeys have not been renewed and will cease to operate with effect from 25th January 2010.</p> <hr/>
SD	<p>69 Eccles – Ellesmere Park – Salford Royal Hospital – Salford Shopping City – Sainsbury’s – Salford Quays – Trafford Park – Stretford <i>Arriva Manchester</i></p>	<p>Service 69 operates hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.</p> <p>Surveys carried out on this service have shown low passenger use on the following journeys:</p> <p>Monday to Friday</p> <p>0730 from Salford Shopping City to Trafford Park – 3 passengers, 2 of which are unique.</p> <p>0758 from Trafford Park to Salford Shopping City – 1 unique passenger.</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>1810 from Eccles to Salford Shopping City – 1 unique passenger.</p> <p>As a result of the low passenger use, these journeys have not been renewed and will cease to operate with effect from 25th January 2010.</p> <p>This service carries a high criteria score of 8.2, reflecting a high deprivation index, and a higher rating for centres and facilities served</p> <p>Members are asked to note that the above journeys have not been renewed and will cease to operate with effect from 25th January 2010.</p> <hr/>
ST	<p>390 Stockport – Offerton – Stepping Hill – Hazel Grove – Torkington – Poynton – Bramhall Village <i>Stagecoach Manchester</i></p>	<p>Monday to Saturday daytime, Service 390 currently provides two return journeys between Stockport and Bramhall via Offerton, Hazel Grove, Torkington, Poynton and Woodford and one return journey between Stockport and Torkington only. This service is jointly subsidised by GMPTE and Cheshire East Council.</p> <p><u>Currently residents of Woodford and Bramhall have a direct link to Hazel Grove</u></p>

Dist	Service Number, route and operator	GMPTE officer comments and recommendations
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and Stepping Hill Hospital, but no return journey is available. GMPTE officers investigated the possibility of revising the last round trip (1355 departure from Stockport to Torkington & 1421 Torkington to Stockport) so that the 1355 journey would extend along the full route to Bramhall, improving the situation for residents of Woodford and Bramhall who wish to travel to and from Hazel Grove and Stepping Hill Hospital.

This change would lead to the withdrawal of the 1421 departure which data shows only carries one passenger. The Offerton Local Link was expanded to cover the Torkington area in September 2009. The service operates between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and provides local residents with door to door links to Stepping Hill Hospital, Hazel Grove Rail Station and local amenities.

This service carries a criteria score of 5.2, the rating is low on deprivation with a mid score for serving district centres and slightly higher for access to facilities.

Members are asked to approve:

- **the withdrawal of the Monday to Saturday 1421 from Torkington to Stockport and**
- **the extension of the Monday to Saturday 1335 from Stockport to Torkington through to Bramhall Village.**

If approved this change would take effect on 25th January 2010.

BY **477**

Ramsbottom – Holcombe Brook –
 Summerseat – Brandlesholme – Bury
 – Chesham – Walmersley –
 Nangreaves

Rossendale Transport

Service 477 operates hourly Monday to Saturday daytime.

Surveys carried out on this service show an average of 4 people travelling on the Monday to Friday 0649 from Ramsbottom to Bury, 1 passenger from Whittingham Drive and 3 passengers from Summerseat.

Bury Rural Local Link provides an alternative door to door service, operating between 6.30 am and 11.00 pm Monday to Saturday and between 10.30 am and 11.00 pm on Sundays.

Officers would recommend the withdrawal of the Monday to Friday 0649 hours

Dist	Service Number, route and operator	GMPTE officer comments and recommendations
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from Ramsbottom.

The criteria score for this journey is 0.9, representing low scores for deprivation, and that it serves only 1 district centre and no other facilities.

Members are asked to approve the withdrawal of the 0649 Monday to Friday journey from Ramsbottom with effect from 9th April 2010.

BY

483

Bury Interchange – Fairfield General Hospital.

Rossendale Transport

GMPTE subsidises the Monday to Friday 0615 journey from Bury Interchange to Fairfield General Hospital on Service 483. Survey data has shown only 1 passenger travelling on this journey.

Alternative journeys would be Service 469 at 0613 or Service 483 at 0712 from Bury Interchange.

Officers would recommend withdrawal of the Monday to Friday 0615 journey from Bury Interchange

The criteria score for this journey is 0.9, representing low scores for deprivation, and that it serves 1 interchange and 1 hospital.

Members are asked to approve the withdrawal of the Monday to Friday 0615 journey from Bury Interchange with effect from 9th April 2010.

ST

Stockport Metroshuttle

Stockport Railway Station – Stockport Bus Station – ASDA / Sainsbury's – Portwood, Tesco – Knightsbridge - ASDA / Sainsbury's - Stockport Bus Station – Edward Street – Stockport Railway Station.

Solutions SK

Stockport Metroshuttle was introduced in November 2008 as a policy priority identified by the Integrated Transport Authority and is jointly funded by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (75%) and GMPTE (25%).

The service operates daily during the daytime and provides a free, high quality town centre bus service, designed to improve accessibility, linking transport interchanges including, where appropriate, car parks around the town centre and supporting local business, retail, social, education and employment activity in the selected area.

The current contract is due for renewal on 25th January 2010. Officers issued an Invitation To Tender and would wish to discuss details of the returned bids in Part B of this meeting.

Officers will discuss the returned bids and recommendation for award in Part B of this meeting.