

DELEGATED

Oldham Town Centre Shuttle Bus

**Report to: Elaine McLean
Executive Director of Economy, Place and Skills**

Portfolio Responsibility:
Cllr D Hibbert
Cllr S Akhtar

16th July 2012

Officer Contact: Joanne Betts
Ext: 4346

Purpose of Report

To advise that Transport for Greater Manchester are procuring an Oldham Town Centre Metroshuttle bus service to run from the Oldham Mumps Metrolink stop to Oldham Town Centre and to gain approval for Oldham Council to contribute towards the cost of the service.

Recommendations

- To note that TfGM are procuring a Metroshuttle bus service to transport passengers from the Oldham Mumps stop into the town centre whilst the Metrolink 3B line through the town centre is under construction.
- To approve Oldham Council's financial contribution to that service.

Delegated

Metrolink Shuttle Buses

1 Background

- 1.1 Metrolink line 3a from Manchester to Oldham Mumps temporary stop opened on Wednesday 13th June 2012. The 3B extension into the town centre is due to open in 2014, providing new stops at Oldham Central (Union Street), Oldham King Street and Westwood.
- 1.2 The Metrolink service runs every 12 minutes during the day and provides quick and easy access between Oldham and Manchester.
- 1.3 As the Oldham Mumps stop is just outside the town centre, a need has been identified for a shuttle bus service to transport Metrolink passengers from the temporary Oldham Mumps stop into the town centre, prior to the completion of the 3B line.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Members have requested that a shuttle bus be provided as soon as possible. TfGM have issued tenders for the service which a view to it commencing on 30th July 2012. TfGM have confirmed that they will contribute 25% towards the cost of the interim service. The initial contract will be for 6 months, after which it will be reviewed in the light of progress in delivering Metrolink 3B and extended as necessary in agreement with the operator, TfGM and Oldham Council.
- 2.4 The shuttle bus will be branded by TfGM in line with Council and TfGM guidelines.
- 2.5 As with all Metroshuttle bus services operating in Greater Manchester, the service will be free to passengers. The option of charging for the service for any passengers without a Metrolink ticket has been explored; however this would involve giving the Traffic Commissioner 56 days notice of this intention, a delay which is not considered acceptable.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 There are 3 options:

- Option A – do not introduce a Metroshuttle bus service.
- Option B – Oldham Council to procure a Metroshuttle bus service.
- Option C – TfGM to procure a 6 month Metroshuttle bus service.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The preferred option is option C for TfGM to procure a 6 month service involving one shuttle bus running 7 days a week from 09.40 – 16.10 from the Mumps Metrolink stop (Victoria Street), initially at a 30 minute frequency (but with the option to review once the service is underway and increase frequency to 20 minutes if this would result in a better service). The bus would be a low floor vehicle and fully wheelchair accessible. The bus would be able to pick up the general public and would be free of charge. Details of the proposed route are attached in appendix A. TfGM have experience of procuring similar services in other parts of Greater Manchester.

5 Publicity

- 5.1 Transport for Greater Manchester will produce and distribute timetables for the service at an approximate cost to the Council of £500 for 5000 leaflets to be met from the Oldham Council revenue budget 40030. They will also produce and display timetable information at the relevant bus stops which will be:

- Oldham Mumps Metrolink stop (Victoria Street)
- King Street (although initially there will be a diversion along Oldham Way and Manchester Street and a stop on Manchester Street instead due to the temporary closure of King Street for Metrolink roadworks)
- Oldham Bus Station
- Lord Street (two stops)
- Yorkshire Street

- 5.2 The bus service will be branded. Discussions are underway with the Council's design team and TfGM to agree an appropriate design. TfGM have supplied an estimated cost for the branding of £2,400, of which TfGM have agreed to contribute 25%, with the remainder to be met by Oldham Council from the revenue budget 40030.

- 5.3 A press release will be issued by Oldham Council to launch the service.

6 Stop and shelter

- 6.1 A new bus stop will be provided at Victoria Street (Mumps Metrolink Stop), along with a shelter. There will be no costs to the Council for the supply, installation and maintenance of the stop and shelter as this will be covered under an existing TfGM contract for the provision of shelters. The shelter will have seating as requested by Members. Following discussions between TfGM, Unity traffic engineers, the police and members, agreement has been reached on the location of the bus stop, which will be on Victoria Street opposite the Mumps Metrolink stop car park exit.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Leadership and Town Centre Partnership have been consulted on the options and were supportive of the proposal and the preferred option.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Summary Implications

	Oldham Council	Transport for Greater Manchester	Total
	75%	25%	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Shuttlebus – 6 months	31.0	10.4	41.4
Branding	1.8	0.6	2.4
Timetables (100% Oldham Council)	0.5	0	0.5
Total expenditure	33.3	11.0	43.3
Funded by:			
Oldham Council resources	(33.3)		(33.3)
Transport for Greater Manchester		(11.0)	(11.0)

- 6.2 The proposed will be revenue expenditure for Economy, Place & Skills Directorate, Strategic Transport budget, cost centre 40030.
- 6.3 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) will invoice Oldham Council for 75% of costs for the Shuttlebus and Branding on a quarterly basis. The full cost of the timetables will be met by Oldham Council.
- 6.4 The total expenditure of £33.3k will be met from a one off 2012/13 Revenue allocation for Metrolink related activity of £100k of which £85.14k is uncommitted.
- 6.5 Oldham Council will only be liable for 75% of the costs up to a maximum of £31k for the Shuttlebus, £1.8k for the Branding and £0.5k for the timetables. This will be detailed within the Financial agreement between TfGM and Oldham Council.
- 6.6 Any extension of this service past 6 months will be subject to a further report.

(Vickie Crewe)

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 Under section 9 of the Transport Act 1968 the Council (as a district comprised in a county which is coterminous with an integrated transport area) has the

power to enter into and carry out agreements with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (which is the successor to the integrated transport authority for Greater Manchester), Transport for Greater Manchester (which is the Passenger Transport Executive for Greater Manchester) and any subsidiary of Transport for Greater Manchester, for the giving of assistance by the Council to those bodies by making available to them any services or facilities provided by, or any property of, the Council. (A Evans)

8 Human Resources Comments

8.1 N/A

9 Risk Assessments

9.1 None (Mark Stenson)

10 IT Implications

10.1 None

11 Property Implications

11.1 None

12 Procurement Implications

12.1 There are no procurement implications as the council is not procuring anything with this arrangement. TFGM will procure under their own guidelines which conforms with the councils rules and regulations. Elizabeth McKenna

13 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

13.1 The service will comply with health and safety regulations, as specified in the TfGM tender.

14 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

14.1 The service provided will be open to all members of the general public and the vehicle will be low floor and fully wheelchair accessible.

15 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

15.1 N/A.

16 Key Decision

16.1 No

17 **Forward Plan Reference**

17.1 N/A

18 **Background Papers**

18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Records held in Economy, Place and Skills Directorate, Level 5, Civic Centre,
West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH
Officer Name: Joanne Betts
Contact No: 0161 770 4346

19 **Appendices**

19.1 APPENDIX A: Indicative Route for Metrolink Shuttle Bus (Mumps – Oldham Town Centre Loop)

DELETE IF CABINET DECISION	
Signed <u>Glenn McKeon</u> Executive Director	Dated <u>26/7/12</u>

