

## **DEPUTY LEADER**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Deputy Leader's Portfolio:-

**MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Councillor Haslam     | - As deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader's Portfolio |
| Councillor Mrs Thomas | - Major Opposition Spokesperson  |
| Councillor Hayes      | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson  |
| Councillor Hornby     | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson  |
| Councillor Sanders    | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson  |
| Councillor Wright     | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson  |

### **Officers**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Mr. J. Hundal       | - Interim Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration |
| Mrs. N. Raby        | - Senior Lawyer  |
| Ms. J. Duxbury      | - Estates and Property Development Manager (Town Centres)          |
| Ms. J. Pollard      | - Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy                        |
| Mr I. D. Mulholland | - Principal Democratic Services Officer                            |

## **19. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.**

## **20. BOLTON TOWN CENTRE METROSHUTTLE SERVICE**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to continue funding the Metroshuttle service for a further year and also detailed a number of strategies that would be utilised to secure funding beyond December, 2020.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that the Metroshuttle service was a free bus service that was set up in 2008 to serve key Town Centre Car Parks and retail areas. The service was administered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) as a form of subsidised public transport.

The report advised that the Metroshuttle service had been operated by Vision Bus since January, 2018, following a compliant tender process carried out by TfGM. The service currently cost £120,000 per annum to operate and the Council contributed 75% of the service costs which amounted to £90,000 plus £13,515 towards the running costs of a low emission hybrid vehicle totalling £103,515. The remaining 25%, amounted to £30,000 which was funded by TfGM.

In terms of going forward, the Executive Cabinet Member was advised that TfGM had indicated that if the Council wished to continue the service for a further year, the prior tender process would allow this and they had also indicated that the current service operator was happy to continue for a further year at no additional cost on the basis that no changes to the route or frequency were required.

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The report provided information in relation to the use of the service and it was noted that despite a sharp decrease in 2018 due to a joint marketing campaign with TfGM figures had increased this year and details of this were outlined in the report. It was also stated that an alternative way of funding the service must be secured if it was to be continued indefinitely as Council reserves were depleting. Consequently, discussions had taken place between the Council and TfGM around how the service could be funded through commercial opportunities and Appendix 3 to the report outlined an action plan.

In terms of the future of the service there were a number of options available which were detailed in the report as follows:-

- Option 1 – introduce a charge for the service;
- Option 2 – approaching development partners and local businesses/use of assets through town centre negotiations;
- Option 3 – offer a reduced service;
- Option 4 – TfGM increase their contribution to 50% of the service costs;
- Option 5 – extend the contract for 3 months, January to March, 2020 whilst Option 2 was developed;
- Option 6 – temporarily end the Metroshuttle service/contract on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 until the Town Centre masterplan was fully developed; or
- Option 7 – continue to fund the service in its current format for a further year whilst Option 2 and an income generation plan were further developed.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that, having considered all the options and in the context of wider regeneration of the town centre, it was considered appropriate to extend the service on the existing basis for one more year on the terms as detailed in the report. However, concerted actions would be undertaken to improve patronage and seek external sources of funding to safeguard the viability of the service.

**The Executive Cabinet Member AUTHORISED –**

- (i) The use of £103,515 from the town centres budget to fund the Metroshuttle service from 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020; and NOTED –**
- (ii) The strategy to raise income to continue to fund the service from January, 2021.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.**

### **21. LOGISTICS NORTH LOCAL LINK – RENEWAL OF SERVICE**

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided details in relation to the proposed expansion service area and operational hours of the Local Link Service for Logistics North.

The report provided information on the current operational activities of the service; the proposed changes; and the renewal of the contract.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED –**

- (i) The expanded service area and operational hours for the Logistics North Local Link service; and**
- (ii) The cost for the provision of this subsidised service is £257,000 and will be funded from the funds received under the Section 106 Agreement.**

### **22. TOWN CENTRE ACQUISITIONS UPDATE REPORT**

The Director of Place submitted a report which apprised the Executive Cabinet Member of progress made in support of the Town Centre Intervention Areas.

**The Executive Cabinet Member AUTHORISED –**

- (i) The Director of Place, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to conclude the negotiations as detailed in the report;**
- (ii) The Director of Corporate Resources to address all the financial matters; and**
- (iii) The Borough Solicitor to complete all legal formalities.**