

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Policy and Resources

DATE: 19th March 2010

SUBJECT: Future Jobs Fund: Proposed Combined Bus & Metrolink Ticket for Programme Participants.

REPORT OF: Interim Bus & Rail Director, GMPTE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of the outcome of negotiations with Greater Manchester Travelcards Limited and the proposal to introduce a special combined Bus and Metrolink ticket for individuals whilst participating in the Future Jobs Fund programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to note the proposed introduction of a combined Bus and Metrolink ticket, for individuals whilst participating in the Future Jobs Fund programme.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

CONTACT OFFICERS

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 AGMA was last year successful in securing some £52 million to fund an ambitious programme under the Future Jobs Fund initiative, which will enable some 8,000 placements (of 6 months duration) over the next 12/18 months across Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 Appendix I to this report provides a more detailed background to the AGMA bid and the wider national programme.
- 1.3 Since confirmation of the success of AGMA in securing this funding and the resultant programme, GMPTE have been in negotiation with the bus operators in order to examine whether it is feasible to provide an appropriately discounted ticket for individuals whilst on the programme. This report confirms the agreement reached with System One Travelcards which will enable the introduction of a special monthly Bus and Metrolink ticket.

2.0 Proposed Ticket

- 2.1 Following negotiations, Greater Manchester Travelcards Limited have agreed to the introduction of a 28 day Bus and Metrolink ticket which will be available for the duration of the programme, and sold exclusively to individuals whilst engaged under the initiative. The ticket to be sold only at GMPTE Travelshops.
- 2.2 It has been agreed that the System One Travelcard product will be priced at £15.00 (per 28 day) for the duration of the programme.
- 2.3 The low price of the product reflects the fact that candidates for the scheme will have been, in relative terms, economically inactive for some period of time leading up to their placement, at least 9 months. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that giving such a concession will not give rise to revenue loss as a result of abstraction from other ticket sales.
- 2.4 The price represents a considerable discount from existing all day products for both bus and Metrolink. By way of illustration the existing products are priced as follows :-

Bus Saver (28 days)	[Adult]	£59.50
Bus Saver (28 days)	[16 – 21]	£45.00
Metrolink	28 days	£82.10

- 2.5 Furthermore by only selling the ticket through GMPTE Travelshops it will enable GMPTE to keep a tight control on the administration of eligibility, to help individuals become more familiar and confident in accessing public transport information and, in due course, to gain advice from GMPTE staff regarding appropriate longer term ticket products, once they complete the programme.
- 2.6 It is intended that in conjunction with the operators we will promote the existence of this product and ensure that both GMPTE and the bus operators receive suitable recognition for this initiative.
- 2.7 During the course of the programme GMPTE will monitor the take up of this programme and the usage made to better inform the Authority and the bus operators as to the value of this initiative.

3.0 Recommendation

The recommendations appear on the front sheet of the report.

Michael Renshaw
Interim Bus & Rail Director

FUTURE JOBS FUND (FJF)

BACKGROUND

- £1 billion funding run by Department of Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government.
- The fund is aimed at supporting work experience opportunities to enhance employability for those that have been unemployed between 9 and 12 months, and are:
 - 18-24 years old
 - People that are 25+ years old face but significant disadvantage in the labour market
- Funding is available up to March 2011 (placements can start during March 2011 and are funded for the following 6 months).
- The fund aims to create 150,000 jobs across England, Scotland and Wales
- All employers were invited to bid for a part of this funding

AGMA BID

- AGMA bid – recognition that we can do more together and put forward a more ambitious bid
 - All 10 Councils
 - Commission for the New Economy
 - Fire, police, health, housing, transport
 - GMCVO and VCSs / social enterprises
 - LSC and JCP
 - Some private employers e.g. Manchester Airport

PARTNERSHIP

- The successful AGMA bid outlined the facilitation of 8,000 placements across Greater Manchester up to March 2011, which would require funding of £52 million Salford City Council are the accountable body for the funds, supported by the Commission of New Economy
- A Managing Agent has been appointed to support host employers (including GMPTE) with job placements. They will be the 'employer' and offer host employers appropriate support.
- Individuals will be paid at minimum wage for 35 hours per week.

BENEFITS

- Introduces, or reintroduces individuals to full time employment with the aim of improving their skill and employment prospects for the future.
- Supporting a government and local community initiative giving something back to GM people.
- Opportunity to utilise 'additional' work experience placement **and** boost employability.

March 2010