

Operational Decision Record

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| Publication Date 13/02/23 | Decision Reference Number 4855 |
| Decision Title | |
| Emergency bus hire to cover for out of service vehicles on the Medilink and Locallink bus network | |
| Decision Value | |
| Up to £100,000 | |
| Revenue or Capital Spend? | |
| Revenue | |
| Department | |
| Growth and City Development | |
| Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details) | |
| Mark Garlick, Public Transport Policy, mark.garlick@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 876 4675 | |
| Decision Taken | |
| To approve the payment of emergency bus hire costs. The vehicles would be required to support the Medilink and Locallink networks by supplementing the fleet when vehicles are unavailable, ensuring a reliable service can be maintained. | |
| Reasons for Decision and Background Information | |
| <p>The Council owns the electric vehicles which operate on the Medilink and Locallink services and major vehicle components, including batteries, powertrains and on-board chargers are out of warranty. The vehicles require regular inspections, and the repair and replacement of components over their lifetime to keep the fleet in working order. These requirements take them out of service. As the vehicles get older, increased maintenance and replacement of parts is required, and in particular issues with battery performance have increased. Global supply chains or other factors are increasingly delaying the delivery of specialist parts for the vehicles, resulting in vehicles being out of service for longer than previously envisaged.</p> <p>As a consequence, emergency bus hire may quickly be required to support the Medilink and Locallink bus fleets if sufficient vehicles are not available to provide a reliable service for citizens. Best Value will be ensured by arranging three price quotes for hire buses with each incidence where they are required.</p> | |

The fleet operating the Locallink network are first generation electric buses and now over nine years old, and are increasingly unreliable, and this is increasing the cost of maintenance and affecting the quality reliability of services being available to citizens. A review of Locallink bus provision is therefore currently underway, and proposals for the future provision of the services will be brought forward in due course.

Emergency vehicle hire that is required will be funded from by the existing public transport repairs and maintenance budget. Any required bus hire will be arranged and managed by the contractor, with costs reimbursed by the local authority subject to approval by the contracts manager.

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

To not hire in additional vehicles to support the Medilink and Locallink network would result in an unreliable operation, or would require further reductions to routes and timetables to be registered with the Traffic Commissioner, so that the remaining operational fleet could cope. This option was rejected as it would see further reductions in service and would not meet the contractual requirements of partners including the NUH-NHS Trust.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational

The value of the decision is under £250,000 and is within agreed Council policies and budgets.

Additional Information

At this time, an EIA is not considered necessary as there will be no change to the service provided.

Finance comments

As Nottingham City Council has contractual requirements to maintain the service (partners including the NUH-NHS Trust) this is supported. This decision relates to the previous DDM 4573 for the Maintenance of the electric bus fleet. The period will run from now (February 2023) until 31 March 2024. This proposal will be covered by public transport budgets and is already accounted for. Therefore the proposal will not add financial pressure to the MTFP and can be contained within Transport and is supported. This will be monitored by the service for any variance and reflected in the monthly forecast for the service.

Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner)
03/02/2023

Procurement comments

3 quotes will be sought as and when any emergency bus services are required. This is compliant with CPR's and demonstrates best value. Procurement therefore supports the decision to be taken.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Category Manager)
02/02/2023

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| Decision Maker (Name and Job Title) |
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| Sajeeda Rose Corporate Director, Growth and City Development |
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| Scheme of Delegation Reference Number |
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| Date Decision Taken |
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| 07/02/23 |
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