

## Equality Impact Assessment

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**Title:** Stockport Metroshuttle Service Proposal

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

**Stage:** Draft

**Lead Officer:** Caroline Simpson

### Stage 1: Do you need to complete an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)?

Yes.

This proposal is to cease the Town Centre Metroshuttle free bus service when the current contract ends in April 2019, if alternative funding cannot be found.

This EIA will assess the potential impact of the removal of this service.

### Stage 2: What do you know?

The service has an average of 15,000 passengers per month. This data is a count of passengers getting on the bus. The data that we are provided with from Manchester Community Transport and TFGM does not enable us to determine whether this includes passengers making multiple journeys, nor does it give us a breakdown of the passenger demographics.

Total number of Passengers boarding the bus per month

Month	Number of Passengers
September 2018	15,049
August 2018	16,586
July 2018	15,891
June 2018	Not available
May 2018	13,898
April 2018	14,512

We do not currently have any data about Metroshuttle passengers to indicate if

they have any of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, shown below:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

However, a public consultation is ongoing with service users where we have asked respondents to categorise themselves against the protected characteristics. This is detailed below in stage 2a below. Whilst the numbers of responders is small compared to the total users we believe there is merit in considering this data.

## Stage 2a: Further data and consultation

Consultation is currently ongoing and this EIA contains data from the interim results as at 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. Through the consultation we received responses from 213 people who categorised themselves as users of the bus service.

From these responses the following information about the service users was established.

### Gender of Bus Users

50 (24.5%)	Male
150 (73.5%)	Female
0 (0.0%)	Prefer to self-describe
4 (2.0%)	Prefer not to answer

### Age of Bus Users

1 (0.5%)	0 - 17
6 (2.9%)	18 - 24
15 (7.2%)	25 - 34
34 (16.4%)	35 - 44
28 (13.5%)	45 - 54
52 (25.1%)	55 - 64
57 (27.5%)	65 - 74
8 (3.9%)	75 - 84
1 (0.5%)	85+
5 (2.4%)	Prefer not to answer

**Bus Users who responded to the question “Do you consider yourself to have an impairment, disability or long term health condition?”**

99 (48.1%)	Yes
86 (41.7%)	No
21 (10.2%)	Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity of Bus Users**

181 (91.0%)	White- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
5 (2.5%)	White- Irish
0 (0.0%)	White- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
3 (1.5%)	White- any other White background, please specify
0 (0.0%)	Mixed- White and Black Caribbean
0 (0.0%)	Mixed- White and Black African
0 (0.0%)	Mixed- White and Asian
0 (0.0%)	Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background, please
0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British-Indian
0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British- Pakistani
0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British-Bangladeshi
0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British- Chinese
0 (0.0%)	Any other Asian background, please specify
0 (0.0%)	Black or Black British- African
0 (0.0%)	Black or Black British- Caribbean
0 (0.0%)	Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please specify
0 (0.0%)	Other ethnic group- Arab
0 (0.0%)	Any other ethnic group, please specify
10 (5.0%)	Prefer not to answer

**Religion or belief of Bus Users**

68 (33.5%)	No religion
113 (55.7%)	Christian
0 (0.0%)	Muslim
0 (0.0%)	Hindu
0 (0.0%)	Buddhist
1 (0.5%)	Jewish
0 (0.0%)	Sikh
0 (0.0%)	Other
21 (10.3%)	Prefer not to answer

**Stage 3: Results and Measures**

Based on feedback from the results of the consultation exercise, included below are details on how the issues would be mitigated against if the proposals were to be implemented.

<b>Issue identified in the consultation</b>	<b>Mitigating Action</b>
There is particular concern for vulnerable groups, notably elderly and disabled residents who use the bus	Provide publicity and inform users of the services of alternative bus routes which may cover part of their journey

	<p>Provide publicity and inform users about Community Transport services such as Ring and Ride, Easy-Go and Stockport Car Scheme.</p> <p>Continue to seek alternative funders and if successful reintroduce the service at the same or a different frequency.</p>
Concern that the only alternative for people without cars to get around the Town Centre would be taxis and that these are too expensive.	Provide publicity and inform users about Community Transport services such as Ring and Ride, Easy-Go Community Transport and Stockport Car Scheme.
Concerns about safety if people had to walk around the Town Centre.	<p>Provide publicity and inform users of the services of alternative bus routes which may cover part of their journey</p> <p>Provide publicity and inform users about Community Transport services such as Ring and Ride, Easy-Go and Stockport Car Scheme.</p>
Impact on Town Centre growth and viability of shops	<p>Continue to seek alternative funders and if successful reintroduce the service at the same or a different frequency</p> <p>Continue discussions with TFGM</p>

#### Stage 4: Decision Stage

To be completed following the end of the consultation period.