



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Changes to the Translink Metro Service
Date:	23 August 2011
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures (STEM) is part of the overall 'Belfast on the Move' short term transport proposals for Belfast City Centre being developed by the Department for Regional Development (DRD). The main aim of the STEM proposals is to reorganise traffic management within Belfast City centre to facilitate walking, cycling and public transport use.
1.2	Work is commencing as part of the joint initiatives comprising the first phase of 'Belfast on the Move' transport and new traffic arrangements associated with the Department for Social Development's (DSD) Streets Ahead Public Realm scheme for Donegall Place and the surrounding streets. Alongside the physical works there are a number of changes being implemented to the Translink metro services in the City Centre.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Translink Metro Services changes will come into effect from the 1 September 2011 in line with the completion of the first phase of the Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures (STEM).
2.2	The first phase of 'Belfast On The Move' work is underway and will be completed shortly. This phase involves the installation of new traffic lights, extension to bus lay bys and new bus shelters on Castle Street/Queen Street/Upper Queen Street.
2.3	The main changes to the Translink Metro service linked to the physical works are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Relocation of bus services from Donegall Square West to Upper Queen Street (Metro 1 & 2 and the City Express) with Upper Queen Street becoming two-way for buses– Changes to bus service routing using Queen Street and Castle Street

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of a coach ‘drop off and pick up’ bay at Donegall Square West – The relocation of tour bus parking from Castle Place to High Street – A number of Metro bus terminal points within the city centre will be relocated, full details of the City Centre terminal changes are outlined in Appendix 1.
2.4	<p>Whilst the first phase of the changes are noted it may be appropriate to reiterate a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The effective enforcement of moving traffic offences as an essential support to the increased provision of bus lanes throughout the city to the full benefit of the measures being proposed. Consideration could be given to commence the transfer of powers from PSNI to DRD in relation to Moving Traffic Offences. – Clarification is sought on the ability and capacity to ensure enforcement of restrictions on those using the new coach ‘drop off and pick up’ bay on Donegall Square West. Whilst it is proposed that the bay will only allow 20 minute duration for coaches to stop, drop off or pick up passengers there are concerns that the limited provision could be ineffective if restrictions on visiting coaches are not enforced.
2.5	<p>Translink are also proposing to make timetable adjustments from 1 September 2011 to ensure service provision takes account of the available resources under the DRD allocation. They are currently examining the network to assess where savings can be made. It should also be noted that Translink have committed to capping the fares at current levels for the next year.</p>

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	A draft Equality Impact Assessment on the proposals is currently being carried out.

4	Recommendations
4.1	Members note the contents of the report

5	Decision Tracking
There is no specific Decision Tracking attached to this report.	

6	Key to Abbreviations
DRD – Department for Regional Development DSD – Department of Social Development STEM – Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland	

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Translink info	