

TRANSPORT

T1.8 The Council will safeguard those routes within Manchester over which the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority has powers for the extension of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) network. These routes comprise:

- a) from the City Centre to East Didsbury;
- b) from the City Centre to Rochdale via Oldham (converting the existing rail line);
- c) from the City Centre to Wythenshawe and Manchester Airport;
- d) from the City Centre to Ashton via East Manchester.

In addition the Council has identified a potential further extension to the Metrolink network from the City Centre to Hulme. The Council also recognises that, as the network expands, some additional capacity/routings may be required in the City Centre and will work closely with the PTE to establish the need for such proposals.

Objective: To improve all forms of public transport so that it make a much greater contribution to meeting the City's travel needs and achieves a better balance between public and private transport.

Reason: The Metrolink system, which became operational in Manchester in April 1992, provides direct access from Bury, through Manchester City Centre to Altrincham, linking the City's main rail termini. The construction of further LRT links offer the potential of considerably improved public transport access to the City Centre from parts of the City which currently have poor or non-existent rail links. The PTE has all the necessary powers to construct the extensions (a) to (d) listed above. The Council supports these proposals and is keen to see their early implementation. Powers also exist for an extension of the network to Salford Quays and Eccles (now under construction) and to Dimplington. These have no direct land use implications within the City and are not therefore shown on the Proposals Map.

In addition to these schemes, the Council believes that an extension to Hulme will provide a further important new public transport link. Scope also exists for linking other areas of the City such as the Higher Education Precinct into the system. Further work will be undertaken assessing the feasibility of such proposals and establishing the optimum routes.