

Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership

Bus Working Group Meeting
Thursday, 2 June 2005, 10.30-13.30
LowCVP, 17 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU

BWG-M-05-04

MINUTES

Attendants

Adrian Wickens – Volvo Bus/CHAIR
Andrew Robinson – EST
Andrew Wren – Hants Council
Bob Bryson – Alexander Dennis
Bob Davis – SMMT
Colin Copelin – CPT
David Richards - Evobus
Kerry Vitalis – DTI
David Lemon – London Buses
Greg Archer - LowCVP
Maurice Perl – Wright Bus
Myles Mackie – Coventry City Council
Nigel Standley – Eneco

Rayner Mayer - Sciotech
Simon Rowlands – Millbrook
Stephen Hart – EST

Apologies

Alastair Dick – Newbus
Anna Rickard – London Buses
Kevin Middleton – TWM
David Martin – Ecovector
Dennis Priddy – Allison
Gerry Walker – Cummins
Malcolm Fendick – DfT
Phil Margrave – Go-Ahead

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members and apologies were noted.

2. Matters arising – Chair

Minutes were adopted without change.

3. LowCVP Update

The Director provided the meeting with an update on the activities of the Partnership.

4. Low Carbon Bus Programme update – DfT / EST

The Director briefed the meeting, on behalf of the DfT, on the status of the Low Carbon Bus Programme. The Department for Transport has received questions from the European Commission and is preparing responses for submission. Once formally submitted to the European Commission, the Commission has a further two months to reply. The members of Bus WG expressed their disappointment at the delay in implementation of the Programme. They also indicated their further disappointment at the inability of DfT to provide a representative to attend the WG meeting.

ACTION: The Group have requested that the Secretariat meet with DfT to convey its disappointment over the delays but also to reiterate its ongoing commitment to assist the DfT in finalising the Programme in whatever way was appropriate.

**5. Miracles: Park and Ride Experience in Winchester (www.winchestermiracles.org)
– Andy Wren, Hants County Council.**

Andy Wren (AW) gave a presentation to the Bus WG on Hampshire Council's Miracles Project which is part of the wider EU co-funded Civitas initiative. The project will end in January 2006 but the initiatives which have commenced are expected to be sustained following official project termination. The main areas of focus of the project are environmental sustainability, transport planning and city centre accessibility.

As part of the scheme the following have been introduced:

- Drivers of electric and hybrid cars are provided with discounted or free parking in the city centre and the Council has been trialling hybrid buses in the centre of Winchester;
- A "Bikeabout" scheme has been introduced whereby bicycles can be borrowed free of charge once a nominal registration fee has been paid;
- Local businesses can participate in free trials for up to four weeks of alternative fuelled vehicles;
- A scheme to provide an alternative delivery solution for home-deliveries is being piloted.

Evaluation of the Miracles Project will take place between summer 2005 and year-end. As most components of work programmes within the Project are expected to carry on subsequent to January 2006, the impact is expected to continue between 5-10 years beyond termination. (See also copy of AW's presentation distributed with the minutes)

AW gave a second presentation to the WG providing the background, principles and details involved in Winchester's Park and Ride scheme. (See copy of presentation distributed with the minutes).

6. 2005 Work Plan - How to get to the UK 2012 low carbon bus target

The Chair spoke to his paper distributed to the WG on thoughts on the achievement of the DfT's target of 600 low carbon buses by 2012 (BWG-P-05-006). The technical aspect of the target was generally considered to have been met but the commercial aspect needed to be addressed. The WG decided that a road map which identifies the institutional barriers as well as opportunities to meeting the Powering Future Vehicle's Strategy on buses needs to be developed. It was agreed that obstacles and opportunities suggested in the paper on the role of Local Authorities (see item 7) should be included as part of this.

ACTION: A small sub-group to meet to draw up the contents of what route map paper should look like and assign sections to members as appropriate. Nigel Standley, Colin Copelin, Adrian Wickens, David Richards, Bob Davis and Andy Robinson agreed to participate in the sub-group and a meeting date of **Friday, 1 July** was set. The meeting will take place at Volvo's offices in Warwick.

7. Role of Local Authorities in introducing low carbon buses

Myles Mackie (MM) spoke to his paper on the above (BWG-P-05-07), informing the WG that Local Authorities (LAs) generally had mixed feelings towards including lowering carbon as in their policy package. LA focus currently rests on the issue of Air Quality. LAs tend to look to National Government to address the issues, despite recognition of Climate Change as an important PR issue. Local strategic partnerships introduced within the Local Government Act of 2000 is unconcerned with the low carbon agenda and LAs are unable to provide direct funding to business under EU state aid legislation, due to its anti-competitive nature. Currently 17 LAs, including Coventry, jointly procure goods providing a powerful

public procurement opportunity. The LowCVP would need to aim to create a climate of change in LA thinking in order to influence the agenda. Suggestions for the way forward discussed and included in MM's paper are:

- Establish a local political commitment in Councils.
- Identify a local low carbon champion
- Include low carbon as part of the Local Community Plan
- Consider introducing a low carbon management plan
- Establish a quality partnership for local transport
- Develop an integrated transport plan which highlighted operational cost savings
- Consider tendered route options
- Seek funding from the EU and possibly the EST for low carbon buses

It was suggested that the relevant person in National Government responsible for Local Government could be invited to speak to the Working Group.

ACTION: Bus WG members to provide feedback to MM on content, gaps etc in the paper.

8. AOB

There was no other business to report.

Next Bus Working Group meeting:
29 September, 10.30 to 12.30
DTI, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS