

Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership

Bus Working Group Meeting
Thursday, 8 June, 10.30 to 13.00
Coventry Transport Museum
Millennium Place, Hales St, Coventry

Present

Adrian Wickens – Volvo Bus
Andy Robinson – EST
Anthony Perkins – Millbrook
Ben Madden – Element Energy
Catherine Dove – LowCVP
Colin Copelin – CPT
David Kenington – EST
David Lemon – TfL
Gerry Walker – Cummins Engines
Harsh Pershad – Element Energy
James Rosson – Traction Technology
Jenny Laber – DfT
Jonathan Murray – LowCVP
Kevin Middleton – TWM
Maurice Perl – Wrightbus

Myles Mackie – Coventry City Council
Nigel Standley – GreenUrban Tech
Rayner Mayer – Sciotech
Riccardo Sardelli – Allison
Shane Slater – Element Energy
Simon Rowlands – Millbrook

Apologies

Alastair Dick – Newbus
Anna Rickard – London Buses
Bob Bryson – Alexander Dennis
Bob Davis – SMMT
Chris Dyal – First Group
David Martin – Ecovector
Kevin Jackson – EMP
Mark Sellin – Northumberland CC
Stephen Grosvenor - ETS

BWG-M-06-06

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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1. Welcome & apologies – Chair

The Chair welcomed WG members to the meeting and apologies were noted. Thanks were expressed to Coventry City Council for providing the venue.

2. Minutes and matters arising –Chair

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without amendment.

BWG-M-06-03

3. Secretariat Update – Deputy Director

- The LowCVP annual conference will be held in a week's time on the Thursday, 15 June 2006. The conference will focus on progress during the first year of the label, the results of the low carbon challenge and providing input to the review of the Powering Future Vehicles strategy.

- Membership continues to grow and the new member organisations which have joined since the last meeting were listed.
- A survey of newsletter recipients received 120 replies (a 14% response rate) and indicated a high level of satisfaction.
- The Board has agreed revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding that details the purpose and operation of the Partnership. The new version is available on the LowCVP website.
- LowCVP has spoken at several conferences and events in April and May, as well as participated a range of other member / government lead activities.

Grant programmes announcement

The Department for Transport briefed the Group on its announcement made by the Transport Minister Stephen Ladyman in Parliament on 7 June and distributed the ministerial statement. The Minister had announced that the remaining grants, including that of the Low Carbon Bus Programme, pending state aid approval from the European Commission would not be implemented by the Department. The DfT plans instead to focus on information and communication methods to affect consumer behaviour.

The members of the working group made clear their frustration and disappointment at the announcement both in terms of the decision and the time taken to reach it. It was also made clear by members of the working group that they did not expect to see any significant introduction of low carbon buses in the UK given the current policy arrangements.

4. Allison's experience with hybrid buses – Ricardo Sardelli, Allison

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Route Map – UK 2012 low carbon bus target project

BWG-P-06-09

The route map paper was distributed to working group members prior to the meeting and some input provided by email in advance. The session was opened out to the Group for comment and feedback on the paper and the meeting examined the paper in detail. A lengthy discussion on content and direction ensued and amendments and recommendations were noted by the Deputy Director and Chair.

It was agreed that the current document needed to be developed further in terms of how to incentivise low carbon buses in a deregulated market and what form an alternative target should take.

ACTION: BWG Chair and Secretariat to redraft route map document and discuss revision version at an agreed interim BWG meeting which was set for **10.30am on 20 July at the EST (Andy Robinson to confirm).**

5.2 Opportunities and Barriers

BWG-P-06-11

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

6 Future meetings and topics

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

7 AOB

No further business was raised.

Element Energy and Ricardo, who were contracted by EST, to develop a market transformation model to assess the market take up of a variety of low carbon bus technologies. At the previous BWG meeting the approach and concept were presented and members of the working group provided feedback on attributes of different low carbon technologies as they might be applied to buses. The project team presented their interim findings to the BWG for peer review prior to finalising the model. David Kennington, EST, provided an introduction and overview, Dave Greenwood, Ricardo, presented the assumed attributes used in the model and Ben Madden, Element Energy, presented the output of the model.

ACTION: EST to circulate the assumptions behind the model.

ACTION: Members were invited to provide comments to EST on all aspects of the model and assumptions.

Next Bus WG meeting:
1 November 10.30 to 13.00
Newcastle City Council offices
Civic Centre, Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1RD
(address tbc)