



Coventry City Council

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Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 8th December 2010

REPORT OF:

TITLE: European Framework 7 Bid – TRUS – Hybrid Bus Project

DATE: 29th November, 2007

VENUE: Dusseldorf, Germany

1. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the report on the outcome of the partner meeting on 29th November 2007 of the European Framework 7 bid TUS which planned to develop hybrid low carbon bus and trial it in Coventry along bus route 34..

2. Background

The City Council and partners have been working on the development of low carbon transport equipment for many years and includes the Peugeot 106 electric car initiative and the European Zeus projects between 1995 and 2001. The TRUS bid was a result of working with the Low Carbon Trust partners and aimed to develop a hybrid bus using alternative fuels and storing energy in a flywheel arrangement. The aim was to test the new bus on the Coventry route 34 which was being upgraded to Prime line standards. In addition, the bus would have been used on city centre shuttle bus routes.

The UK partners includes Coventry City Council, Travel Coventry, de Courcy buses, SR Drives, Universities of Reading and West of England. The bid had partners based in: The Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania Poland, Switzerland. Each partner will contribute to either the development of the bus or its trial as in various European environments.

The bid received a favourable initial responses from the European Commission and the partners felt the need to meet in order to complete the detail and the development of work packages needed to meet the work entailed in the bid and which would have become detailed negotiation points with the European Commission. Myles Mackie being a lead officer in the Zeus project went to the meeting to provide detailed information about Zeus outcomes and the views of the Commission on transport bid and their procedures. Nick Richards attended to discuss the implications of integrating the trial into the city's bus Primeline capital programme and ensuring that any City project budgetary costs net of grant had already been identified. These include bus stops, raised kerbs, GPS etc which would have been eligible for additional grant aid. The two local bus companies attended in their own right.

The meeting in Dusseldorf was hosted by the agreed co-ordinating partner, Vossloh Kiepe, a German member of the partnership. The meeting established a who does what approach and

identified key work packages. The partners testing the bus expressed concerns that the cost of the hybrid bus would remain undefined until late in the project. It was agreed that Vossloh Kiepe would work up a fixed price cost on which grant and trail partner costs would be borne. By the end of the meeting the partners had agreed a working bid which all understood their position and what was expected.

Vossloh Kiepe bore all the costs of the meeting and provided lunch and refreshments. The time of the meeting 9.00 am to 6.30 pm (German Time) necessitated a two night stay. The total cost to the City Council came to £683.50 which was met from the Research & Strategy Budget under spend.

At the end of December the European Commission informed the partners that the bid had been rejected.

3. Cost of attending

	Unit costs	Total cost
Conference fees	zero	zero
Flights:		
Birmingham – Amsterdam		
Amsterdam – Dusseldorf shuttle	£180	£360.00
Transport (public)	£15	£ 30.00
Hotel (2 people 2 nights)	£65	£260.00
Subsistence (evening meal breakfast)	£16.75	£ 33.50
Total		£683.50

4. Benefits

Unfortunately the bid failed to gain approval but the benefit to Coventry would have been some £500,000. The local partnership helped build a better understanding of each others needs and priorities which have been put into new bids. With hindsight, it is clear that using established low carbon vehicle technology is a simpler route for Coventry to proceed. The European partnership have agreed to maintain contacts should a future bid opportunity arise.

list of background papers

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Other contributors:

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Papers open to public inspection none

Description of paper: Report Back on Conference/Seminar

Location: CH60

Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on:

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS
AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	European Framework 7 Bid - TRUS - Hybrid Bus Project
2. Organising Body	TRUS Coordinator c/o DHV B.V
3. Location	Dusseldorf
4. Date(s)	29 November 2007
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	N/A
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	Nick Richards/ Miles Mackie
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc (Note: If total cost is less than £50.00, formal Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval is not required) *subject to formal approval during the current review of the constitution.	£375.00 ^{£100}
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group	Yes
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group	12
10. Is there anyone travelling with the Member, officer or group in relation to whom any of the costs of travel, accommodation or any other expense will be paid for by a Member or officer. If "YES" please state number.	No
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	PB21001.
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance	This is an opportunity for the City Council to be involved in an alternative fuel vehicle project through the EU. We will be working with our partners already established as part of PrimeLines to work towards having Low Carbon Emission vehicles running on street in the City.
13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?	Yes

<p>14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee</p> <p>(a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council?</p> <p>(b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council?</p> <p>(c) Is attendance recommended?</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>NO</p> <p>yes</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>15. Cabinet Member's recommendation</p>	<p>Gary Bell</p>		<p>X</p>
<p>16. Leader's recommendation</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>		<p>X</p>
<p>17. Person responsible for booking conference following approval of attendance</p>	<p>Mile Mackie</p>		

THIS FORM SHOULD NOW BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (Room 64)

FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DIRECTORATE'S USE ONLY

<p>Decision</p> <p><u>APPROVED</u> / NOT APPROVED</p>	<p>Cabinet Member/Cabinet</p> <p>Date: <i>Gary Bell</i></p>	
<p>Notification to:</p> <p>(a) Officer responsible for booking conference</p> <p>(b) Councillor attending</p> <p>(c) Member of Management Board</p> <p>(d) Members' Services</p> <p>(e) Committee Officer</p>	<p><u>YES/NO</u></p>	<p><u>DATE</u></p>
<p>Date report back obtained</p>		
<p>Date of meeting of Scrutiny to receive report back</p>		