

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 12 November 2021

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

HYDROBUS

Purpose of Report

To update the Board on the Hydrobus project.

Caetano bus trial

Early in the year HITRANS was approached by Protium Energy with a proposal to trial a hydrogen bus in Inverness. HITRANS agreed to fund the hydrogen supply, Caetano to provide the bus and Stagecoach to run the services which were to operate before and during COP26. The hydrogen supply was procured from Element2.

Stagecoach Longman Depot was surveyed for suitability, and a higher rated power supply and earth was installed. In October the hydrogen refueller arrived in a 40 foot container, and was installed over the weekend by engineers from Logan Energy. This was the first deployment of a large mobile refueller in the UK.



Caetano undertook driver training and also briefing sessions with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The bus then performed regular service duties.

Drivers and passengers alike were enthusiastic about the vehicle, noting its lack of noise and smooth, quick acceleration and braking.

On typical run the fuel consumption rate was 6.1Kg/100 km. The tank holds 35kg of H₂ therefore at this consumption the bus would cover over 300 miles. Energy consumption also included both driver and saloon heating. The average speed of 24.1km/h achieved

is high for City driving and there was a good percentage of regeneration- up to 40% of energy used was from regeneration due to slowing down and braking.

On 29 October the bus was showcased at the Low Carbon Day at the UHI Campus, along with other hydrogen and electric vehicles and bicycles.

The bus will be going to Oban on 8 November to enable West Coast Motors to trial it in service.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact –Mode shift, integration

Policy

Impact – Decarbonisation, transport efficiency

Financial

Impact – HITRANS elements are fully funded

Equality

Impact – n/a

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to approve the report.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 2 November 2021