



## Environmental Theme Group

### **Coventry to become a world leader in the development and deployment of low carbon vehicles**

#### **Meeting Details**

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Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

Venue: Committee Room 1, Council House

Attended by:

Neil Ridley	Ove Arup
Simon Arbuthnot	Ricardo Consulting
James McClaggan	Ricardo Consulting
Frank Lamb	Royal Mail
Chris Coyle	Coventry City Council
Ian McDonald	Coventry City Council
Dawn Ford	Coventry Partnership
Ric Richards	Federation of Small Businesses
Monika Bzowy	IKEA
Graham Hines	University of Warwick
Andy Sutton	Peugeot
Michael Checkley	Coventry City Council
Melody Stokes	Coventry City Council
Peter Woodward	Quest Associates (Facilitator)

#### **Current Situation:**

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Low Carbon vehicle Fleet Partnership (CVFP) – includes Uni of Warwick, Coventry Uni + Council

DTI funded Cenex scheme – 6 local authorities selected. Includes Coventry (CVFP). £20M support for roll out of electric vehicles to stimulate market by bridging cost gap. Linked to low carbon vehicle procurement programme. Further £30M available. 4 types of light commercial vehicles available. 10 units to CovCC, 10 units to Univ of Warwick, 5 units to Cov Uni. Infrastructure – charging points (more than 2), linked to parties involved.

City Council submitting bid to technology Strategy Board for 100 vehicles. Lightweight vehicles, cars + vans. Will be announced in Jan '09

City Council linked with Coventry University in bid for European FP7 funding for hydrogen fuel celled vehicles. 5 trial vehicles + infrastructure (hydrogen fuelling point). Jan '09 to '12. Could also include infrastructure.

Council already uses 2 hybrids. Mercedes SMART electric vehicle on trial.

Manufacturing base exists – Modec (commercial vehicles), Microcab (hydrogen & fuel-celled vehicles). 2 other potential manufacturers in the City.

EoN NQ in Coventry as potential electricity supplier

Arup/Ricardo – technical expertise on City's doorstep

Jaguar / Landrover active players in next phase technologies

Peugeot has expertise but no current production vehicle. Manufacturing diesel/electric plug in hybrids in France. 3 year programme.

LTI (taxi) doing research into Evs.

World class supply chain – future potential

Univ of Warwick – Manufacturing Group – significant future technologies research  
Coventry University – design /technology for vehicles

Fleet operators: Royal Mail, Police, Env Agency, GCD, HMRC  
IKEA has electric charging point

UK/European focus on this agenda.

### **Partners required:**

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Technology Specialists  
Policy makers  
Vehicle Manufacturers  
Research Establishments  
Urban designers + Transport Planners  
Electricity suppliers / distributors + Oil companies  
Commercial partners  
Vehicle Operators

### **Revised Proposition:**

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- Coventry will be the global champion of the promotion of alternatively fuelled low carbon vehicles
- Incubator for Coventry to grow a burgeoning globally leading capability in low carbon road transport
- Coventry will be the low carbon city through: helping suppliers to the new sector, vigorously encouraging low carbon vehicle use
- Centre of excellence for low carbon transport through: research base, manufacturing base, supply chain, demonstration of application
- European centre of excellence for the development of environmentally friendly vehicle systems
- For Coventry to return to a pre-eminent R&D and manufacturing base, learning from the past but forging the future for motive transport, other than by internal combustion
- Coventry as a city for low carbon transport plus a centre of excellence to generate the required vehicles for the city
- To be a world leader in the development, production and operation of low carbon vehicles
- Coventry to become the world leader in the development and deployment of low carbon vehicles
- Coventry influencing + impacting on the future of our transport uses
- Rejuvenate the Coventry motor industry through a focus on developing a global EU centre of excellence

Of these the new title for this project stream was chosen to be:

**'Coventry to become a world leader in the development and deployment of low carbon vehicles'**

### **Next Steps**

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#### **Issues:**

Need a champion, initial funding and development, longer term plan, driving partnership, action manifesto.

Now clear agenda target – EU mandate via CO2 reductions

Current economic climate difficult but focus on regeneration + innovation

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17<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

Melody Stokes, Coventry City Council (Tel: 024 7683 2093 email: Melody.Stokes@coventry.gov.uk)

Needs to be business led and public sector enabled

**Agreed actions:**

Peugeot + Royal Mail agreed to contribute to seed-corn funding.

Ian McDonald to discuss outline feasibility scheme with AWM and feedback on reaction

Neil Ridley / Simon Arbuthnot to suggest a 'platinum' guest list

Other attendees to email suggestions to Melody Stokes

Core steering group to be set up including Neil Ridley, Simon Arbuthnot, Ian Mc Donald and Melody Stokes to develop an appropriate concept and framework. Simon Arbuthnot's presentation pack to form basis of the proposition

Invite Lord Bhattacharyya of the University of Warwick to champion the initiative

Melody Stokes to make informal approach to Alistair Keddie at Uni of Warwick

Dawn Ford to advise Ken Taylor for formal written invitation from Cov Partnership

Set up follow up meeting for end January '09 and key meeting in March '09