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Michael Renshaw
Transport for Greater Manchester
2 Piccadilly Place
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Cc Ian Humphreys

TfGM's Vantage Bid to the Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme

First Bus welcomes your proposal to bid for the DfT's Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme for 10 electric double-decker buses to part upgrade and part reinforce the highly successful Vantage service from Manchester to Leigh.

Vantage is a high profile operation which provides the key public transport link to and from Leigh and parts of Salford where there are no rail-based alternatives. Recent customer survey data has highlighted the impact on travel choices in the area with > 20% of customers using the service switching mode from car. The use of electric buses will provide urgently needed additional capacity whilst further enhancing the profile and sustainability of this flagship operation.

We have agreed that the Vantage electric vehicles would be operated by First from our Bolton depot, as is the case with the current diesel vehicles.

First Manchester is in parallel bidding for 12 Single Deck buses for the 582 Bolton – Atherton – Leigh service. If successful First/TfGM would propose to use the same strengthened grid connection at no additional grant requirement.

Vantage is a commercial operation with First taking all of the revenue risk. Any material and externally driven changes to the operation will need to be reflected in amendments to the contract.

We hope your bid proves successful and look forward to working closely with you over the coming months to help deliver this project.

Your sincerely,

John



JOHN DOWIE
Director, Local Strategies – First Bus