

13. SHUTTLE BUS TRIAL ON URBAN ROUTE

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Corporate Plan Output: Roading 9.5.0.	

The purpose of this report is to submit a proposal from the Red Bus Company trial the hybrid shuttle bus on an urban route over a period of 10 days commencing 11 October 2000. This report was before the Tram Shuttle Subcommittee at its meeting on 12 September 2000. The report is being referred to this Committee because it was not available in time for the September meeting of the City Services Committee and the matter cannot wait for the October round of meetings.

There is another round of bus route tenders due to be advertised later this year for commencement in April 2001. It is the last set of tenders for the next three years. The Red Bus Company wish to confirm the viability of tendering using the hybrid buses. The urban bus routes are significantly different from the current shuttle route, with higher speeds and less stopping. The Red Bus Company need information on how the buses will perform and the operational requirements under these conditions. They propose heavily publicising the trial so the users on the route know what is happening.

A red diesel bus would be used on the Shuttle route for the duration of the trial.

There could be significant benefits to the city if the quieter and more sustainable hybrid buses were more widely used in the city. These benefits significantly outweigh the loss of a hybrid bus for ten days from the shuttle route.

Recommendation: That the Red Bus Company be permitted to remove one of the hybrid shuttle buses from the shuttle route for trialing on an urban route for up to 10 days in October.