



# **FirstGroup**

First Bus Leicester depot site visit

Wednesday 18 October 2023



# **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome & Introduction
- 2. Leicester City Enhanced Bus Partnership overview
- 3. First Bus decarbonisation overview
- 4. Decarbonisation programme delivery
- 5. Vehicles, engineering and operations
- 6. Summary



#### The visit and the team

Agenda		
11:00	Welcome & Introductions Graham Sutherland, CEO	
11:05	Leicester City Enhanced Bus Partnership Overview Andy Gibbons, Programme Manager Leicester City Council	
11:30	Depot Tour	
12:45	Presentation & Lunch	
13:30	Q&A	
14:30	Depart Depot	

#### FirstGroup team:

**Graham Sutherland** Chief Executive Officer **Ryan Mangold** Chief Financial Officer

#### First Bus team:

Janette Bell Managing Director

Colin Brown Chief Financial Officer

Andrew Jarvis Chief Operating Officer

Isabel McAllister Chief Sustainability & Compliance Officer

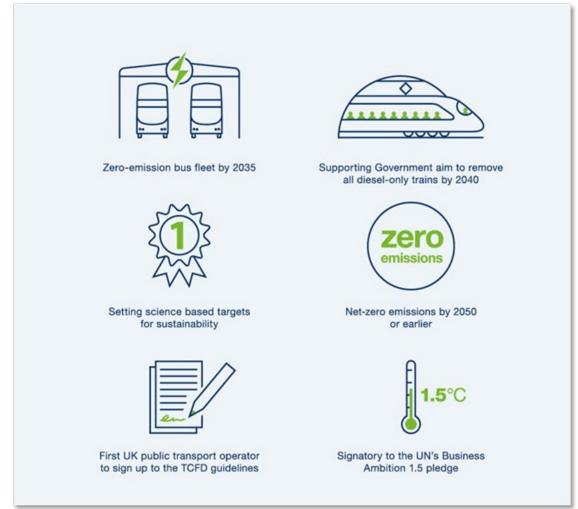
Faizan Ahmad Decarbonisation Programme Director



### First Bus electrification is key to FirstGroup's journey to net zero

We have accelerated our investment in electrification as we progress towards our 2035 decarbonisation target and transform the First Bus business

- Our strong balance sheet, ownership of our depots and successful bidding for government co-funding has allowed us to accelerate our investment in electrification
  - FY 2023 net investment of £94.3m supported by government cofunding of £25m; 83 electric buses, 58 chargers installed, and solar panels installed at 20 depots
  - FY 2024 net investment of £105m committed supported by cofunding of £82m
  - We will have more than 600 electric buses, (almost 15% of our fleet) and four fully electric depots in England by March 2024
  - The electrification of our bus fleets and infrastructure will transform our business and create new, adjacent revenue streams creating value for all our stakeholders
  - Within the First Bus business, Leicester is an excellent example of how we have delivered in partnership with our Local Authority and how to deliver a fully electric depot







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## Leicester City's Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan

Successfully delivering an optimised and co-ordinated multi-operator network, with an ambition to make the whole city network electric by 2030

- eight-year Enhanced Partnership Plan and three-year funded Scheme launched in May 2022 following extensive consultation and research; legally binding Scheme includes 75 of 100 commitments delivered in first 18 months
- Continuous programme of investment c.£100m of private and public funding secured for 2022-25 EP Scheme, alongside ongoing Council revenue support
- Optimised, multi operator, co-ordinated network with integrated timetables ensures frequent and reliable services
  - nine shared, three co-ordinated and six single operator corridors
  - 24 frequent mainline commercial urban routes and a further 6 frequent strategic, subsidised Park & Ride, Hospital Hopper and orbital services
  - c.30m trips a year
- The Scheme also includes a range of complementary projects designed to make bus travel more reliable, frequent, easy and great value; these include:
  - a new central bus station, bus shelters with real time information displays and an integrated website
  - additional enforced bus lanes.
  - Flexi Fare offers, 'best fare' multi-operator tap-on-tap-off ticketing to assist interchange and discounted tickets for students, health workers, elderly, unemployed and disabled passengers

"Make bus travel electric, frequent, reliable, easy and great value"

30 frequent bus lines

1,000 **real time** displays

12 bus **priority** schemes

network '**best fare**' promise

discount fare schemes





## Our targets are ambitious but realistic

Our aim is to make bus travel in Leicester electric, frequent, reliable, easy, and great value

# The Enhanced Bus Partnership Scheme will deliver:

- a new central bus station
- an increase in bus use of 25% by 2025 and 40% by 2030
- an increase in modal share from 30% to 32% by 2025 and 34% by 2030.
- an increase in bus passenger satisfaction to over 85% by 2025 and 90% by 2030
- an increase in punctuality to 85% in 2025 and 90% in 2030
- that 50% of Leicester's buses will be electric by 2025 and 100% by 2030







### **Making progress against our targets**

#### Reliable

- Significant new bus priority lanes and junctions
- New city centre bus link improving central area journey times and reliability and removing car parking
- Camera enforcement system for existing and bus lanes

#### **Great Value**

- Contactless tap-on-tap-off ticketing with capping, single and multi-operator, day and weekly 'best fare' capping
- Multi-operator Flexi Tickets
- Discount ticketing for students, health workers, unemployed, elderly and disabled customers

#### **Frequent**

- Optimised network: coordinated timetables and routes between operators removing duplication and simplifying services
- Joint funding to maintain frequency on the Mainline route groups
- New free, Hop! city centre connection service: every 10 minutes from 8am-6pm Mon-Sat
- Greenline strategic network: three Park & Ride services, an Hospital Hopper and an hourly Orbital service

#### Easy

- St Margarets bus & coach station, the first carbon neutral bus station in the UK: 24 covered bays, electronic passenger information, customer services, cafe, toilets and cycle storage
- Totems at 1,200 bus stops: real time information displays, text-to-speech audio facilities, printed integrated timetables and ticket information posters
- New bus shelters at 500 stops, some with 'living' roofs
- Unified 'Leicester Buses' network branding
- Integrated website with mapping and journey planning and a contactless personal ticketing portal









## Targeting an entirely electric city network by 2030

By the end of 2023 over a third of the network will be electric and used by over 50% of passengers

- c.£60m invested in electric buses and infrastructure to date
- 116 electric buses will be in operation from four charging depots by the end of 2023, saving over 5,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>
- by May 2024 over half of the city's network will be electric
- Leicester's electric networks include the Greenlines network, the Hop! city centre network and electric buses run by other operators, including First Bus





#### greenlines network

6 bus routes & 24 electric buses



# Meynells P&R

every 15 mins

135 tonnes of  $CO_2$  savings p.a. 133,372 trips p.a.

#### Hospital Hopper

every 30 mins

191 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings p.a. 635,462 trips p.a

# Enderby P&R

every 15 mins

135 tonnes of  $CO_2$  savings p.a. 234,905 trips p.a

#### **Orbital**

every 60 mins

272 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings p.a. 196,258 trips p.a

# Birstall P&R

every 15 mins

135 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings p.a. 115,747 trips p.a

#### Hop!

every 10 mins

106 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings p.a. 204,213 trips p.a





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### **First Bus Executive Team**



Janette Bell Managing Director



**Colin Brown**Chief Financial Officer



**Andrew Jarvis**Chief Operating Officer



Isabel McAllister
Chief Sustainability &
Compliance Officer



Faizan Ahmad
Decarbonisation
Programme Director



### First Bus – a clear strategy on track to deliver medium term 10% target











#### How we have transformed performance in the past three years

- Reset of the business portfolio to post-covid demand routes, depots, businesses and associated management structure
- Industry-leading digital transformation using our real-time data to implement smarter fares and drive efficiencies across our operations
- Delivering a focused set of people and customer actions pivotal to consistent service delivery
- Navigating inflation and the cost-of-living challenge, whilst staying true to our principle of customer service delivery
- Progressing towards our target of a 100% zero emission bus fleet by 2035



## Powering our operational transformation through decarbonisation

We are building our in-house capabilities to meet our 2035 zero emission fleet target, improve efficiency and unlock adjacent revenue streams

#### **Delivering our decarbonisation strategy**



1. Secure funding to accelerate decarbonisation



2. Decarbonise our bus fleet and depot infrastructure



3. Fully mitigate energy price & supply risk



4. Unlock efficiencies enabled by our net zero transition



5. Grow new revenue streams enabled by electrification

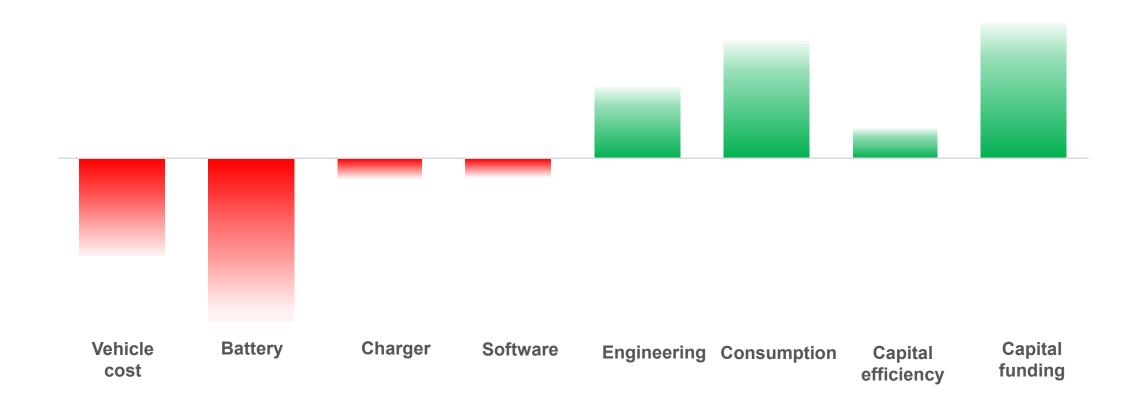
...and driving the transformation of engineering and asset management

- Standardising our fleet to drive efficiency in our core engineering processes
- Simplifying our operation as we benefit from an all electric fleet vs. all diesel or mixed fleets
- Reducing the size of our fleet whilst delivering the same mileage due to more efficient operations compared to a diesel fleet
- Optimising our asset utilisation
  - optimisation of 'in day operated' mileage (Optibus)
  - smart charging software to optimise energy use
  - maximising utilisation of charging infrastructure
  - opportunities on residual battery value when batteries are taken off buses with c.75% capacity remaining



### **Total Cost of Ownership**

Co-funding, strategic partnerships and leveraging operational efficiency gains and adjacent revenue streams remain crucial to bridge the diesel vs. electric total cost of ownership gap







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### What is our zero emission mission & how will we achieve it?

We are fully committed to decarbonisation and meeting our Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) approved Scope 1, 2 and 3 Science Based targets

Science Based Targets (Scope 1, 2 & 3) approved by SBTi

Dedicated zero-emission buses delivery team & template

Current electric buses: ~9% of fleet

100% zero emission fleet by 2035

March 2024 electric buses: 14.6% of fleet

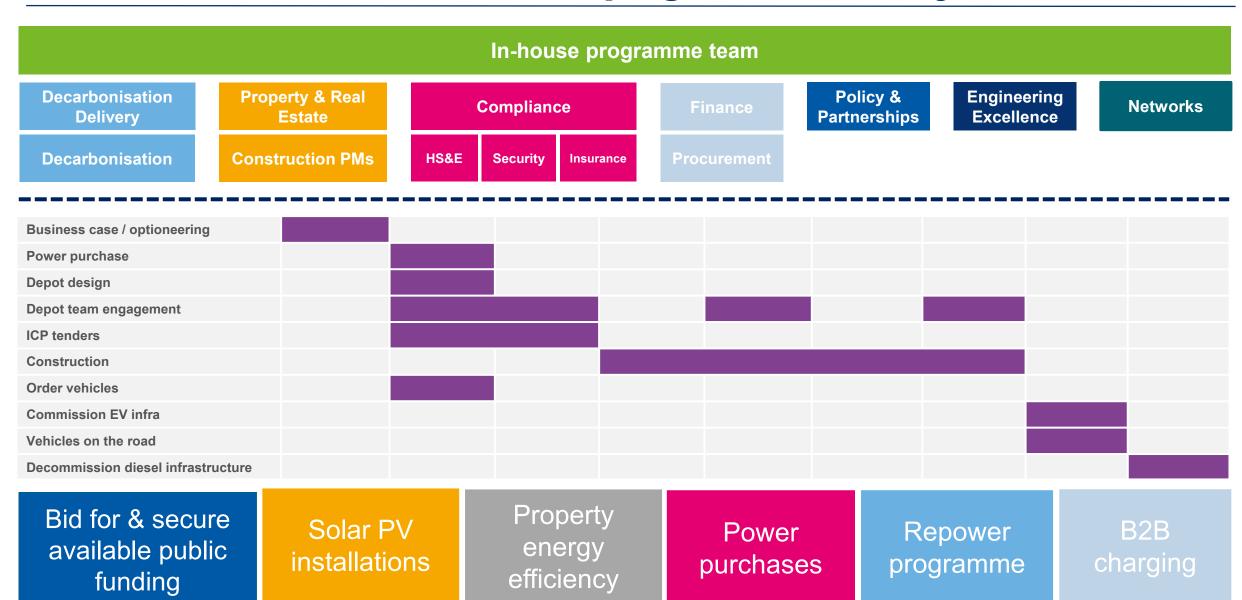
Net zero by 2050

FY25 and beyond:
Continued investment in
300-400 new electric buses
& infrastructure every year





### **Decarbonisation transformation: programme delivery**

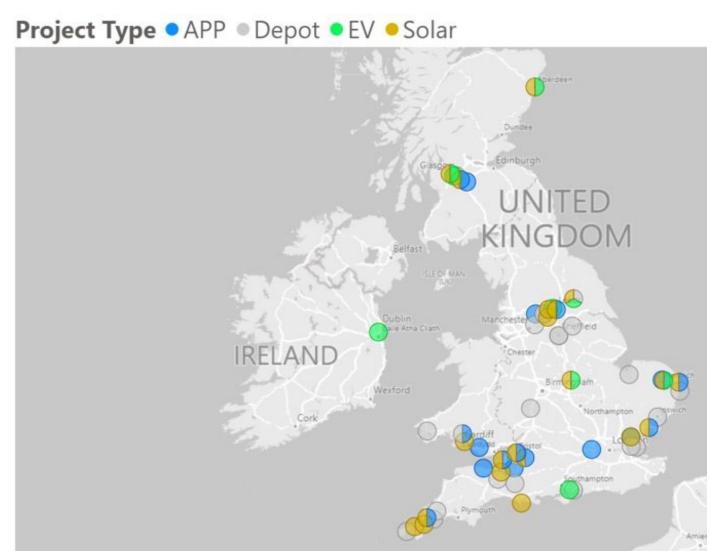




## **Electric vehicle, Solar and Advanced Power Purchase projects**

We have a UK wide decarbonisation investment programme for our bus fleets and infrastructure

- First Bus has 51 depots across the UK
- We have almost 400 electric buses in service across eight sites
- We have installed solar panels on 21 of our depots to power lighting, heating and engineering bays, while reducing costs and demands on the local grid
- We have advanced power purchase (APP) agreements in progress for c.40% of our sites to secure power ahead of electrifying the depot bus fleet in the future
- Capacity market trading agreement in place at Caledonia depot in Glasgow





### How do we measure success?

Our KPIs are evolving to capture the benefits for our business and stakeholders as we electrify our fleet and infrastructure

#### Our electric fleet today

	FY23	FY24	
York	33	53	
Leeds (Hunslet)	21	21	
Aberdeen	25	49	
Glasgow (Caledonia)	150	150	
Didcot	2	2	
Cymru	8	8	
Leicester	-	86	
Norwich	-	70	
Hoeford	-	62	
Leeds (Bramley)	-	57	
Glasgow (Scotstoun)	-	50	
Total EVs	263	641	
Total (% of fleet)	6.1%	14.6%*	
*reflects September 2023 total fleet			

#### **Future measures of success**

Well-to-wheel CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions		
EV vs diesel mileage		
EV vs diesel vehicle availability (spare fleet)		
Vehicle efficiency: kWh/mile		
Total available battery capacity		
Engineering costs per EV mile		
Capital efficiency		
Customers carried per EV mile		



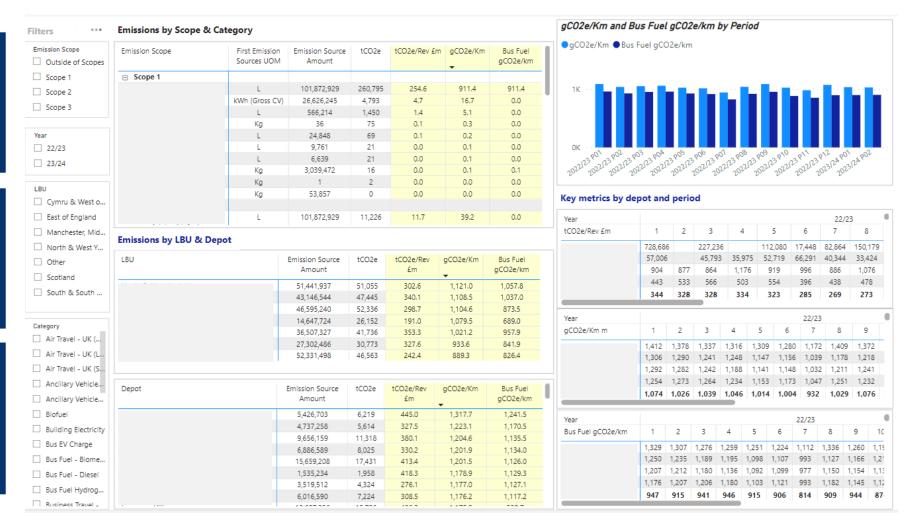
## **Carbon data capture and reporting**

#### We have accurate third party assured data to inform non-financial disclosures and business KPIs

Scope 1, 2 and partial 3 data captured centrally and digitally

PowerBI dashboard allows us to cut/carve, analyse data and identify trends

Improves third party assurance and data transparency for operational leaders







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### Almost 15% of our commercial fleet will be electric by March 2024

#### We are moving at pace, pushing suppliers on price, delivery and product support

- Using three manufacturers nationwide for the majority of bus deliveries to keep operations simple and keep parts to a minimum
- Standardising our fleet Leicester had five variations from three suppliers, we will have two variations from one supplier
- Enhancing design for cost effectiveness simplified livery design, no mirrors, segregated panels, charger points on both sides
- Improving internal design and accessibility for our customers















### **Operational excellence and future evolution**

#### Training our drivers and planning our operations around our electric fleet

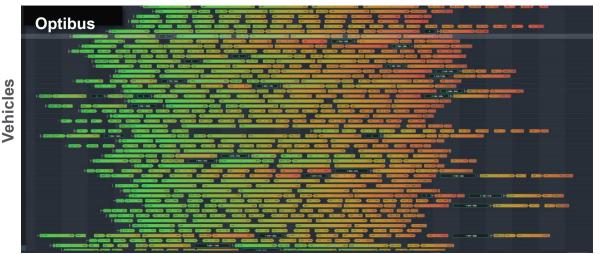
- Test vehicle delivered early to facilitate engineering and driver training ahead of bulk deliveries
- Supervisors are trained to make sure we get the best out of the new fleet
- Drivers receive tailored training focused on driving an EV efficiently, EV design features and the benefits to customers of whole fleet decarbonisation
- Updated risk assessments surrounding EV operation are conducted
- Our cleaning team receive training and updated task lists given the removal of diesel related tasks
- Services are planned using Optibus software which feeds to our operational systems, informs drivers, provides data for our customer apps and real time screens, and tracking data that allows us to analyse and improve performance



Our driver Abubaker Vantra drove our first EV out of Leicester in May 2023









### **Engineering excellence and future evolution**

#### The electrification of our fleet is resulting in a once-in-a-generation engineering transformation

- We are developing new in-house skills through upskilling of our engineering team
- Next generation of telematics are helping us to understand and pinpoint issues
- Improved partnership working with smaller number of key suppliers
- Improved warranty terms positively affecting costs
- Reduced amount of servicing and repair requirements
- Our daily vehicle servicing is more efficient
- We have fewer building services requirements (such as ventilation, heating of engineering spaces, removal of bulk oil tanks)





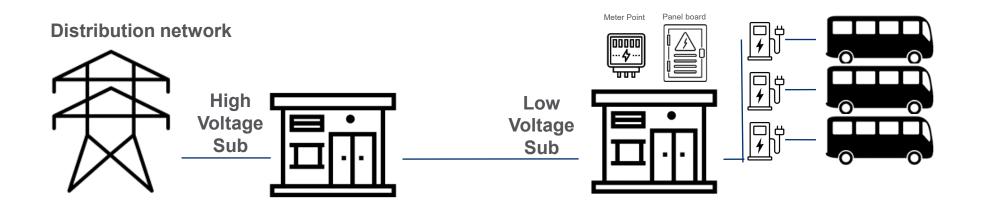
### **Team Engagement**

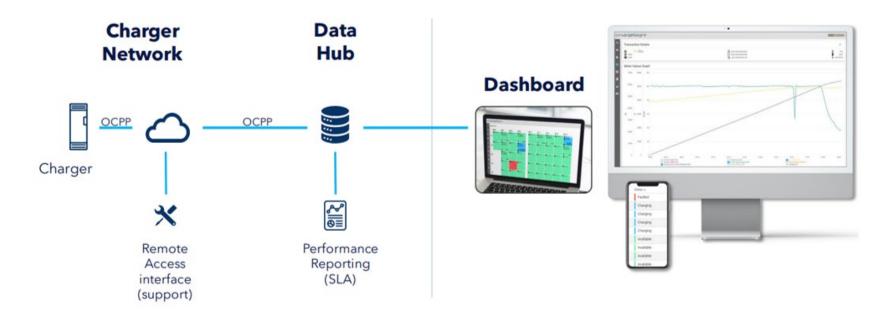
We are using fleet electrification to help transform our engagement and culture





## What happens when you plug in?





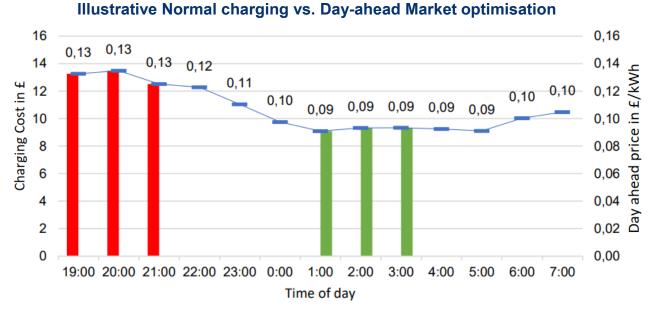


## The future role of smart charging

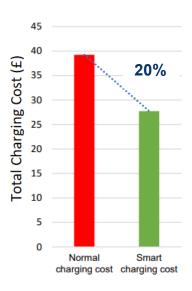
# We are making use of smart charging software to optimise our energy use and increase battery efficiency and battery life

There are various ways to optimise charging and energy use and in turn, generate capital savings and adjacent revenue streams:

- Peak shaving: Bus charge rates are limited based on transformer/power upgrade limitations
- Scheduled charging (peak shifting): Bus charging is deferred to cheaper hours (eg.11pm to 7am)
- Dynamic scheduled charging: Bus charging hours are dynamically changed based on day-ahead energy price forecasts
- Route-aware scheduled charging: Bus charging is informed by next-day route requirements, allowing for very specific charge schedules per bus / route
- Energy trading / grid support services: Bus batteries generate revenue by trading in energy markets and/or providing grid support services.



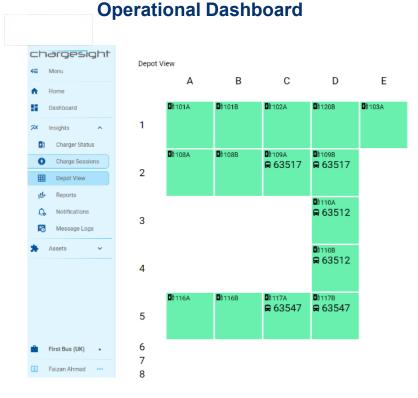
#### Savings potential



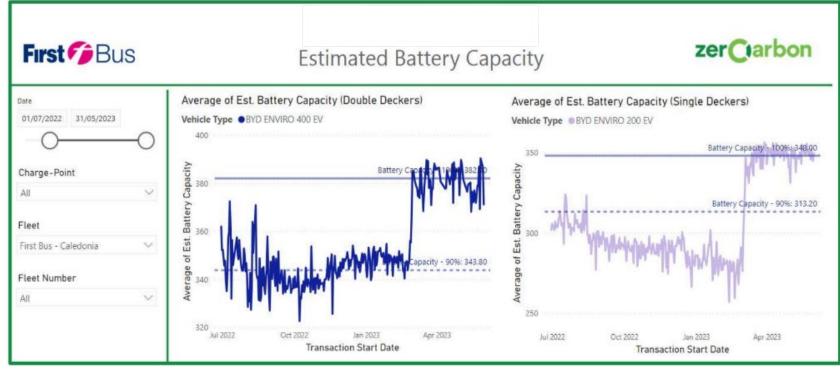


## **Charger infrastructure and telematics**

We are making data-driven decisions to driver better performance



#### **Telematics in action**





## **Third party charging opportunities**

#### Optimising adjacent revenue streams to improve our asset utilisation

- We have successful pilot schemes running with DPD and various public service providers in Glasgow and Leicester who are paying to use our chargers while our buses are out in service
- Our chargers have convenient pay as you go payment mechanisms for B2B customers
- We are engaging with a number of logistics and public service providers to identify matches between their geographical needs and our services
- We are currently focusing on B2B charging but will move to B2C when B2B is fully established







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## **Summary**

# We are rapidly establishing ourselves as leaders in decarbonisation, transforming our business and unlocking adjacent revenue streams to create further value for our stakeholders

- We have reset the First Bus business and significantly improved performance in the past 2-3 years, leaving us on track to achieve our 10% margin target
- We continue to commit significant investment in decarbonisation alongside successful co-funding applications: net investment of £105m committed in FY 2024 supported by £82m of co-funding
- The electrification of our bus fleet and infrastructure will further transform our business through:
  - standardising our fleet to drive efficiency and lower engineering costs
  - simplifying our operations
  - reducing the size of our fleet whilst delivering the same mileage due to greater operational efficiency
  - making use of smart charging software to optimise energy use and increase battery efficiency and extend battery life
- We are identifying and unlocking adjacent revenue streams to bridge the TCO gap and create further value as we electrify our fleets and infrastructure through our own assets and in-house expertise and with strategic partnerships:
  - B2B and B2C third party charging
  - opportunities on residual battery value when batteries are taken off buses with c.75% capacity remaining
  - on-site battery storage: standalone batteries to make use of power arbitrage opportunities and utilise residual capacity
  - efficient battery recycling post commercial use
  - consultancy capabilities: ability to monetise our expertise as leading bus company in decarbonisation



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