

PRESS RELEASE

21.08.09

Cross party support marks new milestone for the City trams project

Richard Jeffrey, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Trams, today expressed his appreciation for the cross party motion agreed at yesterday's full Council meeting.

At the meeting all parties gave their unanimous support to back Edinburgh Trams in their formal dispute process with their contractor BSC.

This support marks an important milestone in the development of Edinburgh Trams, both as an organisation and as a key component of the City as a whole, as Richard Jeffrey explains "I would publicly like to acknowledge the support that we have had from all parties at the Council. This is a quite unique moment for us in that the various parties have been prepared to set to one side their political views in order to demonstrate their commitment to us at what is a crucial time.

"We are committed to ensuring that the people of Edinburgh receive the quality of work and value for money which they deserve. It also marks a stage in our own development when we have become recognised as intrinsic to the fabric of the City."

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie said:

"By accepting we hold different views on the Edinburgh Trams project, the Council has been able to focus on what we can do to get the best deal for the city rather than focus on what divides us. This was a good decision for the city whichever side of the argument you started from and it shows there is a constructive way forward we can share."

Ends.

Editor Notes

The motion proposed by Gordon Mackenzie read as follows

8.3 (a) Edinburgh Tram Project

While recognising there are divisions on the principle of Trams, Council is united in expressing its ongoing determination and full support for tie's efforts to continue to protect the public purse from the effect of undue programme delay and any

P.T.O



What are the benefits of trams?

For you

- One part of a better integrated transport system
- Safer – attendant plus driver
- Faster journey times
- Comfortable and accessible
- Less congestion = less pollution & noise
- Looks great

For Edinburgh

- Better transport is essential to the growth of the city and attracting new businesses
- Trams are environmentally friendly
- Connects Waterfront, Edinburgh Park and Edinburgh Airport with the City Centre
- Link to airport will benefit tourism and businesses
- Trams will attract more visitors to the City Centre

unwarranted financial claims not provided for within the agreed contract signed by all parties involved in the trams project.

Council fully acknowledges that tie Ltd has put extensive efforts into resolving issues at dispute with the contractor through negotiation and mediation but that this approach has not produced the desired resolution.

The Council therefore supports the utilisation of the clearly documented dispute resolution procedures within the agreed contract as a means of ensuring the most appropriate resolution of the outstanding commercial issues on a formal basis to ensure best value for money for the public purse.

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