

The Edinburgh Tram Project: An Overview

The City of Edinburgh Council

18 December 2008

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of a number of issues related to the Edinburgh Tram Project and to introduce five supporting reports.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 20 November 2008 the Council agreed a series of measures arising from the resignation of Willie Gallagher as Executive Chairman of tie. I intimated to Council that I would report further on a range of issues to this meeting of the Council.

3 Detailed Reports

- 3.1 I have been working closely with Director colleagues and with tie to ensure that key issues are progressed and that Council staff and tie staff continue to work closely together. A meeting was held between the two teams at senior level and it is clear to me that there is a shared energy, enthusiasm and expertise to take the tram project forward. The criticality of having in place an effective communications strategy was also discussed at the meeting. Council representatives and tie representatives are agreed that we should place authority in a single individual to lead, oversee and co-ordinate the activities of the respective communications functions. It is proposed that I be delegated authority by the Council to put new arrangements in place. This will be done in close consultation with the interim Chairman of tie. The Council Leader and Depute Leader will also be consulted before any final decisions are taken.
- 3.2 Set out below is a brief summary of the five detailed reports which are before the Council for consideration. They are:

(i) **Staffing and Governance Issues** – report by the Chief Executive

This report updates Council on the current position in respect of the senior management positions within tie, including the appointment of a new Chief Executive. It also examines the company and governance arrangements between the various parties to the tram project and outlines a possible direction of travel.

- (ii) **Princes Street Temporary Traffic Diversions** – joint report by the Directors of City Development and Services for Communities

This report deals with the next phase of the tram works, which are due to commence on Princes Street early in the New Year. The movements of traffic in and around the city centre has been carefully examined and it has been possible to confirm the original proposals for Princes Street. Reference is also made to the consultative arrangements which have begun with key business stakeholders.

- (iii) **Edinburgh Tram Network – Phase 1b Update** – joint report by the Directors of City Development and Finance

This report updates Council on work in progress to assess the business rationale for phase 1b of the tram network. The TEL business plan has been re-examined against a range of factors, including the current economic conditions. No decision on 1(b) is required from Council at this stage.

- (iv) **Keeping Edinburgh Moving** – joint report by the Directors of Services for Communities and City Development

This report deals with roadworks, in terms of essential maintenance, repairs and renewal of utilities infrastructure. The balance of activity between Council roadworks and those controlled by others is referred to. The report then describes measures designed to alleviate some of the pressures arising from roadworks in the city and to improve their co-ordination and management.

- (v) **Heart of Midlothian Memorial, Haymarket** – report by the Chief Executive

This report informs Council of the temporary arrangements which are necessary while the Memorial is moved to accommodate tram works and plans for its permanent re-siting at Haymarket.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that Council:

- notes this overview report;
- delegates authority to me, in consultation with the Council Leader and Depute Leader, to put in place revised arrangements for communications activity; and
- considers the recommendations in the accompanying reports.


Tom Aitchison
Chief Executive

10/12/08.

Appendices

Contact/tel/Email Tom Aitchison – 0131 469 3002

Wards affected

Single Outcome
Agreement

Background
Papers