
From: Nick Smith
Sent: 05 June 2007 09:06
To: Alan Squair
Subject: RE: Tram contracts

Thanks Alan

Basically Duncan was just rehearsing the issues discussed between the three of us last thur as nothing had really moved forward. My understanding is that same as yours - you need to speak to Gill, but subject to her saying yes then in principle we would be seeking to appoint externals.

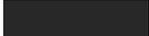
I entirely agree that there is little we can do in terms of actually appointments until we see what DLA provide. However, you'll recall that Duncan reckoned we could provide them with background so they are up to speed.

I'm around for most of the day though out at 11ish for an hour or so.

Kind regards

Nick

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From: Alan Squair
Sent: 04 June 2007 18:03
To: Nick Smith
Subject: Tram contracts

Nick

I gather from Duncan that you had a further discussion with him after I escaped on Friday on the question of independent review. He's very keen to move this forward and wished me to discuss it with Gill this p.m. However, I don't feel that at present we're really in a position to do much more than seek her agreement in principle that this is a desirable exercise and I'd be a great deal more comfortable in making an approach if we had a clearer picture of the scale of the exercise and the funding implications - Duncan was unable to clarify today how the exercise might be funded but I suspect that this would be one of Gill's first questions.

Also, if our view is that this should be by way of appointment of a suitably experienced firm of solicitors, who could then draw upon external advice as required, we should presumably be preparing the specification - to that end, I feel we would need rather more in the way of information by way of the advice on risks and particularly the analysis of existing contracts, which are to come from DLA.

I don't know where you left matters with Duncan, but he does seem to take the view that it's now agreed (subject presumably to Gill's OK) that we are going for independent review - he wants that done asap. It's obviously not a satisfactory position for us to be kept out of the loop for months and then being expected to respond on a short timescale, but that's presumably what we'll have to do. Otherwise, finger pointing from **tie** will ensue.

Could we perhaps have a word tomorrow? I have Tram meetings at 8.30 and 11 but otherwise clear.

Regards

Alan

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