
From: Willie Gallagher
Sent: 23 October 2007 15:34
To: 'david_mackay@'; Renilson, Neil; Andrew Holmes
Subject: FW: Tram - Final Business Case

For info.

From: Julie Thompson
Sent: 23 October 2007 11:55
To: Stewart.Stevenson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Tram - Final Business Case

Dear Stewart,

I know that it would not have escaped your attention that David McLetchie MSP has tabled the following oral question for an answer on 25 October:

'To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the funding of the Edinburgh tram scheme?'

I hope you don't mind but I thought the Advisory Note below may be of some assistance in the drafting of a response to this question.

The obvious answer to this question is that the Government has approved £500m towards the cost of Phase 1 of the tram project.

During the EARL debate David consistently asked why the costs of parliamentary approval process were never added to the overall budget costs. It's possible that once again David is leading up to asking a similar question why the £17m for the parliamentary costs for Edinburgh Tram Scheme were not added to the Final Business Case Costs announced last week.

The costs for the project start from the moment that parliamentary approval has been granted and this is the reason why the costs are not included in the Final Business Case which picks up on my first reference to the £500m. This is no change to the position of the previous Administration and has also been the fact.

In addition you may care to note that David and his transport spokesperson, Alex Johnstone MSP both received a copy of the press release for the Tram Final Business Case on the morning when the announcement when public (18th October). Indeed, on the same date, David was also sent a copy of the Executive Summary document for the Final Business Case. Both the Executive Summary and the full document are now available on the tie website.

Further to this you may also note that this week I will complete two rounds of briefings for each of the political groups on the City Council where I explain the content of the Final Business Case in preparation for the Council debate on Thursday 25th October.

Kind regards

Willie

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