
From: Carla Simpson [Carla@newsdirect-uk.com]
Sent: 30 June 2011 10:08
Subject: newsdirect: Labour Group Tram Amendment
Attachments: 300610 Tram Amendment - Labour VersionFINALv3.doc

Importance: High

Hi there

Please find attached the CEC Labour Group's amendment ahead of today's debate, plus comment from Andrew Burns below.

Kind regards,

Carla

TRAM REPORT - Labour Amendment

Many thanks for being in touch about this crucial issue for the City of Edinburgh ...

... as promised, please find attached a copy of the Labour Group Amendment for today's Council Meeting.

The 2007 Audit Scotland report on Edinburgh's trams showed a project which was deliverable and robust. It was clearly not without problems, but with good management and political leadership it was on course to being delivered. Since then the project has total unravelled, and we are left with the mess before us today. Not a 'small glitch' as some would suggest, but an embarrassment to our proud City.

Like many people in Edinburgh we believe that there has been a real lack of political leadership with regards to the tram project. We have a Council Leader who has consistently sought to duck the issue, pass on responsibility or downplay the matter, as well as a Deputy Leader who has, at every turn sought to undermine the project, talk it down and brief against it. It has been a recipe for disaster.

As mentioned in previous messages, we are now left with a very difficult choice - none of options are ideal - but we cannot support yet further unallocated borrowing (of some several hundred million pounds) to possibly get the project to St. Andrew Square. These monies would need to be borne by Edinburgh Council, which already has some £1.3billion worth of borrowing, requiring over £100million of annual revenue payments. That's 10% of our revenue budget going on interest payments every year, right now.

And outright cancellation costs (for the whole project) are completely unacceptable.

Delaying a decision today is going to help no one, so we will back the Haymarket option - within strict limitations as set out in our attached Amendment.

Please don't hesitate to get back to me if you want to discuss this issue further.

And thanks again for taking the time to share your views with me on this crucial topic.

Andrew

Andrew Burns
Labour Councillor for Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Ward
Leader, Labour Group, City of Edinburgh Council

