
From: Sharp DP (Damian)
Sent: 11 November 2005 14:33
To: 'Barry Cross'
Cc: David Ramsay; Graeme Bissett (external contact); Stewart McGarrity; Ian Kendall; Trudi Craggs
Subject: RE: Tram Finance
Attachments: Funding paper November v 1011.doc; Line 2 committee re funding - Annex A 1011.doc; Line 2 committee re funding - Annex A 1011.doc

Barry

See attached comments in tracked changes.

Feel free to give me a call to discuss – see below for new contact details.

Damian

DAMIAN SHARP
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Glasgow
G2 6AT



-----Original Message-----

From: Barry Cross [<mailto:Barry.Cross@tie.ltd.uk>]
Sent: 10 November 2005 12:32
To: Sharp DP (Damian)
Cc: David Ramsay; Graeme Bissett (external contact); Stewart McGarrity; Ian Kendall; Trudi Craggs
Subject: Tram Finance
Importance: High

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Damien,
You'll recall that the issue of the 'funding gap', and how it will be filled, has been an outstanding issue for many months. A substantive paper was produced in the summer which included reference to the discussions that had taken place between tie, CEC and SExec with a 'new' contribution from CEC being matched by indexation by SExec. This paper did not progress but a more discursive paper, without reference to firm contribution figures, was produced. This was submitted to Parliament for the Committees in September.

As predicted the two committees are not satisfied with the submission. Tram Line 1 Committee (via PBU) has asked for a further paper, and made it clear that if it's not satisfactory then they'll call the Minister and Tom Aitchison. The draft of this further paper is attached. Tram Line 2 Committee has asked a series of additional questions. The draft responses are also attached. In addition the Committee has asked us to provide witnesses for questioning on November 23. These responses are to be provided to the PBU by close of play tomorrow, Friday 11.

It is important to note that the PBU advise that the objective of the exercise is to close out issues, not open new ones. They are therefore looking for responses which give comfort and as much clarity of commitment as possible. The attached draft responses attempt to do that, although it is questionable whether they'll do the trick without any clear CEC or SExec commitments. What is certain is that if they are watered down to approximate to the September paper, then they will fail.

It is also worth noting that it is much easier to close out the issues in writing than it will be with witnesses appearing before the committees, given the presence of Phil Gallie on Line 1 and Jeremy Purvis on Line 2.

On this basis then, can you review the papers and confirm that you are happy with them. If at all possible firming up commitments would be welcomed.

We'll send you new drafts as they develop.

Many thanks,
Barry

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