

## **City of Edinburgh Council: Press Statement**

The City of Edinburgh Council has today given notice of a special meeting of the Council which has been called by the Lord Provost, to be held on Friday 2 September at 10.00am. The meeting is to discuss the funding arrangements for the Edinburgh Tram Project to enable Council officers to implement the arrangements required by the Council decision of 25 August.

At the meeting the Lord Provost may also rule that a material change of circumstance has occurred in the wake of issues that have been brought to his attention by the Council's Chief Executive following meetings that she has had with the Principal Representatives of the infrastructure contractor consortium companies Bilfinger Berger UK (Civil) and Siemens.

The Council Chief Executive met the contractors in Germany today at the request of the Council Leader. She sought clarity about their position following the Council's decision to build a shorter route terminating at Haymarket. The Council is currently legally committed to a contract to build the tram line to Newhaven and the negotiations that have been going on since March have sought to amend the contract to deliver a truncated line to St. Andrew Square. They have acknowledged the Council's position as a result of last week's decision and advised that they will respond to the Council formally before the 31 August deadline which was agreed by all parties at mediation.

The Council has also noted the public statement by the Scottish Government of its intention to review the business case for the shortened route to Haymarket and to consider its position with regard to the outstanding balance of £59.5m currently payable under the Council's grant agreement with Transport Scotland and which is also due for renewal.

