



**Parsons
Brinckerhoff**

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Our Ref: ULE90130-SW-LET-00457

18th January 2007

tie
CityPoint, 1st Floor
65 Haymarket Terrace
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EH12 5HD

Attention: Ailsa McGregor

Dear Ailsa

Edinburgh Tram Network: Prior Approval Exemplar Submissions

Following the submission of the exemplar prior approval submissions, we are aware that CEC's Head of Planning, Alan Henderson, has sent a letter to Andie Harper about prior approvals.

The letter is a response to the exemplar planning drawings and Design Statements for Haymarket, Garrick Knowe and Murrayfield, which we submitted in November. It also covers the papers on Numbers and Batching of approvals and Planning Drawings.

Comments made are complementary about the numbers and batching work done by SDS. However, concern is expressed regarding further compression of the design programme and the implications for processing applications. CEC also give constructive comments on our exemplar submissions.

SDS had a meeting with CEC Planning on 12th December to discuss the letter. This was attended by Dundas and Wilson, SDMs and the Approvals team. Subsequently, we had a meeting on 20th December 2006 at Citypoint attended by Trudi Craggs, Kim Dorrington, Aileen Grant and Jason Chandler, to discuss some of the issues arising.

The Head of Planning raised a number of key issues on which we would request some formal feedback from tie:

1. The level of design detail presented in the planning drawings was considered inadequate for prior approval. CEC want to see what an OLE pole or shelter looks like before they make a recommendation to elected members;
 - This puts us in the position where we are unable to progress approvals as programmed until we are able to provide details for items which are within Infraco scope. It was agreed at the meeting on 20th December 2006 that we would attempt to progress these issues as far as practicable through the Tram Design Working Group, and that tie would, where necessary nominate suppliers to Infraco. Please kindly confirm your requirements in this area.
2. CEC require a "holistic" design approach for OLE, tram stops etc. at each specific location and want to see the detail. Alan Henderson considers that SDS is "not yet in a position to apply for prior approval";

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- This approach from CEC, coupled with the changes requested to roads layouts at the December DAP means that there will be a delay to the approvals as a result. This will also mean that CEC will have larger numbers of approval packages to deal with over a shorter period of time, therefore increasing the risk of over-run on approvals.
We consider that we should continue to produce the approvals packages as proposed, and where supporting information is available this can be supplied if requested. Please confirm your agreement.
3. Exact track alignment, road design and traffic management solutions need to be identified before stop locations and OLE are finalised;
 - As mentioned above, the main issue here is the delay caused to the design programme by the need to revisit critical areas in Section 1 following the DAP in December. This will inevitably have a knock on effect on submissions and approvals.
 4. CEC want the approaches to street lighting, building fixings and paving to be finalised in advance of formal submissions;
 - We have already started a coordinated programme of workshops to inform CEC via the Tram Design Working Group of the intentions in these key design areas. We do however, request tie's continued support in managing the expectations of CEC in some areas. We are unable to maintain programme if CEC continue to request late changes to designs which they have been aware of for some months.
 5. CEC is concerned that "the programme is not realistic". It does also state that programme is achievable, albeit with adequate resources;
 - CEC must ensure that they have adequate resources to meet the approvals and consents programme. We believe that their current resource is inadequate. We have previously suggested co-location of resource as a way of streamlining communication, and believe that this is now in hand. Please confirm.
 6. CEC don't want any further submissions until "the points raised in this document have been addressed".
 - As stated above, we believe that it is not in the interest of the project to stop submitting to CEC. We shall continue to engage them in consultation, and where constraints permit, shall continue to submit packages for approval

Whilst acknowledging that some of these issues have already been recognised, and following our meeting on 20th December 2006, actions have been put in place to expedite approvals, we request your confirmation/instruction regarding the foregoing.

Yours sincerely



David Hutchison
Parsons Brinckerhoff

cc. David Hutchison Jonathan Bloo
Jason Chandler SDM's
Alan Dolan Jes Hansen
Day File

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