

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

City of Edinburgh Council

14 March 2019

Item 8.1 – Edinburgh Tram – York Place to Newhaven Final Business Case

Delete all and insert:

The City of Edinburgh Council:

1.1 welcomes the considerable work undertaken by officers to finalise the Final Business Case and the substantial programme of engagement with elected members, residents and other stakeholders to allow for an informed decision on the proposed tram extension.

1.2. continues to support the principle of extending the tram to Leith and Newhaven.

1.3. notes paragraph 3(c) of the TEC Motion on the Updated Outline Business Case, approved by full council in September 2017, and continues to believe it wrong to approve the proposed extension before the full recommendations of Lord Hardie's independent tram inquiry are known.

1.4. notes paragraph 8 of the TEC Motion on the Updated Outline Business Case, approved by full council in September 2017, and believes the administration has failed properly to set out how the tram extension project will be linked to broader public transport improvements across the city.

1.5. believes there has been insufficient information provided on the impact the project could have on the resourcing and prioritisation of other transport and infrastructure projects across the city.

1.6. believes there has been insufficient information to explain what impact the £20m extraordinary dividend from Lothian Buses could have on bus ticket prices and operations.

1.7. notes that the current Increased Costs Scenario would involve the significant use of the Council's reserves, leaving the Council financially exposed should unexpected pressures arise which would normally call on the use of reserves.

1.8. notes the wider economic and fiscal uncertainty which has intensified since the Council last considered the tram extension; recognises that a disastrous Brexit remains a possibility, given the current policy position of the UK Government, and could impact the assumptions on which the Final Business Case is based; all of which could expose the Council to further financial risk and none of which has been formally evaluated.

1.9. therefore agrees to continue consideration of the tram extension until the matters raised in this motion are addressed

Moved by Councillor Gillian Gloyer

Seconded by Councillor Robert Aldridge