

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

13 June 2009

TramForward concern over funding of Nottingham extensions

***TramForward* is concerned over the latest threat to the progress of the Nottingham Express Transit (NET) tram extensions to Clifton and to Beeston and Chilwell.**

The Nottinghamshire Conservatives, who took control of the County Council at the recent elections, have announced that they would withdraw their contribution to the NET expansion plans.

As the County contribution amounts to only 5% of the total cost, it is not seen as a major hurdle and *TramForward* have learnt of a secret top level meeting which took place 2 weeks ago where, it is understood, a package was discussed to make good this shortfall.

However, there is concern for the development of Beeston Square, where exciting plans for a complete rebuild around the tram interchange are at an advanced stage. *TramForward* understands that this uncertainty has already caused the plans to be put on hold as it is thought unlikely that a major retailer will be attracted while there is doubt over the tram. The existing supermarket at Beeston Square has already closed in anticipation of the redevelopment and there is much local concern about anything which causes further blight on the town.

***TramForward* trusts that means will be found to proceed rapidly with the tramway extensions and that the revitalisation which the tram stimulates will not be jeopardised.**

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.
2. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs under 12p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolsley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRTA receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport sites.
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