

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

23.12.2013

### **Dundee should consider tourist tram proposal**

TramForward has expressed disappointment at the decision apparently taken by Dundee City Council's Director of City Development, Mike Galloway, to reject a proposal for a circular tourist tram route linking the Waterfront's Southern Boulevard with the High Street and bus station

It is understood that Mr Galloway feels that the city's bus system fulfils all Dundee's present and future transport but his views on trams are probably coloured by developments in Edinburgh, where procurement and construction of the tram system has been beset with problems.

None of these problems is, however, directly relevant to the Dundee proposal which is, in any event, on a much smaller scale. TramForward believes that Mr Galloway should look instead at recent developments in cities large and small throughout Europe and around the rest of the world where tram systems have been and continue to be installed to the benefit of their communities – especially in terms of economic regeneration, substantial reductions in environmental pollution and enhancement of the quality of life. A specific example of a small tourist tram is the one recently opened on the Caribbean island of Aruba.

A more balanced view has come from Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Sandra Burke, who said it was wrong and unfair to compare Edinburgh with the Dundee proposal, and that the idea of a modern tramway should be looked at very carefully and be the subject of a detailed cost-benefit analysis to see if it can be justified.

The initial phase of the scheme, which would mainly benefit visitors to the Waterfront attractions such as the V&A, could be delivered for around £20m with minimal disruption. Later the line could be extended towards the harbour, to Dundee University and even as far as the airport, bringing more general transport benefits to the city. The line could also form the basis of a city centre circulator for future TramTrain services coming in from local rail lines.

TramForward therefore calls upon the City of Dundee to give proper consideration to the proposal for a tram to serve the new Waterfront development.

### **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 75 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](http://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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