

# **EDINBURGH TRAM (LINE ONE) BILL COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 30 June 2004  
*(Morning)*

Session 2

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### EDINBURGH TRAM (LINE ONE) BILL COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2004, Session 2

#### OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER

\*Phil Gallie (South of Scotland) (Con)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab)

\*Dr Sylvia Jackson (Stirling) (Lab)

\*Michael Matheson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

\*Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD)

\*attended

#### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jane Sutherland

#### LOCATION

Committee Room 4



## Scottish Parliament

### Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Bill Committee

*Wednesday 30 June 2004*

*(Morning)*

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER *opened the meeting at 09:33*]

### Interests

**Phil Gallie (Oldest Committee Member):** Good morning, everyone. I am pleased to start off the first meeting of the Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Bill Committee. As all members are present, we will move straight to business. I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones.

I am duty bound to explain that the declaration of interests is a statutory requirement and that it would be advisable for members to err on the side of caution in declaring interests. I give members the option of making a declaration, if they feel that there is a need to do so.

**Dr Sylvia Jackson (Stirling) (Lab):** The only interest that might be relevant is that I am a member of the Transport and General Workers Union.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab):** I, too, am a member of the Transport and General Workers Union.

**Phil Gallie:** Those interests are probably relevant.

## Convener

09:34

**Phil Gallie:** I have enjoyed chairing the meeting for such a long time, but I now ask for nominations for convener.

**Dr Jackson:** I nominate Jackie Baillie.

**Phil Gallie:** There are no other nominations.

*Jackie Baillie was chosen as convener.*

**Phil Gallie:** I now hand the chair over to Jackie Baillie.

## Deputy Convener

09:36

**The Convener (Jackie Baillie):** Parliament agreed to a Parliamentary Bureau motion that the deputy convener of the committee is to be a member of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. As Phil Gallie is the sole Conservative member of the committee, do members agree to choose him as deputy convener?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

*Phil Gallie was chosen as deputy convener.*

## Items in Private

09:36

**The Convener:** Item 4 is to consider whether to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private. As this is our first meeting, I will explain why we are keen to take those items in private. Item 5 is to seek the committee's agreement on a number of matters, not the least of which is the appointment of an adviser. It is customary for committees to consider the relative merits of different candidates in private. Item 6 is to consider our preliminary approach to evidence gathering. The committee's views will be sought on issues such as the commissioning of external research and tenders, which are covered in the paper on the issue. Again, it is customary to consider such issues in private.

Item 7, which is interesting, is about taking a view on the adequacy of the environmental statement, following a report from Bond Pearce Ltd, which has been appointed as consultant. We will make that report public, but at this stage it would be useful for members to reflect on the background and consider the issue. Following the meeting, we will publish our decisions in the minutes and the relevant papers.

**Phil Gallie (South of Scotland) (Con):** I am not going to cause trouble in this committee, because it is not the European and External Relations Committee—

**The Convener:** You had better not—not at the first meeting.

**Phil Gallie:** There is a will to try to minimise the holding of committees in private session. I agree that we should take items 5 and 6 in private, but issues might arise on item 7—which is on the Bond Pearce paper—that might well be of interest to members of the public. I would certainly have no objection to discussing item 7 openly. That might be a reasonable move.

**The Convener:** I have considered that point because there is a lot of interest in the environmental statement. We agreed to publish the report to make it widely available and to publish any decisions that the committee arrives at. We do not intend to go through the statement chapter and verse and make substantive decisions, which is why I agreed that the item could be taken in private. I wanted to give members an opportunity to reflect on the report, but also to ensure that all the information is put into the public domain to ensure that the dialogue that the promoter and the objectors will want to have takes place and is guided by some of the work in the environmental statement.

I hope that we will decide later to consider further work on particular sections of the environmental statement. It would be useful to have such dialogue in private, but I take Phil Gallie's point about ensuring that as much information as possible is put into the public domain. We will publish on that basis.

**Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD):** That is fair, convener. I agree that we must have a discussion in private to sort out our rules of engagement and so on. We need to find our centre of gravity. Provided that the private sessions are kept to a minimum, I can live with that.

**Phil Gallie:** I will not press the issue. I was simply airing my view.

**The Convener:** Right. We now move into private session.

09:39

*Meeting continued in private until 10:21.*

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