

Nottingham Express Transit - Phase 2

The Secretary of State for Transport (Douglas Alexander): I have today given programme entry approval to a scheme to extend the Nottingham Express Transit (NET).

The promoters, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, are seeking to build on the success of Line One with two new extensions. The extensions are planned to go to Chilwell/Beeston and Clifton, linking directly into Line One at Nottingham Station.

The Nottingham tram has been a great success in encouraging people onto public transport. These extensions provide the opportunity to continue this success, and give people in the south of Nottingham quicker, more convenient access to the city centre.

We're still at an early stage in the approval process, but we will continue to work with the Nottingham authorities so they can deliver a tram that is attractive to passengers and value for money for the taxpayer.

Subject to the scheme progressing satisfactorily to full approval, Central Government will contribute funding of up to £437 million in PFI Credits towards the costs of the extensions.

Programme Entry demonstrates our support for the extensions. Providing the necessary planning powers are granted, and that the other conditions of funding approval are satisfied, including costs are kept under control, construction of the extensions could start in 2010.