



# The Beeston EXPRESS



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## County Council officially withdraws from tram project

NOTTS County Council has officially announced its decision to withdraw from the NET tram project, on the basis that it will save Nottinghamshire taxpayers at least £18 million.

The county council decided to withdraw from the project in September 2009, after the change to Conservative administration at County Hall. The full report will be presented to the Council for discussion on January 27.

Cllr Richard Jackson, cabinet member for Transport and Highways, said "We were not prepared to sign a blank cheque for NET Phase Two. We have also decided to withdraw from supporting Phase One, as we were not convinced of the business case for the tram in the first place.

"We don't think that it will deliver £18 million of value for Nottinghamshire."

Cllr Jackson believes that the county council has made a sound decision, one that will allow it to continue to support bus services across the county by £7 million.

He said: "We felt that to play a small part in all NET Phase One and Two lines was too difficult to achieve. Not spending the money on the tram allows the transport budget to be spread across the whole of the county."

### Chilwell traders

Promises made by the county council to the Chilwell traders have been safeguarded. The county council has "guaranteed"

that £1.25 million will be set aside to meet their share of the financial assistance package for the Chilwell traders who will be affected by the construction of NET Phase Two.

### City to "get on"

Speaking for the City Council, Cllr Jane Urquhart said:

"Although the City Council would have preferred to remain in partnership with the County Council to build an extended tram network, we accept the County Council's decision to withdraw from the project and are pleased that we are now able to progress with it. As with NET Line One, the project has excellent financial controls and we are confident

it can be built within the public affordability budget.

"In the past, the two councils have worked well together to ensure that residents in the region have access to the best possible public transport. We will continue to liaise closely with the County to ensure that the construction phase is handled properly and that we maintain the excellent reputation we currently have."

## Masked men rob woman on Abbey Road

DETECTIVES are appealing for the public's help to identify the two men who robbed a 71-year-old woman on her drive in Abbey Road, Beeston, on Saturday night, January 15, at around 6.50pm.

The woman had just returned home when the two men, who have been described as wearing dark clothing and balaclavas, jumped over a fence and grabbed her handbag, which contained her bank cards and two cheque books.

The men then got into a black Ford Mondeo and drove off – then abandoned the vehicle in Hetley Road. Another vehicle was seen driving away from Hetley Road at about 7pm.

The Mondeo, which had been stolen from the West Midlands area, has been recovered for forensic examination.

The woman was uninjured and Beeston detectives are appealing for anyone who witnessed this incident, who saw a black Ford Mondeo in the Abbey Road area at around 6.50pm, or who saw another vehicle being driven away from Hetley Road shortly before 7pm, to contact them.

Anyone with any information should call Det Sgt Pete Shaw at Beeston CID on 0300 300 9999 ext 812 5635. Alternatively, they can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



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