

**SESTRAN EQUALITIES FORUM
FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2015, 10AM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HOUSE, EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL, HADDINGTON,
EH41 9SH**

Tea and coffee available from 9.30am

As you will appreciate, the main aim of the meeting is to be involved in the consultation for the proposed new stations at East Linton and Reston. Therefore the agenda (and location of the meeting) is adjusted to accommodate this.

AGENDA

1. Introduction (minutes of last meeting)
2. Update – Thistle card
 - Traveline
3. Presentation/discussion on proposed new stations
4. AOCB
5. Next meeting

EQUALITIES FORUM

SESTRAN, CLAREMONT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

10AM FRIDAY 14th August 2015

Present

Alastair Short (Chair)	SEStran
Cllr Jim Bryant	Midlothian Council
John Ballantine	SATA
Caroline Barr	
Nikki Boath	SEStran
Lesley Crozier	East & Midlothian Council
Jane Findlay	Fife Council
Lisa Freeman	SEStran
Mike Harrison	Midlothian Access Panel
Alex Macaulay	SEStran
Catriona Macdonald	SEStran
Alan Rees	SATA
Dennis Wilson	Edinburgh Access Panel

Apologies

David Griffiths	ECAS
Trond Haugen	SEStran
Nina Munday	Fife Voluntary Action
Anne Munro	
Ken Reid	East Lothian Access Panel
Muriel Williams	ECL

Ref		Actions
1	Introduction, Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p><u>Introduction</u> Mr Short welcomed the group and conducted round table introductions. Apologies were noted as above. It was noted that the meeting of Friday 8th May was cancelled due to lack of business.</p> <p>The minutes of last meeting were outlined as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u> 31/10/14 Item 1 Traveline It was confirmed that the comments have been passed on to Traveline and there is no further update.</p> <p>31/10/14 Item 1 Trams Validation Trams issues resolved.</p>	

	<p>31/10/14 Item 4.3 SEStran Bus forum – Displaying wheelchair spaces No progress to report. Mr Short noted that this item needs to continue to be pursued.</p> <p>Mobility Scooters. A Paper has been drafted for circulation to the Bus Forum and is on the Agenda for discussion today.</p> <p>SEStran Regional Transport Strategy. The RTS has been approved by the Board and also by Scottish Government and it is now an official document. The Delivery Plan is currently being developed.</p> <p>Emergency Access to Claremont House Concerns about the fire alarm have been passed on to the Landlord of the property. Mrs Boath informed the Forum that she had spoken to Angela Chambers, SEStran Office Manager. Mrs Boath informed the group that the new landlords have carried out a Fire Risk Assessment on the building.</p> <p>No other matters were arising from the previous minutes.</p>	
2	Thistle Card Update and Proposals	
	<p>Mr Short gave an update on Thistle Card distribution. He noted that the figures have dropped considerably through the years. Ms Barr suggested republicising the scheme. Mr Short commented that he wasn't entirely sure if this was the correct strategy. However, Mr Short wasn't adverse to readvertising within the hospitals.</p> <p>Mr Short shared with the Forum the idea of introducing a simple display app and explained how it would work. The Forum discussed the app proposal and raised concerns about the idea. Mr Macaulay suggested that a range of options should be made available as not one option suits everyone's circumstances.</p> <p>Mr Short also commented that as other transport partnerships have taken up the Thistle Card scheme, we should be working in unison with them to develop the app.</p>	
3	Mobility Scooters Update	
	<p>Mr Short reminded the Forum of the paper that had been presented at the last meeting and outlined the content which included scooter size and the acceptance of scooters by different bus and train companies. The paper has been well received by the Bus Forum and Mr Short introduced Catriona MacDonald to provide an update to the Forum.</p> <p>Ms MacDonald informed the Forum that Transport for Edinburgh were holding a meeting in October when they will release further details</p>	<p>Catriona Macdonald</p>

	<p>including the date of a trial. The Forum had a number of concerns and questions relating to the trial and requested more details.</p> <p>Mr Macaulay brought to the Forum's attention that the reason there is a time gap between the meeting and the Scooter trials is that the bus companies have an overriding responsibility to ensure the safety of their passengers. Mr Macaulay noted that the bus companies will want to run a trial, which will be very well managed and also highlighted that a time gap was necessary to allow design and implementation of the scheme. He stated that disability groups should be involved in the design of the trial.</p> <p>There are a number of unanswered questions with regard to the study which the Westminster Government are still working on. Mr Macaulay queried if an action had been taken following the last meeting to write to the Scooter suppliers within the SEStran region making them aware of the current constraints on access to public transport. Mr Short advised that he hadn't seen any evidence that this had been done. He commented that the issue had been raised at the Bus Forum but further action was required.</p>	Mr Short
4	Disability Audit Reston/East Linton Station Consultation	
	<p>Mr Short informed the Forum that the new railway stations at Reston/East Linton would like to conduct a Disability Audit and the proposal is to hold the next Equalities Forum meeting at the Council Chambers, Haddington on 13th November 2015 to allow the group to view the plans for the new stations as part of the main agenda at the Equalities Forum meeting.</p> <p>Mr Macaulay explained that SEStran is the client for procurement acting on behalf East Lothian Council and Borders Council. SEStran are currently at a preliminary stage in the design process. Mr Macaulay informed the group that by November there will be indicative designs but perhaps not detailed design. Mr Macaulay highlighted that as part of the design process it is a statutory requirement to look at those with disability issues and therefore the input of the Equalities Forum is vital.</p> <p>It was noted that Ken Reid should be made aware of this meeting.</p> <p>Some Members of the Forum will require transport to Haddington and an option of SEStran organising Handicabs is to be explored.</p>	Nikki Boath
5	Waverley/Haymarket/Edinburgh Gateway	
	<p>There was a general discussion and the group had concerns regarding Waverley station. It was suggested contacting Jim Eadie, MSP to find out what progress has been made regarding disability access within Waverley Station.</p>	Alastair Short
6.	Crag and Enable (stop the bus) Campaign	
	<p>Awareness was raised for Captial Rail Action Group (CRAG) and Enable</p>	Nikki Boath

	<p>campaigns. It was suggested that information about the campaigns should be circulated to the group.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding progress with the Talking Buses scheme. Alastair Short will investigate this.</p>	Alastair Short
7.	Taxi Card Report	
	<p>The taxi card scheme was outlined. A general discussion took place and a number of concerns were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the expense of the taxi scheme within Edinburgh • what is the take up within the region • the impact on the elderly and disabled as a result of the withdrawal within the Falkirk area <p>It was noted that there should be further investigations with regard to this scheme.</p> <p>It was highlighted that similar bus service schemes are run in the Fife area. One of the bus services offer travel throughout the whole of Fife. Information relating to service, concessions and uptake run in the Fife area will distributed to the group.</p> <p>It was agreed this Item should be raised as a B Item on the Agenda for the Partnership Board.</p>	<p>Jane Findlay</p> <p>Alastair Short</p>
8.	AOCB	
	<p>A concern was raised regarding the height of the doorbell at Claremont House. This will be passed on to the Landlord.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the SEStran website isn't written in a user friendly style. It was also highlighted that the general public don't know what SEStran does.</p>	Nikki Boath
9.	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next meeting of the Equalities Forum is scheduled at Council Chambers, Town House, Haddington on Friday 13 th November at 10am	