

**EQUALITIES FORUM  
TUESDAY 26th APRIL 2016  
ROOM 3H-55, VICTORIA QUAY**

**Present**

Alastair Short (Chair)	SEStran
John Ballantine	SATA
Nikki Boath	SEStran
Lesley Crozier	East & Midlothian Councils
Lisa Freeman	SEStran
Mike Harrison	Midlothian Access Panel
Hanne-Mary Higgins	SEStran
John Moore	LCTS
Kris Moore	XDesign
Gordon Mungall	West Lothian Access Committee
Catriona Scally	West Lothian Access Committee

**Apologies**

Terry Barlow	
Jane Findlay	Fife Council
David Griffiths	ECAS
Alex Macaulay	SEStran
Alan Rees	SATA
Ken Reid	East Lothian Access Panel
Jane Steven	
Dennis Wilson	Edinburgh Access Panel

Ref		Actions
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
	Mr Short welcomed the group and conducted round table introductions. Apologies were noted as above.  There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Thistle Card Update including App development</b>	
	Mr Short gave an update on Thistle Card distribution. He noted that the figures have dropped significantly over the last financial year. Mr Short highlighted that the Healthcare sector is the most prominent take up group. Mr Short reported that 2 RTPs are also promoting the Thistle Card and they are Tactran and SWestrans.  Mr Short reported that the Thistle Card app is currently being developed and he introduced Kris Moore of XDesign who is involved in developing	

	<p>the app. Mr Moore outlined how the app will be presented on smartphones. He explained that currently the app replicates the card however there is potential to continue to further develop the app. Mr Moore agreed to send details of the most up-to-date version and Lisa Freeman will circulate this information to the Forum.</p> <p>Lisa Freeman advised the Forum that their participation to assist with the development of the app would be useful. There was a general discussion with regard to ideas for the app.</p> <p>Catriona Scally suggested the addition of a symbol to support the primary disability sticker and offered to send over a list of symbols that could be useful on the app.</p> <p>Mr Short brought to the attention of the Forum that at the last meeting a suggestion of an audio facility for the app was put forward. Mr Short asked the Forum if they thought this would be a useful addition. The general consensus was that this could be valuable.</p> <p>Catriona Scally asked if there is any feedback from various disability groups who currently use the Thistle Card. She suggested contacting the Access Panel Networks to ask their members for feedback. She will forward a list of contacts to Lisa Freeman. The feedback from these groups could be useful for developing the app.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the app could be developed to have a share link to social media which would allow users to advocate the app. Also it was suggested that the app could contain a potential rating/feedback loop.</p> <p>There was an overall positive general consensus for the app. The icon for the app will be the Thistle as it widely recognised. The card scheme will continue to operate also.</p>	<p><b>Lisa Freeman</b></p> <p><b>Catriona Scally</b></p> <p><b>Catriona Scally/Lisa Freeman</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mobility Scooters update including tram trial</b>	
	<p>Mr Short advised the Forum that the tram trial has been running since 1 January 2016 and is ongoing. Mr Short passed around a leaflet with regard to the trial which states the acceptable type of scooter and that a permit must be obtained before a scooter can be taken onto the trams.</p> <p>Mr Short pointed out there is a list of scooter sizes that are accepted on different modes of transport on SEStran's website. Concerns were raised regarding scooter sizes. The general consensus was that there is no consistency with regard to scooter sizes on various modes of transport.</p> <p>The question was raised about how many people were involved in this trial. Alastair Short informed the group that he will investigate how many people are participating in the trial.</p> <p>Catriona Scally suggested that the Thistle Card app could potentially</p>	<p><b>Alastair Short/Lisa Freeman</b></p>

	<p>contain scooter information and tram permit.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding a body at national level for transport methods complaints. Mr Short agreed to find out who is responsible at national level for the concerns raised regarding scooter sizes and health and safety.</p>	<b>Mr Short</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Rail Issues – Disability Audit Reston/ East Linton Station</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Queen Street</b></li> <li>- <b>Waverley/Haymarket/Edinburgh Gateway</b></li> </ul>	
	<p><u>Disability Audit Reston/East Linton Stations</u></p> <p>Mr Short invited the Forum to give their thoughts on the presentation at the last meeting regarding the disability audit for Reston/East Linton Stations. The general consensus was that the meeting was worthwhile and it was highlighted that it is important that Disability groups should be continuously involved as the project progresses.</p> <p><u>Queen Street</u></p> <p>A general discussion took place about the development at Queen Street. There was a general concern raised regarding passenger assistance. A suggestion was made that currently it would be advisable to book ahead for passenger assistance. It was also noted that clearly marked meeting points are important for assisted passengers.</p> <p><u>Waverley/Haymarket/Edinburgh Gateway</u></p> <p>A general discussion took place regarding Edinburgh Gateway and the issues highlighted are stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different rail levels</li> <li>• Very large distances to travel for those with mobility issues</li> <li>• Need to publicise station opening hours</li> <li>• Information regarding the Gateway Station could be confusing for those not familiar with the routes</li> </ul> <p>Mr Ballantine pointed out that Network Rail had done a presentation to City of Edinburgh Council regarding a possible plan to build a new taxi rank at the back of New Street car park. Mr Short advised the Forum that he will contact CEC to find out the progress of this consultation.</p>	<b>Mr Short</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p>The Thistle Card has been nominated for the Accessibility Project Award at the Scottish Transport Awards on 16 June 2016. The other nominees in the category are Edinburgh Airport, Network Rail and Scottish Borders Community Council.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<p>The date of next meeting is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10am at Victoria Quay.</p>	