

Review of Forums

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Further to the September and December 2016 Board reports seeking to review current SEStran consultative and engagement forums, the Partnership Director has received further comments from Board members on the proposals. The Chair has proposed that the subject is effectively left to the next SEStran Board as a legacy issue pending the outcomes of the review of transport governance and planning review proposals.

2. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

- 2.1** By the end of October 2016, SEStran had received comments from 4 Board Members. Review of the 4 sets of comments submitted, highlighted a clear desire for the retention of the status quo and some suggested the review should be paused until there is clarity on the wider legislative / governance context. There was a further governance review proposal tabled at the December Board which couldn't be agreed but there was an agreement to seek further comments from Members.
- 2.2** In early 2017, there have been a few subsequent comments from Members about retaining the Bus and Rail Forums and removing all other forums or operating a combined Bus and Rail Forum as a joint operator forum. The Equalities and Healthcare Forum have subsequently merged and the Air Forum is going to transition at the request of Edinburgh Airport into an Air Transport Forum lead by the Airport to further their Surface Access Strategy during 2017 and beyond. Therefore, the SEStran Air Forum will cease to meet. Edinburgh Airport has offered continued representation for SEStran on the new forum and also to review Board representation on the Airport Consultative Committee.
- 2.3** The suggestion from the Chair of the Board is that further discussion on this matter is postponed until the September or December 2017 Partnership Board meeting when there will be a new SEStran Board and greater clarity on the future of Regional Partnership working. There is not the same pressing timescales to be proactive due to the closure of discussions with SESplan. Discussions explored possible joint managerial oversight of both bodies but were concluded due to the workload implications without review of current governance structures for members of staff. However, there have been stakeholder requests for change in SEStran governance structures going forward.
- 2.4** The Performance and Audit Committee and Chair of the Board therefore propose that, given there has been a full range of forum meetings in the last few months, that further meetings of all forums are paused until after the September 2017 Board meeting. This would enable a clear strategy for SEStran's internal consultative and engagement processes to be delivered in line with emerging proposals for transport governance and planning reform.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Board are asked to:

- Note the current position with regard to comments on the Review of Forums,
- Agree the transfer of the Air Forum responsibilities to the airport operator; and
- Agree with the recommendation of the Performance and Audit Committee and Chair of the Board to postpone further debate about meetings of SEStran forums until the September 2017 Board meeting , when there may be emerging legislative proposals on Regional Partnership working.
- Note that all outstanding Forum meetings have been held or scheduled.

George Eckton
Partnership Director
23rd February 2017

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	None
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None