

## **Service Level Agreements**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership receives specialist support and advice via Service Level Agreements with constituent councils. City of Edinburgh Council provide financial support and services, Falkirk Council provide Human Resources advice and services, and Fife Council provide clerking services and legal advice to the Partnership. In late March 2017, Fife Council advised that they could only extend the SLA with SEStran until September 2017, this is due to internal re-organisation and diminishing resources with the council, outsourcing of resource can't continue and there is a need to focus on core Council business. City of Edinburgh and Falkirk Councils have accepted extensions to their SLAs until May 2018.

### **2. Replacement Options**

**2.1** The Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005 makes provision for services by others, as does the Partnership standing orders, but neither require a constituent council to provide those services under an SLA. Fife have provided Secretary and Legal Services since the statutory beginning of the Partnership. The Partnership Director has in early April 2017 written to all the other 7 constituent councils to seek any expressions of interest in providing clerking and legal services from October 2017. At time of writing, only Falkirk Council have responded to say they don't have the capacity to provide further services. In consultation with the Secretary, Officers have also sought to scope out the capacity for external training on the clerking services to provide an in-house situation. In addition, other public sector bodies have been approached to see if they could provide clerking services under an SLA, leaving the provision of legal advice on an ad-hoc basis with recall to a framework agreement or similar arrangement with external legal advisers. If this is the outcome required, Fife Council have offered to help draft the necessary documentation over the Summer. It would be welcome if Chief Officers, could seek further clarity from their relevant service department, if they could provide clerking and legal services to SEStran under an SLA from October 2017 onwards.

### **3. CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3.1** The paper asks Chief Officers to note the forthcoming change of SLA provider to SEStran for clerking and legal services, seeking their support in scoping opportunities for other councils to provide these services and recognises the long service provided by Fife Council to the Board.