

Code of Conduct Issues

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates Members of a revision to the Councillors' Code which will affect Regional Transport Partnership (RTP) members, and refresh the position as regards SEStran's own Code of Conduct.

2 Issues

- 2.1 Between 12th December 2016 and 20th March this year, the Scottish Government consulted on proposed changes to the Councillors' Code of Conduct after concerns had been raised that the Code may hinder the statutory function of Regional Transport Partnerships. This was in relation to councillors, who are members of RTPs, not being able to take part in consideration of planning applications where the RTP had made representations on those applications.
- 2.2 The Government's final view on this matter is awaited, and it is hoped to give a verbal update at the meeting itself.
- 2.3 Whilst bringing this report, it was considered appropriate, given the fact that the Board is comprised of a large number of new Members, to remind all Members that, in their dealings as Members of SEStran, they are bound by SEStran's own Code of Conduct, which was adopted in 2014. This is in turn based on the Standards Commission's Model Code for Members of Devolved Bodies. This is appended and Members are encouraged to consider its terms and comment, as appropriate, as to whether they consider this document needs to be reviewed.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- 3.1.1 note the terms of the Scottish Government's change to the Code of Conduct for Councillors, if available on the date of the meeting;
- 3.1.2 note and comment, as appropriate, on the terms of the SEStran Code of Conduct.

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| Policy Implications | None |
| Financial Implications | None |
| Race Equalities Implications | None |
| Gender Equalities Implications | None |
| Disability Equalities Implications | None. |
| Climate Change Implications | None |