

MODEL 3 CONSULTATION – PROCESS UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides the Board with an update on the progress with “Model 3” discussions undertaken by Partnership Director since the December 2016 Board meeting and in light of the responses and subsequent parallel discussions seeks to close formally the consultation. In turn, it is proposed that the Partnership does not progress a request to Scottish Ministers for a consultation on further powers or change in status at this time.

2. PROF. RYE’S RESEARCH REPORT

- 2.1 The Board at their December 2016 meeting received from Professor Rye an independent research reportⁱ to test at a high-level all potential impacts/risks arising from such a change of status from a Model 1 to Model 3 RTP.

3. MODEL 3 CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

- 3.1 The Leaders and Chief Executives of the 8 constituent councils within the Partnership received a letter and a copy of the report in early December seeking their views on the proposed change in “Model” status for the Partnerships. Over the course of January-May 2017 all councils either discussed corporately or tabled a paper to a relevant committee/council. The majority of the responses sought further information on the proposed change and gave no commitment at this time. Some authorities replied rejecting the proposal for transfer of powers/functions from councils to the partnership completely.
- 3.2 The Partnership Director then engaged in two meetings in early 2017 with Edinburgh City Deal Authority Directors/Heads of Service to see if there was still appetite for change in partnership structures. The Partnership Director had produced a paper for discussion at the second meeting which we have been informed has been developed further and considered by Chief Executives in terms of wider City Deal governance proposals, over the Summer, alongside informal ongoing engagement with officers. The paper remains active within the City Deal governance structures and has assisted the development of a governance paper for City Deal Council Leaders. There is also a Programme Management office paper for the next phase of the Edinburgh City Region Deal in development and which will pick up aspects of the collaboration paper developed and contributed to by the Partnership. Further papers on the Edinburgh City Region and Tay Cities have been tabled to relevant councils, for example to Fife Council in Octoberⁱⁱ, and discussions have taken place with officers from the Stirling/Clackmannshire City Dealⁱⁱⁱ and offered our support. We continue to have discussions on the transfer of functions to the Tay Cities Joint Committee with Tactran.

3.3 On this basis, with the previously advised reviews of national transport, planning skills and enterprise structures currently ongoing, it is concluded that it is in the best interests of the Partnership to formally postpone the consultation, pending the outcome of the related reviews that are currently underway. To some extent, the Model 3 consultation has now been overtaken by the review of transport governance part of the new National Transport Strategy. This review of governance is being taken forward with consultant support by a Roles and Responsibilities Working Group. The aim is to report in Spring 2018 for inclusion in the wider public consultative exercises planned from Summer 2018 through to publication in Summer 2019.

3.4 In conclusion, it is for the Members of the SEStran Partnership Board, acting in its best interests, to decide whether to proceed with a request for an order under section 10 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. However, in light of the consultative responses and papers tabled to committees in the constituent councils, the strong officer advice is for the Board to postpone the consultation and not to seek Scottish Ministers support for an Order at this time, due to the ongoing review and present lack of support from constituent councils for a change of powers and functions for the Partnership. However, as outlined in the 2018/19 Budget Planning paper we are seeking to identify further joint working/intelligent centralisation options.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Board are invited to:

- Note that all 8 constituent councils have been formally consulted on the proposal for SESTRAN to change to a “Model 3” authority by means of an order under section 10 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, (“the Act”);
- Agree to formally close the consultation opened in December 2016 and, in light of the responses received, not to progress any request for consent from Scottish Ministers to support an order under Section 10 of the Act, at this time.
- Note the updates provided on the Tay Cities, Edinburgh Region and Stirling/Clackmannshire City Deals;

George Eckton
Partnership Director
30th November 2017

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

ⁱ <http://sestran.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/1482242589.pdf>

ⁱⁱ http://publications.fifedirect.org.uk/c64_FCAgendaPapers.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/785/5706.pdf>