

Projects & EU Exit Update

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The report provides Chief Officers with an update on the current status and progress of the various projects SEStran is involved in and covers the position on the EU exit process.

2. Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

- 2.1** On 25th September 2018, SEStran held an RTPI Project meeting at the WYG Offices in Edinburgh. In attendance were representatives from Stagecoach East Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, First Buses Edinburgh, Travelline Scotland, Borders Buses, Borders Council, INEO, and WYG.
- 2.2** First Bus East are in the process of integrating their buses back into the SEStran/INEO system on a temporary basis, until their new system is fully operational.
- 2.3** INEO is exploring whether a separate SIRI feed can be implemented into the Ticketer system.
- 2.4** SEStran/Borders Buses/Scottish Borders Council are working jointly to improve quality/accuracy of the information provided at the Galashiels Interchange.
- 2.5** The City of Edinburgh Council is finalising the preparation for a new content management system (CMS). The Procurement Team of the CEC have determined that a NEC Contract tender should be issued within the next couple of months. It is hoped to have the new system operating early in the new financial year. Bustracker SEStran will be integrated with the new CMS.

3. Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme (RCNGS)

- 3.1** SEStran has made three successful bids to Community Links funding, to access further investment in feasibility studies for the Region's cycle network. A tender was posted in August with a successful bid from AECOM Ltd., who commenced work in September 2018.
- 3.2** The three routes being studied are: Winchburgh – Edinburgh Airport, Buckhaven – Kirkcaldy, and The Wisp – Sheriffhall Roundabout. All three studies qualify for 100% funding from Community Links, with AECOM bidding a total of £90,248.93.

4. Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland

- 4.1** SEStran put in a proposal for a feasibility and design study on the A9 route from Larbert to Plean under the Regional Active Travel Development Fund

from Transport Scotland. SEStran is currently waiting for confirmation from Transport Scotland for funding. SEStran is looking to gather pertinent information regarding the route and will begin building a tender brief once full confirmation of funding has been given.

5. GO e-Bike

5.1 In addition to the first four e-Bike hubs (currently operating in Fife, West Lothian and Falkirk), SEStran was awarded £300,000 in funding by the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund to expand on the GO e-Bike project. SEStran is currently in the process of selecting 6 more hubs across the region.

5.2 SEStran is collaborating with Social Bite Village¹ in Edinburgh and Tweeddale Youth Action in Peebles² to develop two new hub sites and are making progress in terms of requirements and commitment to the project. The Social Bite Village hub will work with homeless people and focus on helping alleviate transport poverty and facilitate better access to work. The Tweeddale Youth Action group is a community-focused youth social enterprise. The hub will provide an e-bike library for the local community, provide training in bike maintenance for young people to gain qualifications and develop a social enterprise with young people using e-cargo bikes.

5.3 The Social Village has specified the parameters of their hub and are now awaiting procurement of assets. Tweeddale Youth Action were invited to West Lothian Bike Library to learn from a similar scheme and answer some queries they had raised at inception. They will be refining their hub requirements before procuring assets.

5.4 SEStran officers attended LCTT sessions covering Evaluation and Claims during September. SEStran have created a brief for the GO e-Bike website and will be going to tender in due course.

6. EU projects - update

6.1 **SHARE-North**³ focuses on shared mobility modes and their potential to address sustainable transport challenges in the North Sea region. This includes developing, implementing, promoting and assessing car sharing, bike sharing, ride sharing and other forms of shared mobility in urban and rural areas and employment clusters. The planned living labs integrate modern technology with activities to support changes in mobility behaviour. The objectives include: resource efficiency, improving accessibility (including non-traditional target groups), increased efficiency in the use of transport infrastructure, reduction of space consumption for transport, and improving quality of life and low carbon transport.

¹ <http://social-bite.co.uk/the-social-bite-village/>.

² <http://tweeddaleyouth.co.uk/>.

³ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/share-north/>.

- 6.2** From Wednesday 10th until Friday 12th October 2018, SEStran hosted the 7th full partner meeting in Edinburgh. Each project partner provided an update of the recent activities and achievements in a short presentation.
- 6.3** The project partners prepared an application for a project extension, which was submitted on Thursday morning. The Steering Committee will review the extension application and communicate their decision mid-December 2018.
- 6.4** On Friday morning the project partners attended the Integrated Mobility Forum, organised by SEStran. The project leader and one of the project partners presented at the forum. The next project meeting will be in Bremen, Germany and is provisionally scheduled for 2-4 April 2019.
- 6.5** **REGIO-MOB**⁴ aims to promote “learning, sharing of knowledge and transferring best practices between the participating regional and local authorities to design and implement regional mobility plans (or Regional Transport Strategies) bearing in mind the stakeholders with regional relevance and contributing to the sustainable growth of Europe”.
- 6.6** As part of the monitoring of action plans, SEStran reported the delay in the first active travel audit carried out by Sustrans. The final audit report is expected by the end of this year.
- 6.7** **SURFLOGH**⁵ aims to improve the role of logistics hubs in the network of urban logistics in the North Sea Region. By introducing city labs, a transnational platform is created to promote innovation in city logistics. These platforms will bring together different actors to exchange knowledge, work on innovative pilot projects and implement results within policy strategies and the urban logistics system.
- 6.8** SEStran’s main role in the project is to work together with Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute (TRI) to develop business cases for environmentally friendly transport. It is also working with local SME’s to trial deliveries of goods by cargo-bikes, in and around the city of Edinburgh. Zedify (formerly Outspoken Delivery) has been identified as pilot delivery partner to deliver the e-cargo bike pilot scheme.
- 6.9** The next partner meeting will be at the SURFLOGH Start Conference during the Let’s Gro Festival in Groningen Partner from 31st Oct until 3rd Nov 2018. SEStran will provide the project partners with an update on recent activities.

7. Proposed projects

- 7.1** **PURSUIITS:** In September 2018, the project partners submitted the second stage proposal for the Pursuits project under the EU Horizon 2020 programme. The project is aimed at developing knowledge, tools and practices for integrating new mobility and distribution forms in land-use and

⁴ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/regio-mob/>.

⁵ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/surflogh/>.

transport planning in metropolitan areas to improve quality of life, reduce the environmental impact and strengthen competitiveness and regional economic performance. SEStran is now awaiting feedback.

8. Further Initiatives

8.1 ECOMM – 29th May until 1st June 2019: The European Conference on Mobility Management will be hosted by SEStran in Edinburgh from 29th May until 1st June 2019. The overall theme of the conference will be Mobility Management: Improving Lives and Communities. SEStran has sent out a call for papers.

8.2 Hate Crime Charter: SEStran is involved in a working group, along with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional hate crime charter on public transport. This group was formed following the agreement by West Lothian, Clackmannanshire and Fife Councils to pilot this charter. The working group has now held two consultative events in both Kirkcaldy and Alloa, and is looking at dates in November/early December to host the final consultative event in West Lothian. We are also looking at dates in January discuss the next stages of the project, which could include a separate session with transport providers to discuss the charter in more depth.

8.3 Can do & Thistle Card App: SEStran has been working with Scottish Enterprise Can Do to develop an intermodal journey planner and Thistle Card App, which will make it easier for people to use the Card when using public transport. The tender competition for the development of the App is scheduled to go live mid-November 2018.

8.4 The first information event will be held on 26th November 2018 at COSLA offices in Edinburgh. Registration is via EVENTBRITE
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thistle-assistance-journey-planner-innovation-challenge-tickets-51717540556>

9. SEStran Forums

9.1 Integrated Mobility Forum: On 12th October 2018, SEStran hosted the Integrated Mobility Forum. Representatives from various organisations were present, including bus and rail operators, local councillors, government agencies, private companies, NGOs, as well as the SHARE-North partners.

9.2 SEStran provided an update on the bus and rail issues currently faced in the SEStran area. This led to a meaningful Q&A session. As a result, multiple connections were made between representatives from different organisations for further cooperation.

9.3 The SHARE-North project leader provided a verbal overview of the project and introduced the topic of shared mobility. This was followed by a presentation by Thomas Geier from EMTA (European Metropolitan Transport

Authorities) on his experience of MaaS from a public authority perspective in Amsterdam, and a presentation by Angelo Meuleman from Taxistop, Belgium, on a case study regarding Mobi-hubs and their integration with mobility as a service.

9.4 The Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum was hosted by SEStran on 2 November 2018. It brought together representatives from different organisations with a shared interest in promoting equality in transport and improve access to healthcare. Topics such as the NHS Journey Planner, Thistle Card, Can Do, Accessible Travel Funding, Access for All Stations Fund and Real Time Passenger Information were covered.

9.5 The Logistics and Freight Forum will be hosted by SEStran on 28 November 2018.

10. EU Exit update

10.1 The UK is due to leave the EU at the end of March 2019, and a transition period would finish at the end of 2020. However, as a result of the ongoing negotiations regarding the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, a further idea to extend the implementation period has emerged, which would be for a matter of months. Nevertheless, such an extension would only be used if no agreement can be reached in time.

10.2 The latest news is that the UK and the EU are close to reaching an agreement, but that Irish border is still a hurdle that must be overcome.

11. Recommendations

11.1 It is recommended that the Chief Officers take note of the contents of the report. It is also recommended that the Board Members save the ECOMM dates in their diaries, which will take place from 31st May until 1st June 2019.

Julie Vinders
Project Officer
25th October 2018

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