

Minutes

SEStran Partnership Board

10.00am, Friday, 7 December 2018

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Present

Name

Organisation Title

Cllr Gordon Edgar (Chair)	Scottish Borders Council
Laura Alexander	Non-Councillor Member
Cllr Chas Booth	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Colin Davidson (Deputy Chair)	Fife Council
Cllr Dave Dempsey	Fife Council
Cllr Jim Fullarton	Scottish Borders Council
Vivienne Gray	Non-Councillor Member
Callum Hay	Non-Councillor Member
Simon Hindshaw	Non-Councillor Member
Cllr Chris Horne	West Lothian Council
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Richard Llewellyn	Non-Councillor Member
Cllr Lesley Macinnes	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Laura Murtagh	Falkirk Council
Cllr Peter Smaill	Midlothian Council
Dr Doreen Steele	Non-Councillor Member
Catherine Stones	Non-Councillor Member
Barry Turner	Non-Councillor Member
Paul White	Non-Councillor Member

In Attendance

Angela Chambers	SEStran
Kevin Collins	Falkirk Council
Neil Dougall	Midlothian Council
Elizabeth Forbes	SEStran
Peter Forsyth	East Lothian Council
Ken Gourlay	Fife Council

Jim Grieve	SEStran
Peter Jackson	SEStran
Graeme Johnstone	Scottish Borders Council
Stuart Johnston	City of Edinburgh Council
Gavin King	City of Edinburgh Council (Secretary)
Daisy Narayanan	City of Edinburgh Council
Iain Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council (Treasury)
Jim Stewart	West Lothian Council

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Fiona Collie	Falkirk Council
Cllr Ian Ferguson	Fife Council
Cllr David Key	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Cathy Muldoon	West Lothian Council
Cllr Brian Small	East Lothian Council
Graeme Malcolm	West Lothian Council

1. Resolution to Consider in Private

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of item 2 of the minute for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

2. Partnership Management Arrangements

A report was tabled at the meeting in relation to the Partnership's management arrangements.

Decision

Detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Chair, with reference to this minute.

3. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To agree the minute of the previous meeting of 21 September 2018 as a correct record.

- 2) To agree the minute of the Performance and Audit Committee of 16 November 2018 as a correct record.

(Reference – minutes, submitted.)

4. Edinburgh City Centre Transformation – Presentation

Daisy Narayanan, Project Director of Edinburgh City Centre Transformation provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation Project.

She highlighted that the project aimed to address how Edinburgh would achieve a step change in approach to issues including transport, amenity, social value (e.g. air quality, mental and physical health), place, urban development and heritage. The challenges and opportunities that Edinburgh faced to achieve this transformation were outlined. A cross-party working group which included representatives from all relevant departments such as housing, transport, planning and economic development met every six weeks to provide oversight of the project. The importance of this collaborative approach was emphasised. A consultation ran from 17 September 2018 until 12 November 2018. All responses would now be subject to analysis and review, in order to prepare a summary of the findings which was due to be reported to the Council's Transport and Environment Committee in early 2019.

Following a wide-ranging discussion and a number of questions, the following key points emerged:

- Connectivity and creating better transport links was key if the aim was to reduce the number of people driving their cars into Edinburgh.
- Approximately 8% of the responses to the consultation came from outside Edinburgh Council. There was a need to raise the profile of the project outside Edinburgh, however, it was noted the consultation was shared with all neighbouring local authorities.
- There were key performance indicators for each objective which allowed progress to be tracked.
- It was important to link this piece of work to the National Transport Strategy currently being reviewed.
- The importance of ensuring the business community were on board with this project was emphasised.
- The benefits of more people walking needed to be highlighted along with the subsequent benefits this could bring to businesses.
- Consideration had to be given to the digital age and the uncertainty surrounding the long term viability of the retail sector.

Decision

- 1) To thank Daisy for her attendance and note the presentation provided.
- 2) To agree that a copy of the slides be made accessible to members.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Lesley Macinnes declared a non-financial interest as the Convener of Transport and Environment and political lead of this work at the City of Edinburgh Council.

5. Financial Planning 2019/20

An update was provided on the financial planning being progressed for the Partnership for the 2019/20 revenue budget.

Decision

To note the update on the financial planning assumptions being progressed for the 2019/20 revenue budget.

6. Finance Officer's Report

The Board considered a report which presented the third update on financial performance of the Core and Projects budgets of the Partnership for 2018/19, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Partnership. The report provided an analysis of financial performance to the end of October 2018 and included details of the cash flow position of the Partnership in respect of its lending to and borrowing from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Decision

- 1) To note that total revenue expenditure was forecast to be within the revenue budget resources of the Partnership, with a cost pressure of £2,000 on the core budget being managed by a compensating underspend on the Projects budget.
- 2) To approve the transfer of the forecast underspend on EU-funded projects to the Sustainable and Active Travel budget for 2018/19, after offset of core budget costs.

7. Treasury Management – Mid-term Review

Details were provided of the investment activity undertaken on behalf of the Partnership during the first half of the 2018/19 Financial Year.

Decision

To note the investment activity undertaken on behalf of the Partnership.

8. Projects Update

An update was provided on the current status and progress of the various projects SEStran was involved in and covered the latest position on the EU exit process.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To approve the grant to East Lothian Council as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

- 3) To note that the European Conference on Mobility Management was due to be hosted by SEStran in Edinburgh from 29 until 31 May 2019 but discussions would take place with the Chair about withdrawing SEStran from this conference due to the high financial risks associated with it, exacerbated by the latest Brexit position and emerging pressures on the 2019/20 budget.
- 4) To approve the appointment, via the Scotland Excel Framework, of SYSTRA to undertake the Newburgh Transport Appraisal.
- 5) To agree that the maintenance of cycle tracks and freight forum be incorporated to future agendas of the Chief Officer Liaison Group.
- 6) To agree that that the Chair make representation to Minister for on funding for rural buses at their meeting on 11 December 2018.

Declaration of Interests

Paul White declared a financial interest as an employee of CPT Scotland and Richard Llewellyn declared a financial interest as an employee of Napier University.

9. Dates of Future Meetings 2019

The proposed calendar of SEStran Partnership Board meetings in 2019 along with the full schedule of Sestran meetings was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed programme of meetings for 2019.
- 2) To agree that the use of video/tele conferencing be explored to enable members to have the opportunity to attend these meetings remotely.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the next meeting would be held on Friday 22 March 2019 at 10am in the Dean of Guild Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh.

11. Head of Programmes Report

An update was provided on wider Regional Transport Partnership issues including Transport Scotland's Active Travel Fund, Review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS 2), the East Coast Main Line Association (ECMA) and other matters of relevance to the Partnership.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that SEStran lobby Edinburgh Airport on its commitment to invest in the surrounding road network
- 3) To agree that SEStran would explore the usage of the Edinburgh Gateway station and the options for maximising footfall.

12. Climate Change Report

The Board received a report which outlined SEStran's responsibilities, as a public body, in relation to the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009.

Decision

To note the report.

13. Risk Report

The six monthly risk register update was provided.

Decision

To note the report and the risk register.

14. Consultation Responses

Details were provided on the consultations SEStran had responded to or was currently working on.

Decision

To note the report and to further note that any comments on the Scottish Law Commission – Automated Vehicle Consultation were to be submitted to SEStran by the end of December 2018.

15. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To note the minute of the Integrated Mobility Forum of 12 October 2018.
- 2) To note the minute of the Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum of 2 November 2018.
- 3) To note the minute of the Chief Officers Liaison Group meeting of 6 November 2018.