Projects Report & EU Exit Update

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The report provides the Members of the Board 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.   Projects performance

2.1   Following discussion at a recent P&A Committee meeting, SEStran has developed a new layout for the projects update, using RAG status (red-amber-green) to highlight the current state of progress for each active project. The projects update is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.2   The table below explains the meaning of the different colours used throughout the report to highlight how a project is progressing.

Status	Meaning:
	Complete
	Progressing according to plan
	Some issues encountered
	Severe issues or delayed

3.   EU Exit Update

3.1   The EU Exit Process has been postponed with a new deadline of 31 October 2019.

4.   RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1   It is recommended that the Members of the Board take note of the contents of the report.

Julie Vinders
Project Officer
12 June 2019

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	Project expenditure and progress is continually being monitored and appropriate action is taken as required to ensure compliance with budget and programme.
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None

1. Active Travel Projects

1.1 GO e-Bike

In April 2018, SEStran successfully launched GO e-Bike, a regional bike-sharing scheme funded by SEStran, with a contribution from the SHARE-North project. The first four GO e-Bike hubs were launched in St Andrews, Buckhaven, West Lothian and Falkirk and SEStran has secured funding from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund to expand the GO e-Bike scheme through 6 further hubs.

Latest developments:

- **First 4 hubs in St Andrews, Buckhaven, West Lothian Bike Library and Falkirk**   *Complete*
  All hubs are operating according to plan. In collaboration with CoMoUK, SEStran has produced a First Year Report, presenting the successes and lessons learnt during the first year of the project.
- **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT funding**   *In progress*
  - 2 hubs are now complete at SocialBite Village in Edinburgh and Tweeddale Youth Action in Innerleithen.
  - A tender has now been awarded to Bewegen to implement a public bike share scheme in East Lothian and Midlothian.
  - SEStran is working on a GO e-Bike website, which is expected to go live by the end of May.

1.2 Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme

The Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme continues the partnership between Sustrans Scotland and SEStran's commitment to delivering improvements to the cross-boundary utility routes.

Latest developments:

- **3 Community Links Feasibility Studies**   *Complete*
  - SEStran commissioned AECOM to carry out three feasibility studies following a successful bid to the Community Links funding.
  - The three routes are Winchburgh to Edinburgh Airport, Buckhaven to Kirkcaldy, and The Wisp to Sheriffhall Roundabout.
  - AECOM have now completed the final reports and SEStran will liaise with local authorities to progress further work.
- **Edinburgh BioQuarter**   *Delayed*
  - During 2018/19 work progressed on detailed design but has been delayed due to some reviews and resource requirements.
  - Design work will continue in 2019/20 with public consultation and a proposed final design.

1.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland

SEStran received £200,200 in funding for cross-boundary active travel routes in the SEStran region. SEStran is using the funding for three feasibility and design studies in Falkirk, Midlothian and East Lothian.

Latest developments:

- **Project 1: Larbert to Stirling** `In progress`
  - SEStran is working in partnership with Tactran to carry out a feasibility and design study on the A9 route from Larbert to Plean (and through to Stirling).
  - Consultants 2020 have made an initial options assessment and are working to complete feasibility in May. Public consultation will be concluding in early June.
- **Project 2: A701 corridor** `In progress`
  - SEStran has awarded Arup a contract worth £34,467.50 to carry out a feasibility study of the A701 for improvements to public transport, walking and cycling provisions. In April Arup presented the options appraisal to Midlothian to confirm agreement for the proposals.
  - The finalised study report is due for completion at the end of May.
- **Project 3: East Lothian LiDar** `In progress`
  - East Lothian have appointed Peter Brett Associates, AECOM Ltd, and IKM to develop 3D visualisations. The concept design work is ongoing. The visualisations are expected to be complete by mid-June. The total contract award is £120,458.91.

1.4 Cycle Training & Development – Cycling Scotland

As part of the trialling of a new model for the delivery of Bikeability Scotland in schools, a number of pilots are being developed within the SEStran region. In addition, cycle training will be offered as part of the development of the GO e-Bike hubs.

Latest developments:

- **Bikeability Pilots** `Delayed`
  - Funding has been approved for Edinburgh pilot and delivery is underway.
  - Delivery timescale too tight for Scottish Borders, looking at potential pilots for delivery after the summer.
- **Go e-Bike cycle training** `In progress`
  - Training is being offered to all hubs as they are completed and as part of ongoing development plans.
  - The Cycling Scotland 'Essential Cycling Skills' programme and guided rides are being offered to all employers taking part in the employer roadshow.

2. Public Transport Projects

2.1 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

SEStran's RTPI system began in 2010 with the aim to tackle a declining bus patronage and make bus travel more predictable and reliable. SEStran is working with the City of Edinburgh Council to move towards a new Content Management System that will improve the public facing regional screen network.

Latest developments:

- **Development of new Content Management System**   `Delayed`
    - The new Content Management System is out for tender with the City of Edinburgh Council managing the tender process. Depending on the award process and new contractor, it is hoped that the new CMS will be in place by the end of the calendar year.
    - Using Traveline data via a website set up, we have been able to improve the quality and the reliability of information delivered via the screen network outside of the Lothian Bus network with a successful test at the Galashiels Interchange. SEStran will be able to implement this solution at key sites (as there is a cost) until the new CMS is operational.
- **Installing RTPI digital screens at key locations**   `In progress`
    - SEStran continues to install some RTPI digital screens at key locations and employers in Edinburgh where the current RTPI system is still operational.

2.2 Hate Crime Charter

SEStran is involved in a working group, together with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional Hate Crime Charter for public transport. Hate Crime is a key work package which came out of the Accessible Travel Framework developed by Transport Scotland. SEStran is developing the charter on a regional scale for all protected characteristics under the current hate crime legislation.

Latest developments:

- **Development of Hate Crime Charter**   `In progress`
    - Public transport operators and different equalities groups have been involved through consultation events and surveys. The group is now finalising the draft Hate Crime Charter and will trial the charter with operators in Fife, Clackmannanshire and West Lothian. Based on the learnings from this trial, the group hopes to roll out the Charter nationally.

2.3 Thistle Assistance Programme

SEStran has been working 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 aim is to develop a platform showing relevant route information in a clear way, providing information about which travel option to use, where to get on and when and where to get off, etc

Latest developments:

- **Phase One Proof of concept development**   `In progress`
    - Five developers have been successful and have signed contracts, they are: Thereby Box, Sentireal, Damibu, Living Map & Passio.
    - In April 2019, SEStran ran 2 workshops to explore the issues that people have when using public transport. This work will inform the development of the journey planner.
    - The developers will be presenting mid-project concepts in August 2019 at a project review workshop.
- **Development of Thistle Assistance Website**   `In progress`
    - SEStran was successful in an application to the Transport Scotland Accessible Transport fund in December 2018, part of the funding is being used to develop a stand-alone website for Thistle Assistance.
    - A procurement competition was run, and Hillside Agency was awarded the contract. Work on the new site is underway and completion is expected in July 2019.

3. European-funded Projects

3.1 SHARE-North

SHARE-North 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 project has been extended for another three years during which SEStran plans to promote shared-mobility through Tripshare SEStran and the introduction of 'mobi-hubs' (mobility hubs) in the SEStran region.

Latest developments:

- **Project outcomes**   `In progress`
    - Following the extension approval of the SHARE-North project, SEStran attended a partner meeting in Bremen, where the focus of the activities for the next three years was discussed.
    - SEStran is currently looking at bringing mobi-hubs to the SEStran area taking learnings from the various European partners.
    - SEStran is looking for partners from the Local Authorities to work jointly to deliver a mobi-hub in the SEStran region.
    - In addition, SEStran will start reviewing current TripshareSEStran arrangements to continue to promote ride-sharing in our region.

3.2 REGIO-Mob

REGIO-Mob 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".

Latest developments:

- **Implementation of REGIO-Mob Action Plan**   `In progress`
  - As part of the REGIO-Mob Action Plan, SEStran planned to implement GO e-Bike and measure the effects on the scheme on people's health and levels of physical activity using a research methodology presented as best practice by the Italian lead partners.
  - SEStran has now developed the GO e-Bike health survey and will be using it at the St Andrews hub and Employer Roadshow to measure the impact GO e-Bike has had on people's levels of physical activity and perceptions of well-being.
- **Monitoring of policy instrument development**   `In progress`
  - As part of the REGIO-Mob project, SEStran is monitoring the impact the project has had on the development of SEStran's Electric Vehicle Strategy and re-write of the Regional Transport Strategy. The findings from the GO e-Bike survey will inform these instruments by recognising that electric bicycles can be an enabling technology to promote a healthier and more active population.

3.3 SURFLOGH

SURFLOGH 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.

Latest developments:

- **Mid-term Conference Edinburgh**   `In progress`
  - SEStran & Edinburgh Napier University hosted the Surflogh Mid-term Conference on the 29th May 2019. The theme was: *Sustainable City Logistics in Action*
  - As the Surflogh project approaches midterm, it was time to bring each other up to speed. The project partners want to share and exchange progress and ideas on smart, sustainable solutions for last mile delivery with our stakeholders from the transport and retail sectors, urban developers, universities and government authorities.
  - 80 Delegates from Europe and all over the UK attended a successful event.
  - For more info please visit www.surfloghedinburgh.co.uk
- **Development of business case with Edinburgh Napier University**   `In progress`
  - SEStran is leading on a work package along with Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute (TRI), developing business models for urban freight hubs. Our business

models will focus on the scalability and applicability of models for different locations and circumstances. Practical lessons and insights from our work package will be published via case studies.

- The first stage of the research was presented at the STAR Conference on 22 May 2019.
- **Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY**   *In progress*
  - The pilot is up and running and currently delivering up to one pallet worth of small packets in central Edinburgh from a site west of Haymarket station.

3.4 BLING

Blockchain is a key enabling technology that will underpin efforts to deliver innovative services under the Digital Agenda for Europe. The BLockchain IN Government (BLING) project focuses on providing one of the first dedicated platforms to bring these tools and approaches into local and regional services. SEStran will be working with thirteen project partners to deliver the project. SEStran will be developing a pilot with the University of Edinburgh, which will showcase innovative use of the technology in a transport environment.

Latest developments:

- **Development of Edinburgh Pilot**   *In progress*
  - The Design Informatics team at the University of Edinburgh team supported by SEStran is prototyping ways to create Location Based Smart Contracts – agreements about the location and relations of smart objects in space that allow conditions such as proximity or co-location to trigger actions like financial transfers or opening physical locks. These systems are backed with blockchains, to explore new techniques for make location data secure without being invasive.
  - The technology was successfully demonstrated at a number of events and the next stage of the pilot will involve developing a 'real world' test case.

3.5 PriMaaS

Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is a recent concept whose main objective is to change the way people travel and pay for mobility services. The main vision of PriMaaS is to promote the integration of traditional collective transport modes with personal and innovative ones by creating equitable mobility services truly focused on citizens' needs.

Latest developments:

- **Finalising project application and budget**   *In progress*
  - The European Joint Secretariat approved the project on a conditional basis, and SEStran has been working with the lead partner to clarify some elements in the project application and budget. It is expected that the project will be approved on an unconditional basis by the end of the month.

- Once fully approved, the project will officially commence on 1 August 2019. SEStran will attend the kick-off meeting where the partners will meet and discuss the priorities and identify best practices for the upcoming 4 years.

4. Strategy Developments

4.1 TravelVU: Getting a VU on Edinburgh

SEStran was successful in a bid to Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund in November 2018 and was awarded £13,650 in match funding to collect travel data in and around Edinburgh through the TravelVU app developed by Trivector Traffic AB.

Latest developments:
- **Data collection through TravelVU App**   `In progress`
  - The data collection period ran from 4th March to the end of May 2019.
  - A lower than expected participation has produced a range of journeys, which are being analysed by Trivector to establish what GIS mapping can be created to aggregate data and anonymise journeys made. Trivector are establishing the limits of sharing this data with regards to identifying individual journeys.
  - The final report to the Open Fund will be completed and ready for presentation in July.

4.2 Electric Vehicle Strategy

SEStran is working with the Local Authorities to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the region which aims at addressing the barriers to the EV uptake and the challenges faced by local authorities when implementing EV infrastructure. This will form an integral part of the new Regional Transport Strategy.

Latest developments:
- **Development of draft EV Strategy**   `In progress`
  SEStran held an initial meeting with officers from the Local Authorities to identify the challenges to implement and maintain EV infrastructure. The City of Edinburgh Council briefed the group on their Electric Vehicle Action Plan and On-Street Business Case for Charging, which sets out different growth scenarios for 2020 and 2023. With the knowledge obtained from this meeting, SEStran will work towards a draft EV strategy and determine what the strategy is going to deliver. Since the first meeting, SEStran has been working on the draft outline for the strategy and has been implementing the comments from officers.

4.3 Regional Transport Strategy

SEStran's original Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was approved in March 2007 and covered the period from 2008 until 2015. The strategy was subject to a refresh in August 2015 and covers the period until 2025.

Latest developments:

- **Main Issues Report**   *In progress*
    - SEStran will now begin the process of preparing a "Main Issues" report, as a prelude to a complete review of the RTS. SEStran will employ external experts to prepare the Main Issues Report.
    - A scoping exercise is underway to identify the extent of work needed to deliver the new RTS.
    - A paper will be presented to the SEStran Partnership Board in June outlining the proposed project delivery and governance structure and proposing a timeline for the initial phases of the project.

5. SEStran forums & upcoming events

5.1 SEStran Forum Meetings

SEStran hosts three different forum groups which are all held twice a year. The aim of these forums is to provide a platform for interested parties to come together and to provide a regional voice in various transport-related matters.

Upcoming meetings:

- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
  The latest forum meeting was held at the Radisson Blu in Edinburgh on 31 May 2019 and was linked to a SURFLOGH partner meeting. The next meeting will be held on 13 November 2019.
- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
  The next meeting will be held at Victoria Quay on 2 October 2019.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
  The next meeting will be held at Victoria Quay on 10 October 2019.