

Projects Performance Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides the Committee with an update on the progress of the various projects SEStran delivers. The report covers the position on Covid-19 in relation to project delivery and consultancy services required this financial year.

2. Projects performance

- 2.1 A high level 'RAG status' (Red-Amber-Green) is used throughout the projects update to highlight the current state of progress for each active project.
- 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

- 2.3 The strategic objectives as set out in the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy are used throughout the projects update to highlight how the projects link back to the RTS:

 *Economy*

 *Accessibility*

 *Environment*

 *Safety & health*

 *Corporate*

3. Consultancy support services

- 3.1 In response to Covid-19, additional resource is required to progress some emergent areas of work, and this will be the subject of a report to the Board.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and progress on current projects.

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28 May 2020

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	Outlined project work contributes to the objectives identified within SEStran Regional Transport Strategy
Financial Implications	All project work is delivered from within confirmed budgets.
Equalities Implications	There are no adverse equalities implications arising from SEStran projects. A number of projects actively work to reduce inequalities.
Climate Change Implications	There are no negative climate change implications arising from SEStran projects. A number of projects actively work to tackle climate change through creation of more sustainable transport options.

SEStran Projects Update

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1. Strategy

1.1 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**

Complete

The final draft of the main issues report was circulated to board members and local authority partners for comments and the final version of the main issues report is now complete. This identifies a total of 35 issues across the SEStran area and focused on 10 key issues which were considered to be the key focus for the rewrite of the Regional Transport Strategy.

- **RTS Development**

In progress

The next stage of the RTS is the development of the strategy and policies. This will require consultation with key stakeholders and the preparation of the statutory assessments to support the RTS including the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Equalities Impact Assessment. A brief to procure consultancy support for this stage of the work is under development.

2. Active Travel Projects

2.1 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. In August 2018 SEStran secured funding from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund and Transport Scotland (TS) to expand the GO e-Bike scheme through 6 further hubs.

Latest developments:

- **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT & TS funding**

In progress

- Activities at the Tweeddale Hub were analysed to make a possible response to COVID-19 locally but a decision was taken that the feasibility of keeping the hub open and protecting staff could not be met.
- Residents at Socialbite Village continue to make use of the e-bikes on site for exercise during lockdown, though there has been challenges in maintaining the bikes in this period.
- Sites in Midlothian have now been serviced by SPEN and plans are being progressed for installation once restrictions on the construction sector are lifted.
- Sites in East Lothian are awaiting finalised dates from SPEN as their works have now been derestricted.
- Once dates have been confirmed for installation, the project timeline will be mapped out with stakeholders to prepare for launching the system.

2.2 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:

- **Edinburgh BioQuarter** In progress
 - Work has been progressing along with City of Edinburgh to assess signalling on the route and particularly at Cameron Toll and Craigmillar Park Road.
 - Due to COVID-19 the project has a new timeline for completing this design phase at the end of June 2020.
- **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review** Complete
 - The final report for the Strategic Network has been published on the SEStran website and shared with all partners.
 - Officers are now working along with partners to take the proposals forward.

2.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland



The Regional Active Travel Development Fund was established between Transport Scotland and the Regional Transport Partnerships in 2019. SEStran made a proposal for projects in 2020/21 to Transport Scotland in March 2020 and has received £314,000 for this third year of funding.

Latest developments:

- **Project 1: Attitudinal Survey & Data Collection** In progress
 - This project will combine both quantitative and qualitative data to support planning for active travel interventions to support and inform demand, and also capture the drivers of behaviour change over a period of time.
 - Officers are preparing briefs and surveys to establish a baseline for the project start
 - **Total award £100,000**
- **Project 2: Do The Ride Thing Awareness Campaign** In progress
 - SEStran have created an awareness campaign for the use of e-bikes across the region to complement the launch of a number of e-bike hubs.
 - Do The Ride Thing seeks to create an environment where individuals look out for others and create good habits while riding a bike.
 - This project would increase awareness of the benefits and options that an e-bike can bring for active travel and physical activity, through media campaigns and shareable artwork that would be used by different organisations operating e-bikes and rental schemes.
 - **Total award £100,000**
- **Project 3: West Lothian Active Travel Projects** In progress
 - Completion of projects from 2019/20 FY.
 - To provide active travel provision between Ecclesmachan and Threemiletown, providing a safe link to local bus services.

- To provide a link from Bathgate Hills quiet roads through Bangour and connect to the Livingston green network.
- Investigate a number of potential active travel links:
 - A89 Parallel Route – Easton Road Bathgate to Armadale
 - A904 Newton – South Queensferry
 - Linlithgow – Bo’ness (Links to Blackness & Falkirk)
 - West Calder – Harburn
 - Bathgate Hills Quiet Roads Initiative
- **Total award £64,000**
- SEStran successfully bid for resource funding to support the breadth of active travel projects that happen across the partnership.
- **Total Award £50,000**

2.4 Cycle Training & Development – Cycling Scotland



Support and develop the delivery of Bikeability Scotland National Standard cycle training by local authority Bikeability coordinators. Promote, encourage and develop cycle training opportunities across SEStran projects.

Latest developments:

- **Bikeability Scotland** In progress
 - Scheduled training has been postponed across all Local Authorities. Work is ongoing to support education hubs to provide cycling activities, with East Lothian, Edinburgh, and Scottish Borders already doing so. Any unspent Support Plus Funding can be redirected to support these activities. A document was circulated to all Local Authority Bikeability Coordinators with information on cycling activities taking place as of mid-May.
- **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.
 - Tweeddale Youth Action Bike Punks project completed a four-day Cycle Trainer course to enable them to support the delivery of Bikeability Scotland cycle training in schools. This course also provides them the opportunity to go on to offer adult cycle training with a short supplementary training course.
 - A Cycle Trainer Assistant course was set-up for West Lothian Bike Library to enable them to support the delivery of Bikeability Scotland in West Lothian and surrounding LAs. They were supported to become an approved supplier on the Bikeability Scotland Training Provider DPS. They have since been appointed to provide training support to schools in Midlothian. They are now being offered places on a Cycle Trainer course.
- **Adult Cycle Training** In progress
 - Currently considering options for how to develop a workable model for adult cycle training.
 - Pilot delivery of family cycle training is being explored.

3. Public Transport Projects

3.1 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:

- **New Content Management System and hardware upgrades** In progress
 - SEStran is working with 21st Century (now named Journeo <https://www.journeo.com>), who were appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council to provide the new Content Management System.
 - Work is well advanced on the design on the new CMS including the SEStran regional system.
 - Design for new screen layouts are being developed currently due to be complete end June 2020.
 - Testing of RTPI SIRI feeds has been delayed due to COVID-19 with the reduction of operator trips. Once passenger journeys reach a high-volume testing of the real time feeds versus scheduled information will take place.
- **RTPI Electronic Ticketing Machines** Complete
 - SEStran used the LEZ Public Transport Provision fund to provide grant aid for the purchase and reassignment costs of electronic ticket machines (ETMs) for Telford Coaches and Peter Hogg.
 - These were delivered to operators and are in use.

3.2 Thistle Assistance Programme



SEStran has developed the Thistle Assistance Card and App to make using public transport easier for older people and those with disabilities, illness or mobility issues. SEStran is currently undertaking work to improve and evolve the programme.

Latest developments:

- **Journey Planner App - Phase One Proof of concept development** Complete
 - SEStran is working with Scottish Enterprise and other funding bodies to explore potential funding for Phase 2.
- **Thistle Assistance Programme Update** In progress
 - SEStran participated in an online panel on the 11th May with Disability Equality Scotland presenting the Thistle Assistance new branding.
 - Developed a Thistle Assistance survey to track awareness and engagement with Thistle Assistance.
 - Continued to promote Thistle Assistance online, by social media and in print.
- **SEStran Website – Accessibility Regulations 2018** In progress
 - In order to comply with legislation ([Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\)\(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#)) SEStran will be developing the Partnership website to improve accessibility across the site for all users and at the same time improve the functionality of the site.

- Any new sites from September 2018 should be accessible after September 2019. Existing sites should be made accessible from September 2020. Mobile applications after June 2021;
- Accessible means Complies with all Level A and AA Success Criteria of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1;
- Design of the new SEStran site has been completed. Content is being updated and with final testing to be done in June 2020.
- **Marketing Communications Internship** In progress
 - SEStran has been working in partnership with Inclusion Scotland to provide an Internship to work on the Thistle Assistance program.
 - The internship was extended with support from Inclusion Scotland and will now run up to July 2020.

3.3 Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF)



The £2 million Scottish Government [Local Rail Development Fund](#), was announced in February 2018, with the aim of providing funding to develop community led options to improve local rail connections.

Latest developments:

- **Newburgh Train Station**

In Progress

- SEStran & Fife Council supported a successful bid from the Newburgh Train Station Group for the first phase of funding.
- £82,000 (exc. VAT) was secured to undertake a multi-model transport appraisal in the Newburgh area with SYSTRA appointed to undertake the work in December 2018.
- The transport interventions identified in the Case for Change that will be investigated further are:
 1. Improved bus services to/from Newburgh
 2. An 'Express bus route' through Newburgh
 3. A New/Reopened train station in Newburgh
 4. Provision to increase car sharing
 5. New/Improved active travel routes
 6. New/Improved active travel routes to outlying communities
 7. River services - the provision of passenger service on the Tay Estuary
- Phase 2 - The next stage of the study, the 'Initial Appraisal', of the 7 interventions is currently under way.
- Phase 2 will see the potential interventions being explored in more detail by qualitatively assessing them against the five STAG criteria of Environments, Economy, Safety, Integration and Accessibility/Social Inclusion.
- The appraisal will also consider the options in the context of Feasibility, Affordability and Public Acceptability.
- Stakeholders were invited to complete a short on-line survey, (www.newburghsustainabletransport.co.uk). The website provides further information on the potential interventions and the overall study. 234 responses had been received by the closing date of 31st May.
- £17,000 has been claimed from the budget for the work to date.

- **Forth Freight Strategy**

In Progress

- SEStran in partnership with Forth Ports made a successful application in June 2019 to the second round of LRDF funding and will receive up to £150,000 to conduct the study.
- The proposal is for a multi-modal freight study in the Port of Leith and other ports on the Forth to explore key issues and opportunities whilst maximising the potential for existing infrastructure (rail heads etc.).
- After a successful tender evaluation process in April 2020 AECOM were appointed to undertake the work.
- The project inception meeting took place on the 27th April and the project is now underway.
- Cllr Colin Davidson will Chair the project steering group.

3.4 LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund



Following the instatement of a Regional LEZ Stakeholder Group to cover the latest Edinburgh LEZ developments, SEStran secured £205,000 funding from the LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund from Transport Scotland in November 2019 for four projects which were delivered by 31 March 2020.

Despite the LEZ developments currently being delayed due to COVID-19, the study reports are relevant in a wider context and can help inform the development of regional interventions to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and associated social distancing requirements across the region. All reports can be viewed on the SEStran website: <https://sestran.gov.uk/news/sestran-strategic-studies/>

Latest developments:

- **Regional Park & Ride Strategic Study** Complete

The P&R Strategic Study is an evidence-based review of current P&R provision in the South East of Scotland. It helps inform future investment priorities for the enhancement of P&R facilities and will feed into the emerging rewrite of the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy.
- **Smart Ticketing Machines** Complete
 - SEStran purchased ETMs for two of the region’s local bus operators, which will help facilitate real time passenger information on the services operated.
 - SEStran also utilised the LEZ funding for a hardware and software upgrade for the RTPI provided on digital screens across the region.
- **Mobility Hub Strategic Study** Complete
 - Based on the learnings from the SHARE-North project, SEStran developed the Mobility Hub Strategic Study which scopes out the potential role for Mobility Hubs within the specific regional context for the SEStran area. The study provides a framework for their implementation across the South East of Scotland. For the purpose of the study, a Mobility Hub has been identified as “a recognisable and easily accessible place which integrates different transport modes and supplements them with enhanced facilities, services and information aimed at encouraging more sustainable travel, creating a sense of place and improving journeys and travel choices.”
- **Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Strategic Study** Complete
 - The DRT study is a strategic review of DRT services in the SEStran area. Various challenges and opportunities for the DRT sector have been identified and the study also developed options to increase the resilience of DRT services and encourage innovation and service development. The study will help inform the emerging RTS.

4. European-funded Projects

4.1 SHARE-North

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2016 to Dec 2021



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.

Latest developments:

- **Mobility Hubs** In progress
 - SEStran has been exploring various avenues to introduce Mobility Hubs to the SEStran region. In doing so, SEStran builds on the expertise and support from the European partners.
 - A Mobility Hub seeks to raise the profile of shared mobility (car club, bike-sharing, carsharing), by integrating these modes of transport with existing public transport provision.
 - The Mobility Hub Strategic Study developed through the LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund has identified 8 suitable locations across the SEStran region for further consideration for the development of Mobility Hubs.
- **Tripshare SEStran** In progress
 - SEStran is reviewing Tripshare SEStran and is in the process of rebranding the website.
- **Online Partner Meeting May 2020** In progress
 - SEStran participated in a successful online meeting with the SHARE-North partners on 12th May 2020 to discuss project activities and progress and any impacts and expected delays as a result of COVID-19. The consortium is exploring whether an extension is feasible.
 - SEStran also successfully presented the Mobility Hub Strategic Study at a SHARE-North webinar hosted by CoMoUK on 14th May 2020, which was attended by 85 people.

4.3 SURFLOGH

Interreg North Sea Region – Jun 2017 to Oct 2020



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:

- **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.
 - The 2020 STAR Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the research paper is being adapted for other conference submission in the future.
- **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.
- SEStran and Zedify in partnership with stakeholders are exploring setting up a new hub in south Edinburgh.
- ZEDIFY have entered into a UK partnership with Click It Local (<https://www.clickitlocal.co.uk/>) to do deliveries, this will be trailed in the South Edinburgh hub.
- **Online Partner Meeting May 2020** In progress
 - SEStran participated in a successful online meeting with other partners on the 19th of May.
 - Due to COVID-19 impacts on the project it was decided to cancel the upcoming project end conference in September in Mechelen (Belgium).
 - It was also decided that a 6-month extension to the project should be proposed to the Interreg North Sea Joint Secretariat to allow more research on the pilots and mitigate COVID-19 impacts.
 - The extension would allow the end conference to be held in May 2021 in Mechelen.

4.4 BLING

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2019 to Dec 2021



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 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 to make location data secure without being invasive.
 - The next stage of the research will be to develop a Smart Contracts interface that can be easily use and adapted in the ‘real world’.
 - After a successful presentation to the partners in May the next stage of the work is underway.
- **Online Partner Meeting May 2020** In progress
 - SEStran participated in a successful online meeting with other partners over two days on the 12th & 13th of May.

4.5 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe – Aug 2019 to Jan 2023



Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is a concept that changes the way people travel and pay for mobility services. The main vision of PriMaaS is to promote MaaS and incorporate wider societal goals through interregional collaboration, sharing best practices, and policy development.

Latest developments:

- **PriMaaS Regional Stakeholder Group** In progress
 - Following the first Regional Stakeholder Group, which was held on 15 January 2020, SEStran has been working with the PriMaaS consortium to establish the current levels of MaaS integration in the SEStran area.
- **Preparation of Baseline Assessment Report** In progress
 - Due to the COVID-19 situation, project activities have moved online, and SEStran is working with partners to feed into the Baseline Assessment Report, which is being developed by the consortium as a whole.
- **Online Partner Meeting April 2020** In progress
 - SEStran participated in a successful online partner meeting, hosted by the lead partner on 24th April 2020. SEStran provided an update on project activities and the consortium discussed the impacts of the current COVID-19 crisis.
 - The conference which was planned to take place in Liguria in April 2020 got cancelled, and the consortium is exploring options to move project activities and Exchange of Experience events online, such as through webinars. The first webinar is likely to take place this summer.
 - The consortium is also exploring whether an extension can be sought to deliver all planned activities.

4.6 CONNECT

Interreg North Sea Region – Oct 2019 to Mar 2022



CONNECTing North Sea Region's TEN-T nodes – Support intermodality growth in the North Sea Region through smart efficiency enhancements. The overall objective is to support smart intermodality growth in the NSR through efficiency enhancements. The project focuses on implementation of new smart processes and working tools (smart intermodality) and development of strategies for smart efficiency enhancements (smart involvement). <https://northsearegion.eu/north-sea-connect>

Latest developments:

- **Project Application** In Progress
 - A final application for continuation of the project has been made by the new partnership group to the Interreg North Sea Joint Secretariat and is awaiting approval – it is expected to be approved with the project starting in June 2020.
 - SEStran will be leading on a work package based around marketing and communications.

5. SEStran forums & upcoming events



5.1 SEStran Forum Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings:

- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
The next meeting will be held on the 3rd of June 2020 and will be online.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
Due to COVID-19 the April meeting was cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled for later in the year.
- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
Due to COVID-19 the May meeting was cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled for later in the year.