

Item A5. Establishment of South East Scotland Transport Transition Board

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 26 May 2020, Transport Scotland published its Transport Transition Plan, giving further guidance on how the transport implications of the Scottish Government's Route Map to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis would be managed, for the transport sector to increase service levels whilst maintaining physical distancing measures. One of the actions arising from the Transport Transition Plan was the establishment of regional Transport Transition groupings for the Edinburgh and Glasgow areas, as well as the creation of a national level advisory grouping. Regional Transport Partnerships are represented on the National grouping by Hitrans whilst SEStran provides regional input into the Edinburgh grouping and SPT into the Glasgow grouping.
- 1.2 On 3 June 2020, the grouping for Edinburgh and region met for the first time, and agreed to establish the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Board; this comprises representatives from Transport Scotland, SEStran and the eight constituent SEStran councils, and with support from the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland City Deal's Project Management Office (PMO).
- 1.3 As a key partner with a regional statutory role and perspective, SEStran has been tasked with leading the co-ordination of a Project Plan for the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Board (SESTTB), to support the rapid development of a set of regional measures to address the anticipated problems associated with the easing of lockdown, particularly those relating to public transport where capacity will be substantially reduced as a result of required "physical distancing". SEStran had previously coordinated meetings of Chief Officers and proposed establishing a coordinated approach to the implementation of regional measures. SEStran is currently working in collaboration with the City Deal programme management office resource to accomplish this, with the Project Plan on target to be finalised by 17 June 2020.

2 Regional Collaboration

- 2.1 One of the key challenges facing the region, as we move out of Covid-19 restrictions, is that whilst physical distancing requirements remain on public transport - as outlined in the Transport Transition Plan and Guidance for Operators - the region will face significantly reduced capacity on the public transport network (between 75-90% reduction in capacity). This could have a range of negative consequences including mode shift away from public

transport to car, road congestion or delays, loss of mobility or access to employment for households without access to a car.

2.2 A range of temporary measures will be examined through the Regional Transition Plan, aimed at reducing negative impacts and getting people moving safely. To facilitate the rapid development of a set of regional measures, the SESTTB needs to work collaboratively and effectively. A draft Terms of Reference for the SESTTB (which closely matches that being used for the Glasgow region) is being circulated to key meetings of all member Councils prior to summer recess.

2.3 Key elements of the Transition Project Plan include:

- A regionally agreed, clear set of project principles and objectives, to facilitate the quick development and assessment of potential interventions;
- Milestones towards on the ground delivery of any agreed interventions;
- A focus on the key transport corridors in and around the region and into the city;
- A delivery plan setting out a range of interventions including active travel choices, support for public transport through the Transition phase with temporary park and ride hubs, and greater levels of information for commuters.

2.4 In addition to a lead role in the development of the Project Plan, SEStran will remain involved in the SESTTB Board, and will continue to provide coordination for the development of a number of region-wide interventions. The focus for SEStran's input will be on measures that support safe, affordable, sustainable commuter choices and support or add value to public transport operations.

3 Recommendations

3.1 It is accordingly recommended that Members:

- (a) note the progress made in a short timescale towards pulling together a Regional Transition Plan; and
- (b) agree to SEStran's involvement as detailed in 2.4.

Jim Grieve
Partnership Director
12 June 2020

Policy Implications	In line with RTS and emerging national policy, particularly Transport Scotland's Transport Transition Plan .
Financial Implications	SEStran's coordination role within the SESTTB will be met from within existing resources, with consultancy support as required, as outlined in Item A6 – Projects Performance Update.
Equalities Implications	None.
Climate Change Implications	None.