

Regional Transport Transition Planning Group

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the work of the South East Scotland Transport Transition Group, and SEStran's involvement in it.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of its response to the pandemic, the Scottish Government has set up a number of Transport Transition Groups to co-ordinate the local authority, RTP and Government response to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 on the country's transport network. These comprise a National Advisory Group and two Regional Groups for the Edinburgh and Glasgow regions.
- 2.2 At SEStran's suggestion, the South East Scotland Transition Group includes all of the SEStran constituent local authorities. Its Secretariat has been provided by the Edinburgh City Deal Project Management Office. The Transition Group itself is chaired jointly by Transport Scotland's Director of Transport Strategy and Roads, and the Chief Executive of Midlothian Council.
- 2.3 One of the key tasks at the Group's inception was to draft a comprehensive Project Plan, setting out what interventions the Group intended to make to help the transportation system run smoothly as the country entered the various stages of the Scottish Government's Route Map. SEStran undertook this task on behalf of the group.
- 2.4 Clearly however maintaining and measuring the Group's actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on transport has been a dynamic process, especially as infection levels rose again in early autumn, and new tiers of restrictions are introduced. SEStran has updated the Project Plan to take account of this, and will continue to do so.
- 2.5 Outside of Edinburgh and Glasgow regions, similar groupings and collaborations have been taking similar measures forward.

3. PROGRESS AND CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Much of the work of the Transition Group so far has focused on three regional 'corridors' reflecting travel to work patterns into Edinburgh from the North, West, and South and East. Three Corridor Sub Groups quickly came up with a package of co-ordinated measures with the assistance of Jacobs, consultants appointed by City of Edinburgh Council. Jacobs are also leading on monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

- 3.2 The package of measures developed resulted in a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Bus Priority Rapid Development Fund of c.£1.2m to support the delivery of local bus priority schemes, mainly clustered around the three corridors. SEStran also co-ordinated a further bid to the Fund for region-wide measures to a value of around £300,000 as part of an overall amount of £600,000 for a second tranche of funding for the region.
- 3.3 SEStran's other involvement in regional co-ordination has included connecting the work of the Transition Group to other stakeholders, for example through the Bus Operators' Forum. SEStran has also, through regular meetings of the RTP Chairs and Leads meetings, been able to share knowledge with other regions on what measures are being taken there.
- 3.4 Other region-wide projects which SEStran is leading for the Transition Group include:
- supporting Transport Scotland on a national approach to capacity information;
 - use of the Thistle Card as a means of giving people with disabilities or other reasons for an exemption from mask wearing confidence to travel on public transport; and
 - work on commercial demand responsive transport, which will be the subject of future reports to the Board.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Members note SEStran's involvement in the South East Scotland Transport Transition Group

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Policy Implications	None.
Financial Implications	SEStran's involvement in the Group will be met within existing resources.
Equalities Implications	An EqIA is being prepared by the Transition Group.
Climate Change Implications	The work of the Transition Group is in part designed to mitigate the impacts of increasing traffic levels, which have at some times of day returned to, if not exceeded, pre-Covid levels.