



EQUALITIES AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM
10:00am Friday 2nd October 2020

Present:

Helen Forrest (HF)	Childrens Healthcare Scotland
Ken Reid (KR)	East Lothian Access Panel
Diana Budziosz (DB)	East Lothian Council
Andrew McLellan (AMcC)	East Lothian Council
John Ballantine (JB)	Edinburgh Access Panel
Lesley Crosier (LC)	Midlothian Council
Mike Harrison (MH)	Midlothian Disability Access Panel
Doreen Steele (DS)	Non Councillor Member
Jim Grieve (JG) (Chair)	SEStran
Hannah Markley (HM)	SEStran
Jim Stewart (JS)	SEStran
Julie Vinders (JV)	SEStran
Keith Fiskin (KF)	SEStran
Rhianne Forrest (RF)	SEStran
Angela Chambers (ACham)	SEStran
Anna Herriman (AH)	SEStran
Frank Henderson (FH)	Edinburgh Council
Vincent McInally (VM)	Transport Scotland
Daniel Bulawa (DB)	Transport Scotland
Laura Jones (LJ)	RNIB
Jane Hopton (JH)	NHS Lothian

Apologies:

Tony McRae	Fife Council
Elaine Law	Fife Council
John Mitchell	Fife Council
Iain Sneddon	NHS Lothian
Karen Brown	NHS Lothian
Mark Craske	NHS Forth Valley
Karl Vanters	Midlothian Council

Ref.		Actions
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	MINUTES FROM 3rd JUNE 2020 AND ACTIONS ARISING	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
3.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY	
	<p>JS discussed the RTS. The Main Issues Report was published in June this year and highlighted the issues that affect transport in the region.</p> <p>Three key areas included the rational and context, characteristics of the SEStran region and the regions specific transport issues and challenges. JS also mentioned the strategy will likely be developed to reduce inequalities, Covid 19 will also be a main issue.</p> <p>There is a lot to be finalised, the next step is to do further consultation, to embark on a process to develop a range of intervention and policies. This will require stakeholder engagement and the final Strategy document will need to be approved by Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>DS mentioned consultations in projects in collaboration with the health side psychologists could be useful. JS noted behavioural change is a key aspect on how we deliver the strategy, will take this thought forward.</p> <p>KR mentioned Transport Scotland (TS) have bus capacity information on their app but is only available in the west and not in the SEStran region. KF highlighted that SEStran are working with TS ticketing team to create a capacity indicator into the RTPI system. This is currently being trialed and the information will feed up to travel line.</p> <p>JG will contact KR offline to discuss further.</p>	
4.	DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT) STRATEGIC STUDY	
	<p>JV presented an update on the DRT study which was recently conducted through the Transport Scotland Low Emission Zone (LEZ) Public Transport Provision Fund.</p> <p>The study looks at what options there are to optimise the DRT sector. Viavan are able to provide smart technology for this type of service (DRT service) and SEStran are currently exploring the potential to use this type of technology to help the bus service in the region and to make the most of the assets we currently have.</p> <p>The vision is to explore the MaaS investment fund to see whether we can develop a project bid around DRT in a SEStran wide platform to create a public owned digital owned platform.</p>	

5.	THISTLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME	
	<p>KF presented and shared the new Thistle Assistance website. Thistle Assistance has a completely new branding and marketing campaign on the website and app. The website highlights face coverings must be worn unless an exemption applies. Also, the website shows how to order the thistle assistance card or download the App.</p> <p>Leaflets and cards given out also give further guidance about if you are exempt from wearing a face covering. Since March, 15 000 cards and leaflets have been sent out and there have been over 5000 downloads of the app. SEStran have also been in talks about broadening out the appeal with retail outlets and within the education sector.</p> <p>KR mentioned people who are visually impairment may have difficulty to wear a face mask. KR suggested including visual impairment in the list of exemptions. KF to amend wording of exemption for card on the website.</p>	KF
6.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT TRANSITION PLAN	
	<p>AH discussed the Regional Transport Transition Plan (RTTP). TS and the Scottish Government were looking at a national TTP. At a regional level, an advisory group was established and additional sub groups (Glasgow and Edinburgh, then further regional groups for the rest of Scotland). The group SEStran has been involved in was established on the 3rd June. We are anticipating car use is at pre covid level, buses are around about 70% capacity, train is impacted the most (only 10-15% capacity) and active travel journeys have increased.</p> <p>The real hit has been on bus transport and the perception of safety on buses. TS have been promoting positive messaging around bus safety by delivering interventions on the ground to provide better bus priority.</p> <p>The SEStran region have discussed with LAs and operators to create temporary interventions on bus corridors; for e.g. temp traffic light, widening bus lanes etc.. The SEStran region has been awarded £1.2mln for a first tranche of measures proposed in the Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund (BPRDF) bid. A further £600,000 has been reserved for a second tranche of interventions.</p> <p>The next step is to regroup and support operators to keep bus companies going by reinforcing positive messaging. JG also noted that TS has put substantial funding into the bus operators to sustain bus companies in the future.</p> <p>KR – With the statistics, a lot of train and bus journeys were withdrawn. Train times are now up by 90% of services, are bus journeys back to the same numbers. AH most journeys have been reinstated.</p>	

7.	TRIPSHARE	
	<p>JS highlighted due to the impact of Covid, Tripshare has not been happening, however SEStran still feel it has a role to play. There is a reduced level of service just now so current Tripshare membership can be monitored. There will be a complete review of how Tripshare is delivered going forward.</p>	
8.	EQUALITIES OUTCOMES 2021-2023	
	<p>AC noted the Equalities Outcomes will cover 4 years (2021-2025).</p> <p>SEStran are a listed authority and are required to publish a set of equality outcomes every 4 years. The needs in the equality outcomes are to eliminate discrimination, advise equality of opportunity and foster good relations.</p> <p>Last set out outcomes were in 2017 and SEStran provided a report in 2019. The new Equality Outcomes will be published on the 30th April 2021. SEStran will involve a range of stakeholders, staff and members from the Equalities and Access to Health forum. AC advised we would like to hear from members in this meeting about any outcome ideas they may have.</p> <p>LC advised Midlothian council are at the same stage. Midlothian approached Scottish government requesting an extension to the deadline but this seems unlikely.</p>	AC
9.	GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	
	<p>HF suggested, Childrens involvement in transport (more specifically children with health conditions).</p> <p>AMac noted how covid has affected the percentage of people going to the hospital (because people don't want to travel there).</p> <p>VM also suggested Low Emission Zones (LEZ), input from Edinburgh Council and TS.</p>	
10.	AOCB	
	<p>VM noted the support fund has been launched for LEZ. If you get your non compliant vehicle destroyed, people could receive up to £2000. TS are trying to assist those who are struggling financially. More details can be found on the LEZ website:</p> <p>https://www.lowemissionzones.scot/funding.</p>	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The date of the next meeting is (time & date tbc)	