



EQUALITIES AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM
10:00am Wed 31st March 2021

Present:

Jim Grieve (Chair)

Anna Herriman
Hannah Markley (Minute taker)
Julie Vinders
Angela Chambers
Keith Fisker
Andrew Ferguson
John Ballantine
Andrew McLellan
Diana Budziosz
Iain Aikman
Councillor Gordon Edgar
Alex Bray
Ashleigh de Verteuil
Councillor Chris Horne
Councillor Colin Davidson
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Peter Smail
Councillor Laura Murtagh
Doreen Steele
Emma Scott
Gail Johnson
Kaylee Brownlee
Phillip Lunts
Laura Jones
Liz Rowlett
Mike Harrison
Ken Reid
Jenny Ritchie
Duncan Smart
Thurston Hodge

SEStran

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Edinburgh Access Panel
East Lothian Council
East Lothian Council
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Council
Cross Country Trains
Age Scotland
West Lothian Council
Fife Council
Clackmannanshire Council
Midlothian Council
Falkirk Council
Non Councillor Member
Disability Equality Scotland
NHS Borders
NHS Borders
NHS Borders
RNIB
CTSI
Midlothian Disability Access Panel
East Lothian Access Panel
STANTEC
STANTEC
BAVS

Apologies:

Nigel Serafini
 Catriona Burness
 Councillor Lesley Macinnes
 Councillor Claire Miller
 Councillor Cameron Rose
 Councillor Karen Doran

Lothian Buses
 RNIB
 City of Edinburgh Council
 City of Edinburgh Council
 City of Edinburgh Council
 City of Ediburgh Council

Ref.		Actions
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	MINUTES FROM 2nd OCTOBER AND ACTIONS ARISING	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
3.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY, EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
	<p>Duncan Smart and Jenny Ritchie from STANTEC gave a brief overview of the new SEStran RTS development and gave an outline approach to the equalities impact assessment for the new RTS.</p> <p>As part of their equalities engagement STANTEC proposed to give a presentation on what they are doing and the RTS Equalities Duties Assessment Framing Note.</p> <p>The Draft RTS will be produced over the next 6 months and the final RTS will be prepared and published in early 2022.</p> <p>The Equalities duties include Public Sector Equality Duty – 9 protected characteristics, fairier Scotland duty and child rights and wellbeing duties.</p> <p>The Equaities Duties Assessment Framing will identify direct / indirect equalities impacts and wider relations. Qualitative based assessments using objective criteria and guide questions to probe, refine and report likely impacts against each equalities duty.</p> <p>The 3 main key equalities issues have been indenitified through assessments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel behaviour and differential requirements • Income and wealth and affordability • Transport barriers (physical accessibility, transport poverty and community safety). 	

	<p>The next steps include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective setting • Long list options generation • RTS case for change reporting • Options appraisal and strategy developing • SEA and equalities duties applied throughout. <p>Ken Reid asked STANTEC if stakeholder engagement will include service users and users who have protected characteristics. Jenny Ritchie noted the groups that represent equality characteristics have been approached and a public survey has also been circulated.</p> <p>Doreen Steele questioned if STANTEC plan to engage with Public Health Scotland. Jenny Ritchie mentioned they have reached out to each NHS region.</p> <p>Thurston Hodge asked if STANTEC have consulted with TSI (third sector interphase) community groups. Jenny Ritchie noted they have not contacted these groups yet but will feedback to their team.</p> <p>Jim Stewart will take the action to liaise with STANTEC to reach out to additional organisations.</p>	<p>Jim Stewart</p>
4.	DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT) STRATEGIC STUDY	
	<p>Julie Vinders mentioned SEStran have been working on a project proposal to develop a SEStran MaaS platform using digital technology. SEStran have proposed to trial a DRT element as part of the project.</p> <p>A MaaS platform vision has been developed to tackle transport poverty especially in rural areas. A journey hub is being developed in Musselburgh and the first demonstrator project will be linked to this hub. The project also proposes to include a DRT trial with a transport operator in East Lothian, to trial DRT technology and flexible services in addition to existing fixed line bus services.</p> <p>A second demonstrator project has also been identified to trial DRT in North East Fife and the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Julie Vinders highlighted, depending on what award SEStran receive from Transport Scotland, a number of demonstrator projects will be taken forward. The awards are likely to be made by the end of April.</p> <p>Cllr Horne noted there could be an economic opportunity benefit by linking DRT to tourism. Julie Vinders mentioned there has been more focus on college students and locals rather than tourists.</p>	
5.	THISTLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME	
	<p>Keith Fiskien gave a brief update on the Thistle Assistance Journey planning concept. The phase 1 work has been complete and the</p>	

	<p>programme was looking for funding to take phase 2 forward. The Thistle Assistance Programme has been successful and received £150 000 from Scottish Enterprise to complete the phase 2 work over 12 months.</p> <p>The aim is to develop a platform to integrate existing navigation services by developing the mobile and website base application. Keith Fisken noted specific disabilities will be targeted to fully develop the proto type before launch.</p> <p>Ken Reid asked if there will be a facility to integrate journey assistance into other third party providers. Keith Fisken mentioned this will be part of the overall ambition.</p> <p>Cllr Balsillie asked how the awareness of the Thistle Card Programme is being raised. Keith Fisken mentioned the programme has been moved to a new platform and time and money has been spent to develop the new identity. All RTPs are supporting the Thistle Card every year and SEStran have been working with the national entitlement card organisation, Disability Equality Scotland and other various organisations to promote the Thistle Card.</p>	
6.	HATE CRIME CHARTER	
	<p>Julie Vinders highlighted the Hate Crime Charter was launched on Thursday 25th March and is now rolled out via social media networks of transport providers and partners. The campaign is intended to reach all transport providers in Scotland and their passengers, communicating the importance of recognising incidents of hate crime and reporting these, which can be done anonymously.</p> <p>Through partnership working, the Working Group has created a Hate Crime Charter to encourage transport providers, members of the public and other services to support its zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime on public transport.</p> <p>The Charter has been published on SEStran’s website: https://sestran.gov.uk/news/hate-crime-charter-launch/ and Transport Scotland’s website: https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/tackling-hate-crime-on-public-transport/</p> <p>More information on the hate crime campaign, and ways to report hate crime can be found on: http://accessibletravel.scot/hate-crime/</p> <p>Emma Scott from Disability Scotland noted the Charter has reached over 300,000 people on social media. This was the combined efforts of all the partners. SEStran aim to encourage transport providers to the Accessible Travel Hub to sign up for information on the Charter.</p>	

7.	EQUALITIES OUTCOMES 2021 – 2025 AND MAINSTREAMING REPORT	
	<p>Angela Chambers noted the report was approved by the Partnership Board on the 19th March 2021. The board agreed that the Equalities forum should give the report a final review before it is published on the 30th April. Jim Grieve asked members to forward any comments to Angela Chambers. The deadline for comments will be prior to the publication date.</p> <p>Ken Reid noted the last paragraph states that it will be SEstrans policy to provide all documents in an accessible format and all documents will be able to be downloaded by pdf and rtf, however this report failed to do so. Angela Chambers apologised for the error the final report will be amended.</p>	Angela Chambers
8.	GENERAL DISCUSSION	
	Jim Grieve asked members to email Hannah Markley with any future topic ideas for the next meeting.	Hannah Markley
9.	AOCB	
	Ken Reid raised the issue of changing NHS estate and the implications of moving key departments to ST Johns (Eye Pavilion) instead of the Bioquarter for public Transport issues both for staff and patients. Andrew McLellan also raised the same issue.	Jim Grieve
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	30 TH September 2021/details tbc	