

EQUALITIES AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM
10:00am Thursday 30th September 2021

Present:

Jim Grieve (Chair) (JG)

Cheryl Fergie (Minute Taker) (CF)
Jim Stewart (JS)
Julie Vinders (JV)
Keith Fiskin (KF)
Cllr James Fullerton (JF)
John Ballantine (JB)
Diana Budziosz (DiB)
Mike Harrison (MH)
Cllr Dave Dempsey (DD)
Doreen Steele (DS)
Tom Houston (TH)
Derek Beveridge (DeB)
Karen Armstrong (KA)
Mark Craske (MC)
Cllr Chris Horne (CH)
Ken Reid (KR)
Katherine Soane (KS)

SEStran

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Scottish Borders Council
Edinburgh Access Panel
East Lothian Council
Midlothian Disability Access Panel
Fife Council
Non-Councillor Member
Sentireal
Fife Council
The Scottish Government
NHS Forth Valley
West Lothian Council
East Lothian Access Panel
Transport for Edinburgh

Apologies:

Elaine Law
John Curry
Cllr Gordon Edgar
Cllr Russell Imrie
Helen Forrest
Cllr Claire Miller (will attend late)
Andrew McLellan
Catriona Burness

Fife Council
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Council
Midlothian Council
Children's Health
Edinburgh Council
East Lothian Council
RNIB Scotland

Ref.		Actions
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	MINUTES FROM 31st MARCH 2021 AND ACTIONS ARISING	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	

3.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY	
	<p>Jim Stewart gave a presentation on the new RTS, key points are listed below.</p> <p>Progress since last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case for Change has been published • Supporting SEStran 2035 RTS Draft Case for Change: SEA Environmental Report • Supporting SEStran 2035 RTS Case for Change: Equalities Duty Report • Long list of options identified as relevant to problems and issues in SEStran area <p>Progress continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case for Change led to four strategy objectives • Strategy Objective 1: Transitioning to a sustainable, post-carbon transport system • Strategy Objective 2: Facilitating greater physical activity • Strategy Objective 3: Widening public transport connectivity and access across the region • Strategy Objective 4: Supporting safe, sustainable, and efficient movement of people and freight across the region <p>The next stage was the appraisal of options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Options Appraisal report is complete (STAG based assessment) • This identified 62 potential interventions • These have been grouped into 12 Regional Mobility Themes • These themes will form main policy and actions areas of the RTS <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft of the RTS is being prepared • Approval of the Draft RTS by SEStran Partnership Board end of October • Formal consultation for 14 weeks commencing November 2021 • SEA Environmental Report and Equalities Impact Assessment will be published at the same time for consultation • February 2022 – consideration of comment received during consultation • Board approval of final RTS anticipated in March 2022 • Submission of final RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval <p>JF suggested there is a need to examine support for buses, road space, equalities issues, DRT, rural areas and cost of running inefficient rail services. The Scottish Government should give an idea about rail versus bus subsidiaries. JS noted that funding is a complicated issue with current bus support due to the pandemic and the changes to ScotRail due to happen in April 2022, however, the RTS and relevant</p>	

	<p>policies will allow us to identify and discuss funding priorities with The Scottish Government. The rural urban split is considered in the Strategy. KR noted that “Access to information about public transport” should also be in the list of mobility themes. JS agreed, this will be in the next part of the RTS as this will be more detailed.</p> <p>JB highlighted that improvements should be made to the affordability and accessibility of public transport and community transport. JS noted policies are flexible, SEStran are doing a lot of work on DRT at the moment the strategy will support that.</p> <p>JG said TS and The Scottish Government are reviewing fares but there are challenges ahead and a lot of work to be done.</p>	
4.	MaaS/DRT	
	<p>Julie Vinders provided an update, the following key points were noted:</p> <p>SEStran submitted a bid to Transport Scotland MaaS investment fund back in February, the outcome was delayed until summer. SEStran came third to Hitrans and St Andrews University. Coming third meant that there were insufficient funds left for the whole project. SEStran were able to work with TS and r consortium partners to co-create a scaled down version. Also working with tech partners FUZE Mobility, Liftandgo, East Lothian Council and Prentice Coaches to redevelop the project.</p> <p>Tactran were funded in the first round for their MaaS Enable project. SEStran are currently communicating with them to create a GO SEStran MaaS platform using their interface that will be adapted to our region. This will increase intermobility and reduce the cost. SEStran are going back to TS with a revised proposal today, focusing on integrating modes of transport at Musselburgh Journey Hub and trialling a DRT service between Humby and Tranent. If TS agree, the aim is to kick start the project in Oct/Nov, with the service to run Jan/Dec, going live in 2022.</p> <p>JG noted this is an exciting opportunity and suggested that DRT should be part of scheduled transport.</p>	
5.	THISTLE ASSISTANCE APP WORKSHOP WITH DEVELOPER	
	<p>Keith Fiskien gave a brief update on Thistle Assistance, advising SEStran are still receiving requests for cards and the App has good usage levels.</p> <p><u>Tom Houston from Sentireal gave a presentation on voyagAR</u></p> <p>The VoyagAR platform is a simple adaptive interface that links seamlessly and dynamically with the environment and creates a protective bubble around the user. With focus development on the user experience also maximising the output from available funding by using existing market tested solutions. It will use Artificial Intelligence to produce a simple personalised solution specific to the needs of the user.</p>	

	<p>The main objectives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Awareness • Journey Planning • Wayfinding <p>There will be various testing stages and work is currently ongoing with Angel Eyes and Lothian Autistic Society. Further user groups will be set up for future testing.</p> <p>KR said it was a positive development and he would be happy to be part of the user testing. He noted it would be useful to have one app combining other apps like Jam & Welcome Me. TH said it would be easy to layer these applications and will discuss this with KR.</p> <p>John Ballantyne also volunteered for the user testing. KF will contact JB and KR to discuss this further.</p> <p>JF asked how to get round lack of coverage in low signal areas. TH said there are two parts to the application, mobile application and web portal. Routes can be set up in advance and downloaded on the app before your journey along with lists of different buses and train facilities that the user may need. JF asked how the network could be expanded. TH replied that a platform with types of mechanism can be created, e.g., cafes and toilets can be populated if the businesses agree. Sentireal are open to using that type of facility.</p> <p>KR was concerned about how data and battery hungry the system would be. TH said this shouldn't be too much of a problem as the data will be downloaded in bursts. Navigation will be based on GPS but some of the journey may be dynamic. There is an option to set up GPS only when needed, so this may be used, Wi-Fi on public transport will help.</p> <p>KF said working together with all key stakeholders, opportunity groups and local authorities will be key. Marketing will also be needed to get the word out there. The project is running on time and on budget and the aim is to have it up and running June/July 2022.</p> <p>For any suggestions or questions please contact KF or TH. JG thanked KF & TH and noted this was a big step forward.</p>	<p>KF</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>RTPI</p>	
	<p>Keith Fiskien provided an update, and the following key points were noted:</p> <p>SEStran are currently working with CEC and Jourenyo and are close to going live, there are test screens in Livingstone, Clacks, Fife and Scottish Borders. Existing PC's will be updated to windows 10 enabled PC with content management. For sites that don't have PC's web boards will be used. Notifications will be sent out to everyone that has existing screens and a help desk will be monitoring things, particularly in</p>	

	<p>NHS hospital areas. KF asked MC to reach out to colleagues with the old system, KF is happy to discuss.</p> <p>JG enquired about timescales as there has been a substantial delay due to COVID. KF responded, the first 50 PCs should be ready to go live in 2-3 weeks, with all completed by March next year.</p> <p>MC asked if Stagecoach and First Buses were included and KF stated 95% of the major operators will be involved, MC will alert colleagues.</p> <p>KR questioned if there was a way to make things audible, KF noted that the media was primarily visual, but Traveline are feeding into things.</p>	<p>KF</p> <p>MC</p>
7.	GENERAL DISCUSSION	
	<p>JB suggested that accessibility should be on the future agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>KA offered to attend the next meeting to give a presentation on Accessible Travel Framework in March next year.</p> <p>MC mentioned that closer relationships are needed between transport and healthcare. JG noted there has been a meeting with Fergus Millan and the RTP Leads, MC is encouraged by this, JG is happy to discuss this further.</p>	CF
8.	AOCB	
	There was no other business to report.	
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	March 2022 – Date to be confirmed.	