

**Remote Chief Officer Liaison Group Meeting
2:00pm Wednesday 16th February 2022
Microsoft Teams**

Present:

Jim Grieve (JG) (Chair)

Anna Herriman (AH)

Peter Forsyth (PF)

Ken Gourlay (KG)

Kevin Collins (KC)

Jim Stewart (JS)

Cheryl Fergie (CF)

Andrew Ferguson (AF)

Julie Vinders (JV)

Graeme Malcolm (GM)

Jamie Robertson (JR)

Derek Oliver (DO)

SEStran

SEStran

East Lothian Council

Fife Council

Falkirk Council

SEStran

SEStran

SEStran

SEStran

West Lothian Council

Edinburgh Council

Midlothian Council

Apologies:

Jason Hedley

Lesley Deans

Iain Shaw

Scottish Borders Council

Clackmannanshire Council

City of Edinburgh Council

Ref.		Actions
1.	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
	The Chair welcomed the Officers to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising	
	<i>Wednesday 10th November 2021</i> Agreed as a correct record with 3 actions noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS confirmed that Tripshare is formally completed, there should be a whole Scotland approach. JS will update when he can. • JS will contact GJ on RTS. 	JS JS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KF to contact PF regarding RTPI workshop on income generation for mobility hubs. 	KF
3.	Financial Reports	
a)	<p><i>Revenue Budget 2021-22 to 2022-23</i></p> <p>In the absence of IS, JG gave a brief update: 2021-2022 shows a typical carryover figure for next year, this report will go to P&A. IS will finalise the 2022-23 report and take to the PB in March. Indicative budgets are in line with what was expected.</p>	
4.	RTS Update	
	<p>Jim Stewart provided an update, and the key points were noted.</p> <p>JS thanked colleagues for their RTS responses, there has been 110 in total. Stantec are reviewing the responses and JS will share a full detailed breakdown as soon as he can. There has been a good mixture of responses. There may be changes to the draft strategy. The intention is to take the consultation report to the next PB meeting in March. JR offered to run through the comments from Edinburgh Council, JS will contact JR to discuss. GM will send an updated response this week to JS. PF has submitted a draft but will submit a full response with any changes soon.</p>	JS GM PF
5.	RTPI Update	
	<p>Anna Herriman provided an update, and the key points were noted:</p> <p>The roll out of the system is going well, there has been a good uptake of the RTPI framework. The system works in real time to ensure the information is correct and to ensure the quality of the NOVUS FX updates. Councils are varied on what they can do with regards to resources. A cost sharing model within LAs is worth consideration, AH will circulate something and discuss at a future CO's meeting.</p>	AH
6.	Bus Partnership Fund	
	<p>There was a round table discussion, and the following points were noted:</p> <p>GM said West Lothian Council has had confirmation of a grant offer up to £225,750, payable over the financial year(s) 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. There is detailed work to follow. There is a priority to appoint a consultant. GM will give regular updates and requested the following link be added to the minutes.</p>	GM

	<p>https://news.westlothian.gov.uk/article/73624/225-750-to-improve-public-transport-in-West-Lothian</p> <p>JR noted that he has an upcoming meeting with TS to discuss how to proportionately apply STAG to work to ensure funding and timescales are met. He is going to ask for an extension for SBCs and OBCs because the timescales are proving to be unrealistic. There is confusion over a 5-year fund and 2-year award, this will also be raised with TS. JR said that Stuart McMillan, from Anturas consultants, would be reaching out to other alliances in the region with a view to sharing knowledge going forward. Quick wins affect Midlothian, East Lothian, and CEC. There needs to be clearer more standardised guidance so that we can support the governance in the processes and have consistent decisions given within time constraints.</p> <p>JR will send an update to partners after the meeting.</p> <p>AF noted there were good points made around BSIPS working together, SEStran are involved in them all. Forth valley have appointed a consultant and KF will project manage. JG noted a similar approach with Midlothian.</p> <p>KG noted Fife Council has been awarded 1.8 million. There is a lot of connectivity work going on in Levenmouth. They are at the STAG process and pulling consultants together.</p> <p>AH stated Midlothian Has been awarded £303,000 for 4 areas of bus priority, there are ongoing discussions with TS around the bids that didn't get through.</p> <p>DO thanked everyone involved in the bidding process for Midlothian Bus Alliance.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Freight Study Update</p>	
	<p>Jim Stewart provided an update, and the following points were noted:</p> <p>The Case for change was approved in December 2021, the approval is high level at the moment, details are being put together for the next stage of the STAG process.</p> <p>Interventions going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport planning objectives. • Potential rail and water interventions. • Potential road interventions. <p>Next steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed options appraisal August-December 2022. • Engagement stage, online portal, and survey to get people involved. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline of March 2023 to complete STAG. <p>JS noted KF will be in touch at the engagement stage and would welcome all stakeholders to be involved.</p> <p>JG said this was a useful piece of work and it would be good to use and enhance disused railways.</p> <p>PF asked if there was any more information to share with East Lothian Council regarding this, as freight has a big part to play in the easterly connection, particularly Newcastle to Edinburgh. JS will liaise with KF and ask to share any relevant information.</p> <p>JG stated there may be useful information in the ECMA prospectus for PF.</p>	JS & KF
8.	AOCB	
	<p>AH updated on the annual Active Travel bid to TS, SEStran are awaiting an outcome.</p> <p>GM asked if SEStran was responding to the STPR2 consultation, he noted Winchburgh Station, and Avon Gorge should be highlighted. AH said SEStran will give regional feedback. The deadline is 15th April 2022.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the Levelling Up Fund, there may be an opportunity for LAs to collaborate bidding although RTPs cannot bid. AH will look closer at the criteria. It was decided that the CO's should have a special meeting to discuss this further and possibly expand the invite list to economic development colleagues. JR mentioned inviting Lawrence Rocky who used to work in CEC Inside Strategy Team.</p> <p>AH & JR will discuss this.</p>	AH & JR
9.	Date of Next Meeting	
	The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 2:00pm on Wednesday 25 th May 2022.	