



**Remote Chief Officer Liaison Group Meeting  
10:00am Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
Microsoft Teams**


**Present:**

<b>Jim Grieve (JG) (Chair)</b>	<b>SEStran</b>
Anna Herriman (AH)	SEStran
Jim Stewart (JS)	SEStran
Andrew Ferguson (AF)	SEStran
Cheryl Fergie (CF)	SEStran
Peter Jackson (PJ)	SEStran
Alastair Young (AY)	Scottish Futures Trust
Peter Forsyth (PF)	East Lothian Council
John Mitchell (JM)	Fife Council
Iain Shaw (IS)	City of Edinburgh Council
Gordon Brown (GB)	West Lothian Council

**Apologies:**

Jane Findlay	Fife Council
Lesley Deans	Clackmannanshire Council
David Miller	Midlothian Council
Ian Lennox	East Lothian Council
Douglas Proudfoot	East Lothian Council
Kevin Collins	Falkirk Council
Morag Haddow	East Lothian Council
Susan Keenlyside	Fife Council

Ref.		Actions
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>	
	The Chair welcomed the Officers to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	
	The minutes from Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 were agreed as a correct record. Keith Fiskien to pick up on a Freight Study action from the previous minute.	<b>KF</b>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Regional Overview of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund</b>	
	<p>Alistair Young from Scottish Futures Trust gave a presentation on The Regional Overview of The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to the COs.</p> <p>Please see below for power point presentation.</p>  <p>SESTRAN - EVIF UPDATE - 25-08-22.ppt</p> <p>The following points were raised and discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for council collaboration.</li> <li>• Some councils are already collaborating.</li> <li>• The need for consistency across the region.</li> <li>• Not all LAs at the same stage – this should not stop collaboration.</li> <li>• The benefits of a phased programme.</li> <li>• East Lothian Council are the best performing LA, it would be useful for them to share their knowledge.</li> <li>• The suggestion of a regional task force.</li> <li>• Opportunity to align with other transport policies.</li> <li>• National Consistency.</li> <li>• The risks involved to LAs with asset depreciation.</li> <li>• Commercialisation transfer and viability of products.</li> </ul> <p>Anna Herriman will pull together a regional task force and organise a meeting next month to accelerate progress. It was suggested that SCOTS have a national task force in place and it could be beneficial to merge them. JG will raise at SCOTS Executive later today to ensure there is no overlap.</p>	<b>AH</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>	
	<p>Iain Shaw provided an update, and the key points were noted.</p> <p>(a) Unaudited Accounts 2021/22. The external audit of last year's accounts is underway, there have been no adverse comments. The report to the Board will include a final conclusion and the hope is a clean audit certificate.</p> <p>(b) Finance Officers Report. This a forecast of the current year's expenditure, it is anticipated the expenditure will be in line with the budget for the current financial year.</p>	

<b>5.</b>	<b>Regional Transport Strategy</b>	
	<p>Jim Stewart provided a brief update, and the key points were noted:</p> <p>The draft RTS statutory consultation was taken to the PB meeting in March 22, after discussions around rural and rail issues with Borders Council it was decided not to consider the RTS for approval at this point. Changes have been made and will be reported to the PB in September.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Programmed Investment Plan</b>	
	<p>Jim Stewart provided an update, and the following points were noted:</p> <p>A supplementary document to the RTS was created called The Programmed Investment Plan, which identifies and details all schemes being delivered or under development. A consultancy brief has been undertaken and JS will circulate this to COs for comment and part of the ongoing monitoring of the new RTS. Making use of the Scottish Governments GIS mapping system will be useful to integrate mapping data.</p>	<b>JS</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Levelling up Fund</b>	
	<p>Andrew Ferguson wrote to the Scottish Government to ask if SEStran could apply for the LUF. Unfortunately, SEStran cannot apply. It was noted that the application process is challenging. AF said SEStran are happy to assist with bidding where possible. A discussion was introduced, and the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PF noted East Lothian Council have submitted 1 bid to rejuvenate Cockenzie. No transport bid has not gone in yet but this will be associated with active travel for next year. Bid will total around £10million.</li> <li>• JM said Fife Council has submitted 5 bids that are infrastructure related totalling around 50million.</li> <li>• GB will be doing a joint LUF bid with Falkirk Council for 50million for the next financial year for work on M9-J3.</li> <li>• JS noted investment plan/tracking successful LUF bids would be useful.</li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Edinburgh Bus Alliance</b>	
	<p>Andrew Ferguson provided an update on bus alliances generally, and the following points were noted:</p> <p>AF said things are going well with good collaboration. KF is project managing Forth Valley and Midlothian Bus Alliance. SEStran are also working with consultants in the Edinburgh Bus Alliance. The Bus Investment Fund has a timescale of 5 years. SEStran will keep this item on the agenda for coordinating meetings and for sharing information.</p>	

	Separately SEStran is organising meetings between project managers on all the SEStran area (and Tayside) bids to share information.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Active Travel Transformation</b>	
	<p>Anna Herriman provided an update, and a discussion took place around the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Harvie wanted reassurance that pathways were in place for dispersing the 320million fund that will be in place.</li> <li>• It seems the potential to do things better has been noted although this may be in an adaptive rather than a transformative way.</li> <li>• There is a capability and capacity workshop in Glasgow on 1<sup>st</sup> September, this should have been back in May 22.</li> <li>• Multiyear funding is needed.</li> <li>• It will be beneficial to move away from competitive environment.</li> <li>• Draft report to be complete by November that will cover Funding and Design, Capability and Capacity and Legislative need to Support Delivery.</li> <li>• There are too many layers involved in bidding.</li> <li>• Legislation Changed is needed</li> </ul> <p>AH said SEStran want to be a useful resource to LAs, AH will report back to COs when information becomes available.</p>	<b>AH</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p>Hattie James has started with SEStran as a Project Officer, she will replace Julie Vinders.</p> <p>The GO SEStran MaaS App is available to download on Apple and Android.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 2:00pm on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2022.	