



SEStran Draft Regional Transport Strategy

Equalities Consultation Note

On behalf of **SEStran**



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For and on behalf of Stantec UK Limited				

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1 Equalities Consultation Feedback

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 A Draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the South East of Scotland was published by SEStran in November 2021 for stakeholder and public consultation. The Draft RTS was published together with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and with the reports of an assessment of equalities issues (an equalities duties assessment)¹.
- 1.1.2 This technical note summarises feedback provided by respondents to the consultation on the Draft SEStran RTS of relevance to equalities issues and to the equalities duties assessments which were published in parallel with the draft RTS for consultation.
- 1.1.3 A separate note of SEA consultation responses relating to environmental issues has been prepared and will be published with this Equalities Consultation note.

1.2 Key Feedback and Responses

- 1.2.1 All responses received from local authorities, other organisations and members of the public have been reviewed, including those provided as part of an on-line survey. Where key issues were received relating to the coverage of equalities issues in the draft RTS or in the equalities duties assessment reports, these have been set out in Table 1.1 with a response on how SEStran has addressed the points raised in updating the RTS to a final version.

Table 1.1 Summary of Consultation Comments and Responses on Equalities Issues

Respondent	Comment	Response
Clackmannanshire Council	There are several references in the document to the Disability Discrimination Act, however this has been superseded by the Equalities Act 2010. For clarity the Disability Equality Duty in the DDA continues to apply. Most documents now reference the Equality Act.	Noted. References to the Disability Discrimination Act will be updated to the Equality Act 2010.
Fife Council	Child Rights and Wellbeing Duties: No clear link is made between child rights and decarbonisation, however children will be disproportionately affected by climate change.	Noted. The inter-generational impacts of climate change are important but considered much broader than the scope that the RTS can address directly. The consideration of issues for children and young people in the development of the RTS has focused on more direct aspects of public transport planning for all groups. The RTS includes objectives, mobility themes and actions to achieve carbon reduction and support national climate change targets.
Fife Council	Children under 16 are not permitted to complete the survey. This excludes a major demographic - have children and young people been consulted in other ways?	Due to complex requirements around permission from guardians for survey completion, SEStran took a decision to obtain feedback representative of younger people through engagement with relevant

¹ These comprised an Equalities Duties Summary Report and three supporting reports capturing the Equality Impact Assessment, a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment and a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (all October 2021)

Respondent	Comment	Response
		children and young people's stakeholder groups.
Scottish Borders Council	How do 'LEZ's' impact Just Transition and equalities? Need to consider the wider implication out with the urban areas that introduce these	City of Edinburgh Council has undertaken an Integrated Impact Assessment for the Edinburgh LEZ which includes equalities assessment. The promoter of any future LEZ proposals would need to carefully consider equalities issues and how potential adverse impacts could be mitigated.
Not for Profit Planning	There are references to the Disability Discrimination Act on pages 14 and 33. These should be deleted and replaced with references to the 2010 Equality Act and associated Public Sector Equality Duties.	Noted. References to the Disability Discrimination Act will be updated to the Equality Act 2010.
Not for Profit Planning	SEStran could perform a valuable role across the region in raising the bar in terms of meeting these duties, for example effectively carrying out equality impact assessments of transport interventions.	SEStran is fully committed to undertaking and promoting equalities through its responsibilities under the Act. These are carried out in accordance with SEStran's published Mainstreaming and Equalities Outcomes report (see https://sestran.gov.uk/publications/sestran-mainstreaming-and-equalities-outcomes-2021-2025/)
On-line survey respondent	There needs to be a stronger case for equalities as it is considered to be very important and cannot be disregarded by economic arguments.	Consideration of equalities has been integrated into the RTS process and key findings recorded in the equalities duties assessments reports. The final RTS will re-confirm SEStran's commitments to equalities in all aspects of future Strategy implementation.
On-line survey respondent	There is very limited reference to equalities throughout the document and there is a lack of explanation of what is being proposed and how equality groups are going to be consulted on the strategy.	The final RTS will re-confirm SEStran's commitments to equalities in all aspects of future Strategy implementation. Consultation on the draft Strategy included a range of regional and national equalities groups.

- 1.2.2 Where responses in Table 1.1 have identified commitments to amendment of the RTS these changes will be implemented in the re-drafting of the Strategy. SEStran aims to prepare a revised and final RTS document for discussion and approval at the SEStran Board in March 2022.