

SEStran Partnership Board Minutes

10.00am, Friday 16 June 2023

The Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, Edinburgh, and Microsoft Teams

<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation Title</u>
	Cllr Colin Davidson (Chair)	Fife Council
	Cllr Scott Arthur (items A1-A4)	City of Edinburgh Council
	Cllr Denis Coyne	Clackmannanshire Council
	Cllr Fiona Law	Clackmannanshire Council
	Cllr Ruaridh Bennett	East Lothian Council
	Cllr John McMillan (A1-A3 and A6)	East Lothian Council
	Cllr Paul Garner	Falkirk Council
	Cllr Derek Glen	Fife Council
	Cllr Colin Cassidy (Substituting for Cllr Dianne Alexander)	Midlothian Council
	Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
	Cllr Jenny Linehan	Scottish Borders Council
	Cllr Sally Pattle (Deputy Chair)	West Lothian Council
	Cllr Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
	Linda Bamford	Non-Councillor Member
	Alistair Couper	Non-Councillor Member
	Geoff Duke	Non-Councillor Member
	Kate Sherry	Non-Councillor Member
	Doreen Steele	Non-Councillor Member
<u>In Attendance</u>		
	Christopher Gardner	Audit Scotland
	Andrew Henderson (Clerk)	City of Edinburgh Council
	Jamie Robertson	City of Edinburgh Council
	Iain Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council
	Christopher Cox	Falkirk Council
	John Curry	Scottish Borders Council
	Gordon Grant	Scottish Borders Council

Graeme Johnstone	Scottish Borders Council
Ross Sharp-Dent	Scottish Borders Council
Brian Butler	SEStran
Angela Chambers	SEStran
Keith Fisken	SEStran
Tom Flanagan	SEStran
Hattie James	SEStran
Peter Jackson	SEStran
Susan Keenlyside	SEStran
Donald Bell	S82 Consulting
Gordon Brown	West Lothian Council

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Danny Aston	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Jule Bandel	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Robin Lawson	Fife Council
Cllr Jane Cox	Scottish Borders Council
Callum Hay	Non-Councillor Member
Simon Hindshaw	Non-Councillor Member
John Scott	Non-Councillor Member

Valedictory Remarks

On behalf of the Board, Councillor Davidson recorded thanks to Peter Jackson for his work and commitment during his tenure in the role as Senior Project Officer for SEStran and wished him well for the future. Councillor Davidson also offered the Board's congratulations to Keith Fisken for his promotion to Senior Partnership Manager. Councillor Davidson then took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Cassidy, who was substituting for Councillor Alexander.

A1. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To agree the minute of the SEStran Partnership Board of 17 March 2023 as a correct record.
- 2) To agree the minute of the Special SEStran Partnership of 29 March 2023 as a correct record.
- 3) To note the draft minute of the SEStran Performance and Audit Committee of 2 June 2023.

A2. Partnership director's update

a) Partnership Director's Quarterly Update

The Partnership Director's Update was provided with reference being made to the Regional Transport Strategy including next steps and work with partners. Further reference was made to regional initiatives.

Decision

To note the Partnership Director's Quarterly Update

b) Go-eBike

An update in relation to Go-eBike was provided with reference being made to the insolvency status of Bewegen, the uncertainty regarding the future of the scheme, discussions with other Bewegen operators in Scotland, latest updates, and next steps.

Decision

To note the Update on Go-eBike.

(References, Presentation by Partnership Director, submitted)

A3. Unaudited Annual Accounts 2022/23 and Treasury Management Report 2022/23

The unaudited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 were presented. Officers provided an overview the annual Treasury Management report for 2022/23. Officers requested that members submit feedback via email so it could be formally recorded.

Decision

- 1) To note the unaudited Annual Accounts for 2022/23.
- 2) To note the annual Treasury Management report for 2022/23; and
- 3) To note the audited Annual Accounts, incorporating the Auditor's report, will be presented to the Performance and Audit Committee and Partnership Board in September 2023.

(References - report by the Treasurer, submitted)

A4. SEStran 2035 monitoring

a) Report by Hattie James and Donald Bell, S82 Consulting

An update regarding progress on the Programmed Investment Plan following the Partnership Board meeting on the 29 March was submitted with further details being provided regarding the receipt of the final report.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made on developing the Programmed Investment Plan since the last meeting and the receipt of the final report from S82 Consulting;
- 2) To agree to delegate the Partnership Director to continue to work with key stakeholders and constituent councils to further update and develop the Programmed Investment Plan as a monitoring tool for delivery of the RTS; and

- 3) To agree to receive regular updates on the project as appropriate and at least every six months.

(References - report by the Project Officer & S82 Consulting, submitted)

b) Presentation by Donald Bell, S82 Consulting

The SEStran 2035 Monitoring – Programmed Investment Plan (PIP) detailing the project summary was presented with reference being made to the background and aims; scope; methodology; outcomes and future opportunities.

Decision

- 1) To note the ‘Regional’ projects were predominantly active travel, public transport and multi-modal. These scored well against assessment criteria;
- 2) To note that three GIS case studies identified gaps in the transport network - rail access to strategic housing sites, active travel links to hospitals, and examined Bindwells SHS, demonstrating the potential of GIS analysis;
- 3) To note that budget information was not always readily available for many projects, reflecting uncertainty in public sector funding and project status;
- 4) To agree to the production a Programmed Investment Plan, setting out in detail the strategic transport interventions in the SEStran region over the next three years, including GIS mapping; and
- 5) To note OJEU issued October 2022 seeking consultancy support.

(References – presentation by S82 Consulting, submitted)

A5. Bus Strategy

a) Verbal Introduction

A verbal introduction of the bus strategy was provided with reference being made to the rationale and proposed initiatives.

Decision

To note the verbal introduction.

b) Context and Issues Facing public transport.

The Context and Issues Facing public transport buses in Scotland were presented with details being provided in relation to the Transport focus bus passenger survey May 2023; Bus sector challenges, the Impact of covid Brexit and the situation in Ukraine, Government responses and future options.

Decision

To note the update on Context and Issues Facing public transport.

(reference, presentation by CPT incorporating material from McGills Buses)

c) Current Activity

An update regarding recent activities on Real Time Passenger Information; Thistle Assistance Programme and Bus Partnership Fund were provided.

Decision

To note the update on current activity.

(reference, presentation by Senior Partnership Manager)

d) Towards a World Class Bus Service

The Board were provided with an overview of the policy context with reference being made to the bus as a vital component of the transport network. A summary of current activities to support bus service improvements across the region, an outline of the potential opportunities provided by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 to further enhance bus services, and recommendations regarding actions that are intended to serve to promote a world class bus service network across the SEStran region was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note and support the continuing work of SEStran to support the Bus Alliances in the region, the development of bids to the BPF and best practice in the governance of the emerging BSIPs;
- 2) To delegate the Partnership Director to work with constituent councils and other Regional Transport Partnerships on exploring the opportunities to facilitate a transformational change to the bus network through the opportunities provided by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, seeking the necessary external legal advice as and where appropriate;
- 3) To request the Partnership Director to work with the CPT and bus operators in the region on developing an appropriate funding envelope that could provide for the transformational and sustainable change of the bus network in the region;
- 4) To open a strategic discussion with those councils who are currently shareholders of Lothian Buses to determine the future role of a municipally owned bus company in the transformation of the bus network across the SEStran region;
- 5) To agree that officers write to the new Transport Minister seeking an early meeting regarding an 'operator of last resort' for the bus network and to call on her (now Fiona Hyslop – was Kevin Stewart at the time of the meeting) to expand the work of the Bus Taskforce and launch a national conversation on the future of the bus sector in Scotland; and
- 6) To agree that the Partnership Director will pull the various strands of work together and develop a Regional Bus Strategy to align with the Regional Transport Strategy with a view to it being in place by the close of 2023 and that key strands be shared with members in advance.

(reference, report by SEStran Strategic Advisor, submitted)

e) Demand Responsive Transport

An overview of demand responsive transport was provided with reference being made to Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT), SEStran's DDRT pilot and possible next steps.

(reference, presentation by SEStran Project Officer)

Decision

To note the presentation on Demand Responsive Transport.

(References - report by the SEStran Strategic Advisor, submitted)

f) Q&A Session

Members took the opportunity to raise concerns in relation to transport poverty and acknowledgement was given to the need for the Board to take the lead on the matter. Councillor Imrie expressed disappointment with regard to Lothian Buses handling of the service changes within Midlothian.

Further questions were raised in relation to the Scottish Government spending on travel for under 22's and the impact on usage, the increase in care ownership and the National Bus Task force terms of reference. Officers acknowledged trends highlighting increased car ownership whilst also highlighting increased trends for bus usage for under 22's. Reference was also made to the fact that Transport Scotland continues to evaluate the scheme and publish data for each local authority.

Concerns were also raised in relation to the increase in anti-social behaviour amongst young people on buses and acknowledgement was given to young people using buses for gang related activities. Officers agreed to share details with members in advance of the next meeting.

Councillor Davidson took the opportunity as Chair to acknowledge the concerns expressed by Councillor Imrie in relation to Lothian Buses handling of the service changes within Midlothian and offered to look at options as to how to best move forward.

Decision

Details in relation to antisocial behaviour and gang activity on buses to be circulated to members in advance of the next Board meeting.

A6. Projects performance report

An update was provided to the board regarding the performance of SEStran's various workstreams and projects over the last quarter. Details were also provided in relation to the proposed approach to streamlining project performance reporting.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the Chair would write to the Scottish Transport Minister for an early meeting and that key themes from this meeting would be circulated to members;
- 2) To note progress recorded in the past quarter, summarised in the attached Appendix 1; and
- 3) To note the intention to enter into a 9-month Licence agreement with Fuse Mobility Ltd in connection with the Go SEStran project, and delegate to officers to enter into further agreements with public sector bodies as part of the next phase of project.

(References - report by the Senior Partnership Manager, submitted)

A7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Friday 22nd September 2023.

B1. National Outcomes Review 2023

Decision

To note that the National Outcome Review was updated.

(reference, report by SEStran Strategic Advisor, submitted)

B2. Risk Management Framework

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

(References - report by the Business Manager, submitted)

B3. Family Leave Policy

Decision

To note the amendments to the Family Leave Policy which were approved by Performance and Audit Committee for implementation.

(References – SEStran Performance and Audit Committee, 3 March 2023 (item A8); report by the Business Manager, submitted)

B4. Minutes

B4.1 Minutes – Integrated Mobility Forum 27 April 23

Decision

To Note the minutes of the Integrated Mobility Forum 27 April 23

B4.2 Minutes – Chief Officer Liaison Group 24 May 23

Decision

To Note the minutes of the Chief Officer Liaison Group 24 May 23

B4.3 Minutes – Logistic & Freight 30 May 23

Decision

To Note the minutes of the Logistic & Freight 30 May 23