

2022/23 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT AND AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

1. Introduction

1.1 This report presents the:

1.1.1 The 2022/23 Annual Audit Report by Audit Scotland and

1.1.2 the Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.

2. Main Report

2.1 The unaudited Annual Accounts were noted by the Partnership at its meeting on 16th June 2023.

2.2 The Partnership's appointed External Auditor – Audit Scotland – has completed the annual audit. The Annual Audit Report is presented at Appendix 1.

2.3 The Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 are presented at Appendix 2.

2.4 The Annual Audit Report states the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Partnership as at 31 March 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2022/23 Code; and;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

2.5 The Audit Opinion is included in the Independent Auditor's report at pages 46 to 48 of the Audited Annual Accounts.

2.6 An adjustment of £0.647m was made to the unaudited Annual Accounts to reduce the net pension asset to zero, following receipt of a revised actuarial report, which reflected fund performance to 31st March 2023 and minimum future funding obligations.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Partnership Board:

- 3.1 note the Annual Audit Report to members of South East of Scotland Transport Partnership and the Controller of Audit;
- 3.2 authorise the Audited Annual Accounts for signature.

Hugh Dunn

Treasurer

15th September 2023

Appendix

1 - Annual Audit Report to members of South East of Scotland Transport Partnership and the Controller of Audit

2 - Audited Annual Accounts 2022/23

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Policy Implications	There are no policy implications arising as a result of this report.
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising following issue of an unqualified Audit certificate.
Equalities Implications	There are no equality implications arising as a result of this report.
Climate Change Implications	There are no climate change implications arising as a result of this report.

South East of Scotland Transport Partnership

Proposed 2022/23 Annual Audit Report



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for the South East of Scotland Transport and the Controller of Audit
September 2023

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Key messages

2022/23 annual accounts

- 1** The financial statements give a true and fair view and were properly prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework.
- 2** The audited part of the remuneration report, management commentary and the annual governance statement were properly prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements.
- 3** We have reported one significant finding from the audit, relating to recognition of the pension asset.

Wider scope

- 4** The partnership has a medium-term financial plan in place but faces significant financial pressure in future years
- 5** The partnership has arrangements in place for securing Best Value but there is scope to improve how performance is presented.

Introduction

1. This report summarises the findings from the 2022/23 annual audit of the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (the partnership). The scope of the audit was set out in an Annual Audit Plan presented to the 3 March 2023 meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee. This Annual Audit Report comprises:

- significant matters arising from an audit of the partnership's annual accounts
- conclusions on wider scope areas that frame public audit as set out in the [Code of Audit Practice 2021](#), which for less complex bodies includes conclusions on financial sustainability and Best Value

2. This report is addressed to the partnership and the Controller of Audit and will be published on Audit Scotland's website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk in due course.

Responsibilities and reporting

3. The Partnership has primary responsibility for ensuring the proper financial stewardship of public funds. This includes preparing annual accounts that are in accordance with proper accounting practices. The partnership is also responsible for compliance with legislation putting arrangements in place for governance and propriety.

4. The responsibilities of an independent auditor appointed by the Accounts Commission are established by the Local Government in Scotland Act 1973, the [Code of Audit Practice 2021](#) and supplementary guidance and International Standards on Auditing in the UK.

5. The weaknesses or risks identified in this report are only those which have come to our attention during our normal audit work and may not be all that exist. Communicating these does not absolve management from its responsibility to address the issues we raise and to maintain adequate systems of control.

Auditor Independence

6. We can confirm that we comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard. We can also confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit related services and therefore the 2022/23 audit fee of £11,850 as set out in our 2022/23 Annual Audit Plan remains unchanged. We are not aware of any relationships that could compromise our objectivity and independence.

Part 1. Audit of 2022/23 annual accounts

Public bodies are required to prepare annual report and accounts comprising financial statements and other related reports. These are the principal means of accounting for the stewardship public funds.

Main judgements

The financial statements give a true and fair view and were properly prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework.

The audited part of the remuneration report, management commentary and the annual governance statement were properly prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements.

Audit opinions on the annual accounts are unmodified

7. The board approved the annual accounts for the partnership for the year ended 31 March 2023 on 22 September 2023. As reported in the independent auditor's report, in my opinion as the appointed auditor:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view and were properly prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework
- the audited part of the remuneration report, management commentary and the annual governance statement were all consistent with the financial statements and properly prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements.

Overall materiality was assessed as £31,000

8. Broadly, the concept of materiality is applied by auditors to determine whether misstatements identified during the audit could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users of the accounts, and hence impact their opinion set out in the independent auditor's report. Auditors set a monetary threshold when considering materiality, although some issues may be considered material by their nature. It is ultimately a matter of the auditor's professional judgement.

9. Our initial assessment of materiality was carried out during the planning phase of the audit. This was reviewed on receipt of the unaudited annual accounts and is summarised in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1

Materiality values

Materiality level	Amount
Overall materiality	£31,000
Performance materiality	£23,000
Reporting threshold	£1,500

Source Audit Scotland

10. The overall materiality threshold was set with reference to gross expenditure, which we judged as the figure most relevant to the users of the financial statements. Performance materiality is used by auditors when undertaking work on individual areas of the financial statements. It is a lower materiality threshold, set to reduce the probability of aggregated misstatements exceeding overall materiality. Performance materiality was set at 75% of overall materiality, reflecting on the low number of errors in the prior period.

11. It is our responsibility to request that all misstatements, other than those below our reporting threshold, are corrected, although the final decision on making the correction lies with those charged with governance.

Significant findings and key audit matters

12. Under International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260, we communicate significant findings from the audit to the Partnership Board, including our view about the qualitative aspects of the body's accounting practices.

13. The Code of Audit Practice also requires all audits to communicate key audit matters within the annual audit report under International Standard on Auditing (UK) 701. These are matters that we judged to be of most significance in our audit of the financial statements.

14. We have one significant finding from the audit, which is summarised in [Exhibit 2](#). Other than the corrected material misstatement detailed as a significant finding in Exhibit 2, our audit identified no misstatements above our reporting threshold.

Exhibit 2

Significant findings and key audit matters from the audit of the annual accounts

Issue	Resolution
<p>1. Pension asset reduction</p> <p>The pension liability/asset is an area of audit focus due to the material value and significant assumptions used within this complex calculation. In common with other local government pension scheme employers, Lothian Pension Fund commissions a firm of actuaries to value its pension liability and the accounting entries in the financial statements. The actuary reported that, as at 31 March 2023, the partnership had a funding <i>surplus</i> of £0.647 million.</p> <p>The surplus arose as a result of a significant increase to the net discount rate (discount rate net of CPI inflation) compared to the previous year, leading to a large gain on the balance sheet .</p> <p>Accounting standards impose a limit on the maximum amount of surplus which can be recognised on an employer's balance sheet. Given that the partnership is to continue to participate in the LGPS (Local Government Pension Scheme), it would be expected that this surplus could lead to lower future contributions rather than a refund of surplus. When this minimum funding obligation is considered, the asset was reduced to zero.</p>	<p>The annual report and accounts presented for audit disclosed a pension asset of £0.647 million. This was reduced to zero, with a corresponding adjustment to the pension reserve, for the final version of the accounts in line with the requirements of accounting standards.</p>

Our audit work responded to the risks of material misstatement we identified in the annual accounts

15. We have obtained audit assurances over the identified significant risks of material misstatement to the annual accounts. [Exhibit 3](#) sets out the significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements we identified in our 2022/23 Annual Audit Plan. It also summarises the further audit procedures we performed during the year to obtain assurances over these risks and the conclusions from the work completed.

There is scope to improve the management commentary to present a clearer picture of SEStran's performance over the year

16. The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require the annual accounts to include a management commentary prepared in accordance with statutory guidance. SEStran's annual accounts includes a narrative on financial performance to explain variances between the budget, actual spend and the

surplus or deficit at the end of the year. While the guidance allows flexibility in terms of the level of performance information included, there is an expectation that the commentary gives an overview of service performance in the year and the inclusion of relevant key performance indicators should enhance the service 'story'.

17. SEStran's budget and accounts differentiates between 'core' service funding, and external project funding. Although this provides important and useful context to how funds have been used, it is also necessary that a clear and understandable picture of performance is presented. Key aspects of the accounts, such as how an overall deficit or surplus was reached, or performance against budget, should be presented so it can be understood by a reader from a non-financial background. The revised accounts contains improved narrative to assist the reader in understanding performance. [Recommendation 1](#)

Recommendation 1

There is scope to improve the management commentary to provide a clearer narrative on performance during the year and be supported by financial and non-financial information

Exhibit 3

Identified significant risks of material misstatement in the annual accounts

Audit risk	Assurance procedure	Results and conclusions
<p>1. Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by management override of controls</p> <p>As stated in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test journal entries with a focus on significant risk areas. • Consider any unusual material transactions identified through our audit testing for any evidence of management override of controls. • Substantive testing of income and expenditure transactions around the year-end to confirm they are accounted for in the correct financial year. • Review accounting estimates for evidence of management bias including assessing any changes to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues were identified that indicate misstatements due to fraud caused by management override of controls. • Testing focussed on journal entries around the year-end that are open to management override of controls. • Audit testing of income and expenditure transactions confirmed they had been accounted for in the correct financial year • Accounting estimates did not vary significantly from the prior year and were consistently applied

Audit risk	Assurance procedure	Results and conclusions
	methods and underlying assumptions used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our testing of accruals and prepayments did not identify any errors.
<p>2. Risk of material misstatement caused by fraud in expenditure</p> <p>The Code of Audit Practice expands the consideration of fraud under ISA 240 to include the risk of fraud over expenditure. There is a risk that expenditure may be materially misstated in the 2022/23 financial statements due to the extent and nature of the following significant expenditure streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related expenditure • Other service expenditure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing of expenditure transactions, focusing on the areas of greatest risk. • Review of budget monitoring reports focusing on significant budget variances. • Review of arrangements in place to detect and prevent fraud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our testing of expenditure did not identify any errors and we found no significant transactions outside the normal course of business. • We reviewed the budget monitoring reports that are presented at each Committee meeting. We concluded that financial management reporting is accurate and appropriate.

The unaudited annual accounts were received in line with the agreed timetable

18. The unaudited annual accounts were received in line with our agreed audit timetable on 30 June 2023.

Part 2. Wider Scope

For less complex bodies wider-scope audit work considers the financial sustainability of the body and the services that it delivers over the medium to longer term, and the arrangements for securing Best Value

Conclusion

SEStran has a medium-term financial plan in place but faces significant financial pressure in future years

The partnership has arrangements in place for securing best value and the new regional transport strategy includes a set of performance indicators

SEStran operated within its revised budget for 2022/23, reporting an overall accounting surplus of £0.034 million

19. SEStran receives most of its funding income from the Scottish Government via Transport Scotland, and requisitions from constituent council members. The partnership also receives a significant proportion of income through securing externally-generated funding, including from EU grants.

20. The partnership approved its initial 2022/23 revenue budget in March 2022. Revenue grant funding of £0.782 million from Transport Scotland and requisitions from constituent councils of £0.190m remained at the same level as previous years. SEStran budgeted for external income of £0.554 million to fund approximately 36% of its project expenditure. Of this, £0.210 million of external income came from EU grant funding for projects due to be completed in 2023.

21. Overall, SEStran reported income of £2.121 million, consisting of £1.149 million projects income, £0.782 million government grant and £0.190 million requisition income from councils. The increase in projects funding was largely due to a significant increase received from the government's active travel fund. After accounting adjustments, SEStran reported an in-year surplus of £0.034 million.

SEStran has a medium-term financial plan and the partnership recognises the risk of reduced levels of external funding

22. As we noted in our annual audit plan, SEStran recognises a significant risk around future financial sustainability. The partnership has a medium-term indicative financial plan which is revised annually and was last presented to the partnership board on 17 March 2023. The plan provides an analysis of the indicative budget through to 2025/26, taking account of factors such as pay

awards, planned project activity and core funding levels from government and council requisitions.

23. The most significant finance challenges, as noted in the partnership's own risk register, are constraints on additional income and the cessation of EU project funding. SEStran is actively engaged in lobbying for and securing new external funding opportunities, including alternatives to EU sources. There is a risk that after existing earmarked reserves are spent on agreed projects, SEStran may have to use reserves to meet core costs.

The new regional transport strategy 2025-35 has been approved, providing a long-term framework for the organisation

24. SEStran's Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for 2025-2035 was approved by ministers in March 2023 and ratified by the partnership board. The RTS provides a long-term strategic framework for SEStran, addressing regional transport issues and setting out how the partnership proposes to respond over the longer term. The work was undertaken in consultation with stakeholders and the public.

25. Transport Scotland undertook a review of Regional Transport Partnership (RTP) grants and allocations during 2022/23. Whilst there is no change to RTP revenue grant funding for 2023/24 for SEStran, with core grant income remaining at the same level as previous years (£0.782 million), there is ongoing uncertainty due to the deferral of RTP grant re-allocation until 2024/25.

A contingent liability has been disclosed to address uncertainty around the GO e-bike project

26. The accounts disclose a contingent liability relating to the liquidation of a service provider to the partnership's Go e-bike project, which is funded through the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Scheme (LCCT). The service provider has gone into liquidation, and officers are seeking to progress alternative provision with another provider. Ownership of the purchased bikes themselves from the liquidated supplier has now been transferred to SEStran, but further work is ongoing to establish if a third party provider will be able to provide the technology to enable full provision of the service. We understand that SEStran is implementing lessons learned from the project including identifying improvements to its procurement processes.

SEStran has arrangements in place for securing best value and the new strategy includes a set of performance indicators

Delivery of best value responsibilities is included as part of the partnership's business plan strategic 'governance' objective. The business plan links SEStran's objectives to current projects and the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy priorities. Project updates are reported at each partnership board meeting, and a synopsis of individual project performance is also reported in the annual report.

27. The new Regional Transport Strategy sets out a range of organisational key performance indicators (KPIs) intended for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy. We will review how SEStran reports performance through these and other KPIs, including in the annual accounts, once this has been determined.

Appendix 1. Action plan 2022/23

2022/23 recommendations

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
<p>1. Presentation of key performance information</p> <p>There is scope to improve the management commentary to provide a clearer narrative on performance during the year and be supported by financial and non-financial information.</p>	<p>It is important that a clear and understandable picture of performance is presented, such as how an overall deficit or surplus was reached, or performance against budget. An overview of service performance in the year and the inclusion of relevant key performance indicators should enhance the service 'story'.</p> <p>Paragraph 16</p>	<p>A review of information included in the management commentary will be undertaken for preparation of the 2023/24 Annual Accounts</p> <p>Treasurer and Partnership Director</p> <p>31 March 2024</p>

South East of Scotland Transport Partnership

Proposed Proposed 2022/23 Annual Audit Report

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www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/accessibility



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**The South East of Scotland
Transport Partnership
(SESTRAN)**

**Audited
Annual Accounts**

2022/2023

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

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The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

Management Commentary

1. Basis of Accounts

The Partnership prepares its Annual Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. The Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

2. Statutory Background

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN) was established under the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005. The Partnership came into force on 1st December 2005. Under Section 3 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, the net expenses of SESTRAN, after allowing for government grant and any other income, are met by its constituent councils.

In accordance with Section 122 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, which allows Regional Transport Partnerships to carry forward reserves, the Partnership established a General Fund reserve. This provision in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 came into effect on 19 March 2020.

3. Corporate Strategy

The following is an introductory extract from the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, which established the Partnership; one of seven Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs):

“An Act of the Scottish Parliament to provide for the setting up and functions of the new transport bodies and to enable the Scottish Ministers to discharge certain transport functions; to provide further for the control and co-ordination of road works and for the enforcement of the duties placed on those who carry them out; to set up national concessionary fares schemes; and to make other, miscellaneous modifications of the law relating to transport.”

The Partnership aims to develop a sustainable transportation system for South East Scotland that will enable business to function effectively, and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services and employment opportunities. These aims are embodied in the Regional Transport Strategy: SEStran 2035.

The constituent councils of the Partnership are the City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

SEStran’s Vision Statement is as follows:

“A regional transport system that provides all citizens of South East Scotland with a genuine choice of transport which fulfils their needs and provides travel opportunities for work and leisure on a sustainable basis.”

4. Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Partnership fall into three categories.

Firstly, there is the funding uncertainty faced by all local authorities and RTPs. The Partnership has a range of statutory duties to enact. While every attempt is made to do this within the budget provided, budget reductions may make this less achievable resulting in a reduction in the quality of service provided.

Scottish Government funding has remained at the same level for over a decade, while Council requisitions have reduced over the same period. European Union funding has ceased entirely (primarily due to the exit of the UK from the EU). Combined, these factors result in a significant real-term impact on expenditure levels which, in turn, could impact the ambition of the Partnership to deliver the RTS. In addition, other sources of funding are not guaranteed and many require annual ‘bids’ to secure funding. The uncertain nature of this funding means that it is difficult to adopt a long term planning horizon, which could also impact project delivery.

The second category relates to changes in legislation leading to changes in the services to be delivered. This can create pressures from both a financial and organisational perspective.

The third group of risks are around inadequate governance and failure to follow the required process. This can take the form of financial loss or penalty and are mitigated by regular reviews and audit processes (internal and external). Examples of this type of risk include the potential failure to adequately document all steps taken when securing funding or procuring a service. It is essential that the Partnership has a robust audit trail in case evidence of compliance with statutory or procurement requirements is required.

5. Results for the Year

The Partnership is required to present its financial performance as a Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This can be seen on page 13.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

Management Commentary (*continued*)

5. Results for the Year (*continued*)

To show the net position of the Partnership and to allow comparison with the approved revenue budget, it is necessary to adjust the expenditure shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to take account of a number of items where the statutory accounting requirements differ from the management accounting practice of the Partnership. These adjustments are detailed in Note 6.

The net revenue budget of the Partnership in 2022/23 was £0.972m, funded by Government Grant and Council Contributions. A comparison of the outturn position with the revenue budget and earmarked reserves brought forward (£131,000) is presented in the table below. Key aspects of financial performance in 2022/23 are:

- Overall the Partnership had an underspend of £18,000 on the core revenue budget and £159,000 on the projects budget. This is shown in the table below.
- The Core budget provides for the day-to-day running costs of the Partnership and includes employee costs, premises costs and supplies and services. The Partnership incurred core service expenditure of £0.601m which was £18,000 below budget. The favourable variance arose from increased staff recharges to EU projects.
- The Partnership incurred expenditure of £1.474m on revenue projects and received external grants and contributions of £1.149m. Net expenditure was £159,000 under budget, after inclusion of the earmarked reserve brought forward. The main favourable variances on the Projects revenue budget arose on the Sustainable Travel budget (£41,000), Regional Transport Strategy expenditure (£74,000), EU projects (£15,000) and the Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) project, where net expenditure was £23,000 below budget.

	Revised Budget £'000	Earmarked Reserves from 21/22 £'000	Total Available Funding £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance from Total Funding £'000
Core Service	619	0	619	601	(18)
Revenue Projects - Expenditure	959	131	1,090	1,474	(159)
Revenue Projects - Income	(606)	0	(606)	(1,149)	
Total Expenditure 2022/23	972	131	1,103	926	(177)
Government Grant	(782)	0	(782)	(782)	0
Constituent Council Requisitions	(190)	0	(190)	(190)	0
Total Government Grant and Council Contributions 2022/23	(972)	0	(972)	(972)	0

In accordance with the provisions of the Transport Scotland (2019) Act, the Partnership has agreed a Reserves Policy and established an unallocated reserve of £31,000. Slippage on project delivery from 2022/23 to 2023/24 will be managed by establishment of an earmarked balance, in accordance with the Partnership's Reserves Policy.

Non Financial Results

During 2022/23, membership of the Partnership Board underwent significant change following local authority elections and the recruitment of a number of new non-Councillor Board members. A significant amount of training was delivered to the new Board members.

The outgoing Partnership Director, Jim Grieve, retired in December 2022 and was replaced by Brian Butler in January 2023.

The Board approved an Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025 and Mainstreaming Report in March 2023.

The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was approved by the Minister for Transport in March 2023. The RTS sets the strategic framework for transport plans and decisions within the SEStran region up to 2035. The RTS was developed through consultancy support, with partner and stakeholder input sought at key stages, analysis of evidence of transport problems and opportunities and detailed option appraisal. Relevant Statutory Assessments for the new RTS were concluded in 2021/22 and all consultations were completed in 2022/23.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

Management Commentary (*continued*)

5. Results for the Year (*continued*)

The Partnership was successful in attracting funding for delivery of region-specific strategies, projects and services, which were of benefit to transport users and partners across the region and remained actively involved in a wide range of regional and national strategic activities, and progressed initiatives in response to Covid-19.

- Further funding from Transport Scotland supported continued development of the Strategic Active Travel Network. Building on previous years, routes in West Lothian, Falkirk and Scottish Borders underwent topographical and utility surveying. Additional work reviewed a sample of the multi-criteria assessment of routes for future prioritisation;
- The Partnership with Sustrans Scotland supported the Bio Quarter Active Travel corridor project with final junction and lighting design aspects ready for a bid to construct;
- The GO e-Bike programme extended support to several community organisations through the procurement of e-bikes, cargo-bikes, adapted bikes and storage solutions to further promote the varied uses of e-bikes throughout the region. This support will allow more access to bikes and reduce the need for combustion vehicles for the delivery of goods and services;
- The Partnership progressed development work of the Thistle Assistance Journey Planner project. The bulk of the work and design was completed, with public testing due to start in early 2023/24;
- Work on the SEStran Freight Study continued with initial options completed and presented for review by Transport Scotland in September 2022;
- The Partnership, working with the Newburgh Train Station Group and Fife Council, completed the final stage of the transport appraisal and submitted this for review to Transport Scotland. Comments were received in February 2023 from Transport Scotland, which the project team will work through in the upcoming year;
- The upgrade of the Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) system succeeded in becoming fully operational in November 2021. The Partnership continued to work with Local Authorities and Bus Operators to improve the quality of real time data and also expand the screen network with the purchase of new screen infrastructure via the regional procurement framework;
- Through the PriMaaS project and the development of a Regional Mobility as a Service (MaaS) Action Plan and with support from funding from the MaaS Investment Fund, the Partnership developed 'GOSEStran' - a MaaS platform and a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) focussed pilot. After a successful trial in East Lothian and a further bid for funding from Paths for All, the project will be expanded in 2023/24;
- Through the BLING project, the Partnership began exploring the potential to test the project's Blockchain Readiness Awareness Tool with commercial operators DHL and ZEDIFY logistics. A project extension of funding and time to June 2023, was agreed with the project's lead partner;
- Through the Surflogh project, the Partnership completed a study to determine the feasibility of a logistics hub/consolidation centre at Perth. The study developed a logistics framework for Perth West to explore and demonstrate how efficient cargo distributions in urban areas can be achieved, utilising key learnings from the SURLOGH programme;
- The Partnership has been working on improvements to bus infrastructure in the region via the Bus Partnership Fund (BPF). This is a £500m Transport Scotland capital fund for the delivery of infrastructure to tackle the impacts of congestion on bus priority and reliability. SEStran has supported five bus alliance groupings to become established and supported the development of bids in the region, namely Forth Valley, Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian and Edinburgh. SEStran has been working with partners and providing project management services to Midlothian and Forth Valley Bus Alliance appraisal work to assess options for further investment along key bus routes in the region;
- The Partnership has continued to pursue activities towards its five equalities outcomes, which will guide the Partnership up to 2025.

On a less positive note, the supplier of eBikes to SEStran, Bewegen, announced that they were seeking bankruptcy protection in January 2023 and then, in March, they announced that they would close all UK operations in April. As well as leaving users without a service in East Lothian, Midlothian and the Forth Valley, this announcement presents the following risk to SEStran:

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

Management Commentary (*continued*)

5. Results for the Year (*continued*)

- The funding agreement through which the service was procured, the Low Carbon Travel and Transport fund, requires that procured schemes are still in operation 5 years after the funds are drawn down. In this case, the funds were drawn down in 2021, so the scheme has to run until 2026 or the funder could require repayment of part or all of the grant.
- An EU audit requested evidence that a robust and legally compliant procurement process had been followed. Despite this being the case, SEStran has not retained detailed records of every stage of the process. There is a risk that this too could result in a requirement to repay some or all of the grant funding. A contingent liability has consequently been included in the Accounts.

6. Future Developments

In 2023/24, the Partnership will focus on working with partners to implement the new RTS. The key stages will be:

- Developing and publishing a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which considers environmental effects as part of the preparation and implementation of plans and strategies. It also enables the monitoring of significant effects, and the review of plans and strategies;
- Sending the RTS to all stakeholders and publicise it as widely as possible;
- Progressing existing and initiating new projects on
 - Public transport including:
 - A number of initiatives to increase patronage of bus services and identify and work with partners to improve services to transport-poor areas
 - Further rollout and replacement of real time passenger information screens for buses
 - Thistle Assistance Programme and VoyagAR, which improve accessibility of bus services
 - Mobility as a Service including further development of the GoSEStran app and work with partners to expand the scheme throughout Scotland
 - Demand Responsive Transport
 - Active travel including:
 - E-bikes
 - Regional Active Travel Development Fund
 - Cycle Training and Development
 - Freight and logistics projects including the Forth Freight Study.
- Finalising the RTS delivery plan (Programmed Investment Plan) and graphical maps to view the current situation and future plans across the region to identify priority areas for action.
- Working with stakeholders to agree how SEStran can best support this work. This will include:
 - Examining the services provided by SEStran to support financially challenged partners. This may include the potential creation of a pooled resource or shared services and, in conjunction with other RTPs, a centre of excellence;
 - Examining whether SEStran currently has the powers required to provide the optimal level of assistance, and whether existing legislation offers the opportunity to take a more proactive role;
 - Working with partners across Scotland to re-energise the review of regional transport governance;
 - Monitoring and reporting on delivery of the RTS, including the 20% reduction in car kilometres.

The Partnership, alongside other RTPs in Scotland, will continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and partner councils to continually re-evaluate and respond to the new context for transport as it evolves.

It is considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of the Annual Accounts.

Chair of Partnership Board: COLIN DAVIDSON _____ Date signed:

Partnership Director: BRIAN BUTLER _____ Date signed:

Treasurer: HUGH DUNN, CPFA _____ Date signed:

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Partnership's Responsibilities

The Partnership is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the proper officer has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Partnership, that officer is the Treasurer;
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources and safeguard its assets;
- to ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014) and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003);
- to approve the Annual Accounts.

I confirm that these annual accounts were approved for signature by the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership at its Board meeting on 22nd September 2023.

Chair of Partnership

Board:

COLIN DAVIDSON

_____ Date signed:

The Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Partnership's Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA / LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Treasurer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with legislation;
- complied with the Local Authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Treasurer has also:

- kept adequate accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the Annual Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Partnership at the reporting date and the transactions of the Partnership for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Treasurer:

HUGH DUNN, CPFA

_____ Date signed:

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

1. Scope of Responsibility

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership aims to lead the development of a transportation system for South East Scotland, enabling business to function effectively and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services and employment opportunities.

The Partnership is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and appropriate standards, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently, effectively and ethically. The Partnership also has a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are carried out.

In discharging these overall responsibilities Elected Members and Senior Officers are responsible for implementing proper arrangements for the governance of the Partnership's affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

The Partnership has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with appropriate corporate governance principles and reflects the requirements of the "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)".

This Statement explains how the Partnership delivers good governance and reviews the effectiveness of these arrangements. It also includes a statement on internal financial control in accordance with proper practice.

The Partnership's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016).

2. The Partnership's Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Partnership is directed and controlled, and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and influences the community. It enables the Partnership to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The framework reflects the arrangements in place to meet the six supporting principles of effective corporate governance:

- Focusing on the purpose of the Partnership and on outcomes for the community, and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
- Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
- Promoting values for the Partnership and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
- Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
- Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective;
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

A significant part of the governance framework is the system of internal control which is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and manage the risks to the achievement of the Partnership's policies, aims and objectives. These are defined in the Partnership's Business Plan, which is updated annually. This enables the Partnership to manage its key risks efficiently, effectively, economically and ethically.

The Partnership aims for compliance with Public Sector Equality Duties, including Scottish Specific Duties.

Within the overall control arrangements the system of internal financial control is intended to ensure that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period. It is based on a framework of regular management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures and management supervision.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23 (*continued*)

2. The Partnership's Governance Framework (*continued*)

While the system of internal control is designed to manage risk at a reasonable level it cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance of effectiveness.

3. Determining the Partnership's purpose, its vision for the local area and intended outcomes for the Community

The Partnership aims to lead the development of a transportation system for South East Scotland, enabling business to function effectively and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services and employment opportunities. The vision for achieving this is outlined in the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Business Plan defines how to implement the aims of this strategy and the Annual Report provides a report of performance against objectives, targets and performance indicators as outlined in the Regional Transport Strategy.

4. Review of Effectiveness

The Partnership has put in place arrangements, detailed in the Local Code, for monitoring each element of the framework and providing evidence of compliance. A Principal Officer within the Partnership has been nominated to review the effectiveness of the Local Code.

The review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal financial control is informed by:

- the work of Internal Audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Partnership's control environment, governance and risk management frameworks;
- the Partnership Director's Certificate of Assurance on internal control;
- the operation and monitoring of controls by Partnership managers;
- the External Auditors in their Annual Audit Letter and other reports; and
- other inspection agencies comments and reports.

Through the year Elected Members and Officers have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment. These review mechanisms include:

- **The Partnership Board**, which provides strategic leadership, determines policy aims and objectives and takes executive decisions not delegated to officers. It provides political accountability for the Partnership's performance;
- **The Performance and Audit Committee**, which demonstrates the Partnership's commitment to the principles of good governance, undertaking the core functions of an audit committee as identified in Audit Committees: Practice Guidance for Local Authorities and Policy (CIPFA);
- **The Internal Audit Service** of the City of Edinburgh Council provides an independent and objective assurance service to the Partnership, by completing one review in each financial year that is focused on the adequacy and effectiveness of controls established to manage a key risk of the Partnership. The Partnership seeks to ensure that Internal Audit arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit.
- **The External Auditor's Annual Audit Report** is considered by the Partnership Board and the Performance and Audit Committee, along with the output from other external audits and inspections;
- **The risk management system** requires that risks are regularly reviewed by the Performance and Audit Committee and Board. This ensures that actions are taken to effectively manage the Partnership's highest risks;

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23 (continued)

4. Review of Effectiveness (continued)

- **The Partnership Secretary** is responsible to the Partnership for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed. The Partnership has a contractual arrangement with an external Legal Services provider to ensure all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.
- The Partnership operates Anti-Bribery, Anti-Fraud and Corruption policies in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption.
- **CIPFA Financial Management Code**
A requirement of the Annual Governance Statement is to disclose compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code and identify any outstanding areas for improvement or change. The Code is designed to support good practice and assist local government organisations in demonstrating their financial sustainability and resilience, by setting out expected standards of financial management.
The Partnership has undertaken an evaluation of compliance with the Financial Management Code
The Partnership's financial management arrangements are assessed as being compliant with the FM Code.

5. Internal Audit Opinion

During the year, the City of Edinburgh Council Internal Audit Service undertook one review to assess the adequacy of design and operating effectiveness of the key controls supporting the effective implementation of the Thistle Assistance programme. The review also followed up on the implementation of management actions raised in the previously completed internal audit review of 'Active Travel Network Development'. The overall assessment of the review was 'some improvement required' (amber) and confirmed that while some control weaknesses have been identified in the governance, risk and control frameworks supporting the Thistle Assistance programme, they provide reasonable assurance that risks are being managed and programme objectives should be achieved.

6. Coronavirus Pandemic

During the Covid 19 pandemic, meetings of the Partnership were held online. The Partnership continues to make use of online engagement for meetings, business and events, in addition to face to face meetings.

7. Partnership Board Membership

Seventeen new councillors were appointed to the Partnership by the Partnership's constituent councils, following the Local Government Election of May 2022. Three councillors returned to the Partnership. A new Partnership Chairperson and two new Deputy Chairpersons were appointed.

8. Certification

In compliance with accounting practice, the Treasurer has provided the Partnership Director with a statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Partnership's internal financial control system for the year ended 31st March 2023. It is the Treasurer's opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Partnership's internal control system.

9. From this year's review, there is reasonable assurance that the Local Code of Corporate Governance is operating adequately, with overall compliance by the Partnership with its corporate governance arrangements.

10. The Partnership's governance arrangements and systems are confirmed as being operational and current at the date of signing of this Annual Governance Statement.

Chair of Partnership

Board: COLIN DAVIDSON _____ Date signed:

Partnership Director:

BRIAN BUTLER _____ Date signed:

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

REMUNERATION REPORT

1. Audit of Remuneration Report

The tables at sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 on pages 10 and 11 in the Remuneration Report have been audited by the Partnership's external auditor. The other sections in the Remuneration Report have been reviewed by the external auditor to identify material inconsistencies with the financial statements, or is inconsistent with knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

2. Remuneration Policy for Senior Employees

The Partnership Board determines remuneration for senior employees with reference to the level of responsibility of the post. The Partnership does not operate a Remuneration Committee. Annual inflationary increases are based on those agreed by the Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC) for Local Authority services.

3. Remuneration for Senior Councillors

The Partnership does not provide any remuneration to senior councillors. Expenses paid to Board members are detailed in note 19 to the annual accounts.

4. Management of Remuneration Arrangements

The remuneration of the Partnership's employees is administered by the City of Edinburgh Council, as part of a service level agreement with the Partnership.

5. Officers Remuneration

The numbers of employees whose remuneration during the year exceeded £50,000 were as follows:

Remuneration Bands	2022/23	2021/22
£60,000 - £64,999	1	1
£65,000 - £69,999	1	0
£85,000 - £89,999	0	1

6. Senior Employees Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Partnership's senior employees is as follows:

Name and Post Title	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Total Remuneration 2022/23 £	Total Remuneration 2021/22 £
Jim Grieve - Partnership Director (to 31 December 2022) (full-year equivalent £88,322)	68,758	68,758	85,512
Brian Butler - Partnership Director (from 12 December 2022) (full-year equivalent £86,457)	26,262	26,262	0
	95,020	95,020	85,512

The senior employees detailed above have/ had responsibility for management of the Partnership to the extent that they have power to direct or control the major activities of the Partnership (including activities involving the expenditure of money), during the year to which the Remuneration Report relates, whether solely or collectively with other persons.

7. Senior Employees Pension Entitlement

The pension entitlement of the Partnership's senior employee(s) is as follows:

Name and Post Title	In-year pension contributions			Accrued pension benefits	
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £		As at 31 March 2023 £'000	Difference from 31 March 2022 £'000
Jim Grieve - Partnership Director (to 31/12/22)	15,549	28,305	Pension	5	3
			Lump Sum	0	0
Brian Butler - Partnership Director (from 12/12/22)	5,962	0	Pension	0	0
			Lump Sum	0	0
	21,511	28,305			

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

REMUNERATION REPORT *(continued)*

7. Pension Entitlement

Pension benefits for the Partnership's employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

For the Partnership's employees, the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) became a career average pay scheme on 1 April 2015. Benefits built up to 31 March 2015 are protected and based on final salary. Accrued benefits from 1 April 2015 will be based on career average salary.

The scheme's normal retirement age for employees is linked to the state pension age (but with a minimum of age 65).

From 1 April 2009 a five tier contribution system was introduced with contributions from scheme members being based on how much pay falls into each tier. This is designed to give more equality between the cost and benefits of scheme membership. Prior to 2009 contributions rates were set at 6% for all non-manual employees.

The tiers and members contributions rates for 2022-23 were as follows:

Whole Time Pay	Contribution rate
On earnings up to and including £23,000 (2021/2022 £22,300)	5.50%
On earnings above £23,000 and up to £28,100 (2021/2022 £22,300 to £27,300)	7.25%
On earnings above £28,100 and up to £38,600 (2021/2022 £27,300 to £37,400)	8.50%
On earnings above £38,600 and up to £51,400 (2021/2022 £37,400 to £49,900)	9.50%
On earnings above £51,400 (2021/2022 £49,900)	12.00%

From April 2015, when allocating contribution rates to members, pensionable pay means the actual pensionable pay, regardless of hours worked.

There is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum for members who joined the scheme post April 2009. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum or bigger lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004.

The value of the accrued benefits has been calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will first become entitled to receive a pension on retirement without reduction on account of its payment at that age; without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum; and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation - assuming that the person left the related employment or service as at 31st March in the year to which the value relates.

8. Exit Packages

Exit packages include compulsory and voluntary redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of added years, ex-gratia payments and other departure costs.

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Agreed Departures		Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band	
							£'000	£'000
All Cost Bands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

9. Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017

The Partnership is required to report information on facility time made available to employees who are trade union representatives. For 2022/23, no individual spent time during the year on trade union-related activities.

Chair of Partnership

Board: COLIN DAVIDSON

_____ Date signed :

Partnership Director:

BRIAN BUTLER

_____ Date signed :

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on different reserves held by the Partnership, analysed into "Usable Reserves" (that is, those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and "Unusable Reserves". The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Partnership's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Partnership.

2021/22 - Previous Year Comparative

	Usable Reserves		Unusable Reserves	Total Partnership Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Total Usable Reserves		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening Balances at 1 April 2021	134	134	(747)	(613)
Movement in reserves during 2021/22				
Surplus or (Deficit) on Provision of Services	(155)	(155)	0	(155)
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	509	509
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(155)	(155)	509	354
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	183	183	(183)	0
Increase/Decrease in 2021/22	28	28	326	354
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	162	162	(421)	(259)

2022/23 - Current Financial Year

	Usable Reserves		Unusable Reserves	Total Partnership Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Total Usable Reserves		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening Balances at 1 April 2022	162	162	(421)	(259)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23				
Surplus or (Deficit) on Provision of Services	34	34	0	34
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	653	653
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	34	34	653	687
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	12	12	(12)	0
Increase/Decrease in 2022/23	46	46	641	687
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	208	208	220	428

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2022/23

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded by government grant, council requisitions and other income.

2021/22			2022/23			
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
			Services			
750	0	750	Core	711	(1)	710
1,335	(979)	356	Projects	1,356	(1,147)	209
2,085	(979)	1,106	Cost Of Services	2,067	(1,148)	919
71	(50)	21	Financing & Investment Income (Note 9)	96	(77)	19
0	(972)	(972)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Note 10)	0	(972)	(972)
2,156	(2,001)	155	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	2,163	(2,197)	(34)
			Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			
0	(18)	(18)	Change in Demographic Assumptions	0	(23)	(23)
0	(277)	(277)	Change in Financial Assumptions	0	(1,519)	(1,519)
0	0	0	Restriction in Pension Asset	0	647	647
8	0	8	Other Experience	228	0	228
0	(222)	(222)	Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	14	0	14
8	(517)	(509)	Total Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	242	(895)	(653)
2,164	(2,518)	(354)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	2,405	(3,092)	(687)

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Partnership. The net assets of the Partnership (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Partnership. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, that is, those reserves that the Partnership may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves are those that the Partnership is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Capital Adjustment Account Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations".

31 March 2022 £'000		Note	31 March 2023 £'000
173	Property, plant and equipment	11	231
0	Other long-term assets (Pensions)	24	0
173	Long term assets		231
840	Short-term debtors	13	1,145
0	Provision for Bad Debts	14	0
95	Cash and cash equivalents	15	227
935	Current assets		1,372
(40)	Contributions and Grants Received in Advance		(15)
(747)	Short-term creditors	16	(1,160)
(787)	Current liabilities		(1,175)
(580)	Other long-term liabilities (Pensions)	24	0
(580)	Long-term liabilities		0
(259)	Net assets/ (liabilities)		428
	Financed by:		
161	Usable reserves	17	208
(420)	Unusable reserves	18	220
(259)	Total reserves		428

The unaudited Annual Accounts were issued on the 9th June 2023.

The audited financial statements were authorised for issue on 22nd September 2023

Treasurer: HUGH DUNN, CPFA

Date signed: _____

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Partnership during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Partnership generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flow arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Partnership are funded by way of government grant income, council requisitions and other receipts and contributions for services provided by the Partnership. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Partnership's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (that is, borrowing) to the Partnership.

31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000		31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
		OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(782)		Government Grants	(782)	
(190)		Constituent Council Requisitions	(190)	
0		Interest paid/ (received)	0	
(807)		Other receipts from operating activities	(971)	
	(1,779)	Cash inflows generated from operating activities		(1,943)
562		Cash paid to and on behalf of employees	494	
1,478		Cash paid to suppliers of goods and services	1,317	
	2,040	Cash outflows generated from operating activities		1,811
	261	Net cash flows from operating activities		(132)
		INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
10		Purchase of property, plant and equipment	0	
(46)		Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	0	
	(36)	Net cash flows from investing activities		0
		FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
0		Other receipts from financing activities	0	
	0	Net cash flows from financing activities		0
	225	Net(increase)/ decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(132)
	320	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		95
	95	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 15)		227

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Accounting Policies

The Annual Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) based Code of Practice in the United Kingdom (the Code). This is to ensure that the Annual Accounts "present a true and fair view" of the financial position and transactions of the Partnership.

The Annual Accounts have been prepared on an historic cost basis, modified by the valuation of pension assets and liabilities and property, plant and equipment, where appropriate.

1.2 Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure is that which does not yield benefit beyond the year of account. In broad terms the revenue expenditure of the Partnership can be divided into two categories:

- employees;
- day-to-day operating expenses, includes costs incurred in respect of office accommodation transport, ICT, and project expenditure.

1.3 Revenue Income

Revenue income is that which does not yield benefit beyond the year of account. In broad terms the revenue income of the Partnership can be divided into the following categories:

- Council requisitions, which fund day to day expenditure;
- European Union, Scottish Government and other grant income awarded to fund specific projects;
- other income recoveries to fund specific projects.

1.4 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

The revenue account has been prepared on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code of Practice. Amounts estimated to be due to or from the Partnership, which are still outstanding at the year end, are included in the accounts. Government Grants have been accounted for on an accruals basis.

1.5 Operating Leases

a) *Leased-in assets*

Rental payments under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

b) *Leased-out assets*

The Partnership has not identified any leased-out assets that fall under the definition of operating leases.

1.6 Overheads

The cost of service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes the Partnership's overheads.

1.7 Charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for use of non-current assets

Charges are made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the use of non-current assets, through depreciation charges. The aggregate charge to individual services is determined on the basis of the assets used in each service.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

1.8 Employee Benefits

Pensions

The Partnership is an admitted body to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by Lothian Pension Fund. The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme, administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1998, as amended.

The Annual Accounts have been prepared including pension costs, as determined under International Accounting Standard 19 – Employee Benefits (IAS 19). The cost of service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes expenditure equivalent to the amount of retirement benefits the Partnership has committed to during the year. Pensions interest cost and the expected return on pension assets have been included in the “Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services” within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The pension costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in respect of employees are not equal to contributions paid to the funded scheme for employees. The amount by which pension costs under IAS19 are different from the contributions due under the pension scheme regulations are disclosed in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the General Fund.

Pension assets have been valued at bid value (purchase price), as required under IAS19.

Under pension regulations, contribution rates are set to meet 100% of the overall liabilities of the Fund.

Accruals of Holiday Leave

Cost of service includes a charge for annual leave to which employees are entitled, but have not taken as at the Balance Sheet date. The Partnership is not required to raise requisitions on constituent councils to cover the cost of accrued annual leave. These costs are therefore replaced by revenue provision in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the General Fund balance by way of an adjusting transaction with the Accumulated Absence Account.

1.9 Non Current Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment is categorised into the following classes:

- Vehicles, plant and equipment;
- Assets under construction;

Recognition:

- Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment has been capitalised on an accruals basis;

Depreciation:

- Depreciation is provided on all Property, Plant and Equipment;
- The Partnership provides depreciation on its Property, Plant and Equipment from the month when it comes into use. Thereafter depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over the expected life of the asset. No depreciation is provided on Assets Under Construction.

Measurement:

Property, Plant and Equipment are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of net current replacement cost or net realisable value in existing use, net of depreciation.

1.10 Government Grants and Other Contributions

● Revenue

Revenue grants and other contributions have been included in the financial statements on an accruals basis.

Where such funds remain unapplied at the Balance Sheet date, but approval has been given to carry these funds forward to the next financial year, the funds have been accrued.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

1.1 Government Grants and Other Contributions *(continued)*

• Capital

Capital grants and contributions are recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, except to the extent there are conditions attached to them that have not been met.

Where there are no conditions attached to capital grants and contributions, these funds are a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement by way of an adjusting transaction with the capital adjustment account where expenditure has been incurred and the unapplied capital grants account, where expenditure has not been incurred.

Where there are outstanding conditions attached to capital grants and contributions that have not been met by the Balance Sheet date, the grant or the contribution will be recognised as part of capital grants in advance. Once the condition has been met, the grant or contribution will be transferred from capital grants received in advance and recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

1.11 Provisions

Provisions are made for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount that have been incurred.

The value of provisions is based upon the Partnership's obligations arising from past events, the probability that a transfer of economic benefit will take place, and a reasonable estimate of the obligation.

1.12 Reserves

Reserves held on the Balance Sheet are classified as either usable or unusable. Unusable reserves cannot be applied to fund expenditure. The Transport Scotland (2019) Act permits the Partnership to operate a usable reserve. In March 2020 a Reserves Policy was approved, permitting the Partnership to hold a general reserve with a minimum value of 5% of annual Core budget. Balances held in excess of 5% require to be reviewed annually in-line with risk/identified commitments. The Partnership also operates a General Fund reserve to manage slippage on approved Project budget delivery.

The Partnership operates the following unusable reserves:

a) *Pension Reserve*

The Partnership operates a Pensions Reserve Fund under the terms of the Local Government Pension Reserve Fund (Scotland) Regulations 2003. The Pension Reserve represents the net monies which the Partnership requires to meet its net pension liability, or is the value of the net pension asset, as calculated under IAS 19, Employee Benefits;

b) *Capital Adjustment Account*

The Capital Adjustment Account represents movement in the funding of assets arising either from capital resources such as capital receipts, or capital funded directly from revenue contributions;

c) *Accumulated Absences Account*

This represents the net monies which the Partnership requires to meet its short-term compensated absences for employees under IAS19.

1.13 Financial Instruments

Financial Assets

Loans and receivables are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

Surplus funds held on behalf of the Partnership are managed by the City of Edinburgh Council under a formal management agreement in a pooled investment arrangement.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

1.14 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include:

- Credit and debit funds held in banks

1.15 Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Partnership a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Partnership.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

1.16 Value Added Tax

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

1.17 Events After the Reporting Period

Events after the reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Annual Accounts are authorised for issue.

Two types of events can be identified:

- i) those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period - the Annual Accounts are adjusted to reflect such events;
- ii) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period - the Annual Accounts are not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Annual Accounts.

1.18 Short Term Debtors and Short Term Creditors

The revenue transactions of the Partnership are recorded on an accruals basis which means that amounts due to or from the Partnership, but still outstanding at the year end, are included in the accounts. Where there was insufficient information available to provide actual figures, estimates have been included.

1.19 Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Partnership's financial position or performance.

Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively; i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

1.20 Going Concern

It is considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of the Annual Accounts, given ongoing Regional Transport Partnership grant funding provided by Scottish Ministers under Section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 and constituent councils obligation to meet the net expenses of the Partnership under Section 3 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code for the relevant financial year. The standards introduced by the 2023/24 Code where disclosures are required in the 2022/23 financial statements in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code are:

- IFRS 16 Leases (but only for those local authorities that have decided to voluntarily implement IFRS 16 in the 2023/24 year);
- Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8) issued in February 2021;
- Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2) issued in February 2021;
- Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2021.

CIPFA/LASAAC consider it is likely that, though they lead to improved reporting, the non-IFRS16 items above will not have a significant impact on the amounts anticipated to be reported in the financial statements.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Partnership has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Annual Accounts are:

- There is high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. The Partnership has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the Partnership's assets might be impaired as a result of a need to reduce service provision;
- Local Government Pension Scheme - Guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). The interim solution to avoid inequalities between men and women's benefits following the introduction of the Single State Pension in 2016 resulted in a recalculation of pension liabilities for the estimated impact of GMP indexation changes. The Partnership's actuary has allowed for the impact of full GMP indexation in the calculation of the latest funding valuation results. The funding valuation results are used as the starting point for the accounting roll-forward calculations and therefore an allowance for full GMP indexation is included in the accounting disclosure;
- GMP equalisation – historical transfers (Further Lloyd's ruling) - the Partnership's actuary has advised this further ruling is unlikely to have a significant impact on the pension obligations of a typical employer. The historic individual member data needed to assess the impact is not readily available. As a result, no allowance has been made for this within the actuary's calculations.
- Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) - McCloud and Sargeant cases. Where an allowance was made for the McCloud case in 2021/22, the actuary has made no further adjustment to the 2022/23 Result Schedule. No explicit additional adjustment for the McCloud case has been added to the current service cost for 2022/23 or the projected service cost for 2023/24.
- The Goodwin case judgement in respect of deemed discrimination in spousal transfer on death of a member, may also result in the potential increasing of the pension liabilities. The actuary has carried out analysis to understand the potential impact of implementing a solution to correct the past underpayment of spouses' benefits. The remedy is still uncertain but the potential impact has been estimated to be very small. The actuary does not believe it is necessary or appropriate to make an adjustment to account for this at the moment.
- The Walker and O'Brien court cases may impact on future LGPS benefits. The Partnership's actuary understands these are unlikely to be significant judgements in terms of impact on the pension obligations of a typical employer. As a result, and until further guidance is released from the relevant governing bodies in the LGPS, no allowance has been made for the potential remedies for these judgements.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Annual Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Partnership about the future or events that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Partnership's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are:

4.1 Pension Asset/Liabilities

Uncertainties

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Partnership with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

Effect if Actual Result Differs from Assumptions

Formal actuarial valuations are carried out every three years, where each employer's assets and liabilities are calculated on a detailed basis, using individual member data for cash contribution setting purposes. For LGPS Funds, asset investment returns have been greater than expected compared to last year's accounting date assumption. The net discount rate assumption has increased by more than the increase in the CPI assumption, which has resulted in a gain on the balance sheet position. Using more up-to-date longevity assumption has also led to a small gain on the obligations.

Under accounting guidance, employers are expected to disclose the sensitivity of the valuation to key assumptions. The following table shows the sensitivity of the results to the changes in the assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities, including approximate percentage changes and monetary values:

	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	48
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	93
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	1
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	47

5. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Unaudited Annual Accounts were authorised for issue on 9 June 2023. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provide information about conditions existing at 31st March 2023, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There were no events which took place after 31st March 2023 which would materially affect the 2022/23 Annual Accounts.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

6. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by the Partnership in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Partnership in accordance with general accounting practice. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between service areas. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) (see page 13).

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the CIES
2022/23	£'000	£'000	£'000
Core	599	111	710
Projects	325	(116)	209
Net Cost of Services	924	(5)	919
Other Income and Expenditure			
Government grant	(782)	0	(782)
Constituent council requisitions	(190)	0	(190)
Interest paid/ (received)	2	0	2
Net pension interest cost	0	17	17
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(46)	12	(34)
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the CIES
2021/22	£'000	£'000	£'000
Core	588	162	750
Projects	356	0	356
Net Cost of Services	944	162	1,106
Other Income and Expenditure			
Government grant	(782)	0	(782)
Constituent council requisitions	(190)	0	(190)
Interest Received	0	0	0
Net pension interest cost	0	21	21
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(28)	183	155

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

6. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS *(continued)*

Expenditure and Funding Analysis *(continued)*

6.1 Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts:

	Adjusts. For Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for Pensions Adjusts. £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Statutory Adjusts. £'000
2022/23				
Core	58	56	(3)	111
Projects	(116)	0	0	(116)
Net Cost of Services	(58)	56	(3)	(5)
Other Income and Expenditure				
Interest paid/ (received)	0	0	0	0
Net pension interest cost	0	17	0	17
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(58)	73	(3)	12
	Adjusts. For Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for Pensions Adjusts. £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Statutory Adjusts. £'000
2021/22				
Core	84	78	0	162
Projects	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	84	78	0	162
Other Income and Expenditure				
Net pension interest cost	0	21	0	21
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	84	99	0	183

- Adjustments for capital purposes include the removal of depreciation and impairment costs, and the inclusion of capital funded from current revenue.
- Net changes for pensions adjustment relates to the adjustment made for the removal of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income with the pension contributions.
- Other differences relate to the reversal of the value of entitlement to accrued leave and interest paid on revenue balances.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

6. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS *(continued)*

6.2 Segmental Analysis of Income included in Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	Core	Projects	Total
2022/23	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employee expenses	389	0	389
Other service expenses	211	1,472	1,683
Total Expenditure	600	1,472	2,072
Income			
Government grants and other contributions	(1)	(1,147)	(1,148)
Total Income	(1)	(1,147)	(1,148)
Net Cost of Services	599	325	924
2021/22	Core	Projects	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employee expenses	403	0	403
Other service expenses	185	1,335	1,520
Total Expenditure	588	1,335	1,923
Income			
Government grants and other contributions	0	(979)	(979)
Total Income	0	(979)	(979)
Net Cost of Services	588	356	944

6.3 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The Partnership's expenditure and income, as set out within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is analysed as follows:

	31st March	31st March
	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Employee expenses	442	481
Other service expenses	1,567	1,510
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	58	94
Interest payments	96	71
Total Expenditure	2,163	2,156
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	0	0
Interest and investment income	(77)	(50)
Income from constituent councils	(190)	(190)
Government grants and other contributions	(1,930)	(1,761)
Total Income	(2,197)	(2,001)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(34)	155

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised by the Partnership in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Partnership to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2022/23	Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Adjustment Account	Accumulated Absence Account	Pension Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the <u>Capital Adjustment Account</u>					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	58	(58)			(58)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)					
Contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(116)	116			116
Adjustments primarily involving the <u>Pensions Reserve</u>					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	208			(208)	(208)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(135)			135	135
Adjustments primarily involving the <u>Accumulated Absence Account</u>					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(3)		3		3
Total Adjustments	12	58	3	(73)	(12)

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

(continued)

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised by the Partnership in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Partnership to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2021/22	Usable Reserves		Unusable Reserves		
	General Fund Balance	Capital Adjustment Account	Accumulated Absence Account	Pension Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	84	(84)			(84)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)					
Contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	0	0			0
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	228			(228)	(228)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(129)			129	129
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absence Account					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0		0		0
Total Adjustments	183	(84)	0	(99)	(183)

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

In accordance with the provisions of the Transport Scotland (2019) Act, the Partnership has agreed a Reserves Policy. An earmarked balance will be established to meet slippage on project delivery from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

9. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Interest income on pension asset/liability	(77)	(50)
Interest Paid/ (Received)	2	0
Pensions interest cost	94	71
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Government Grant	(782)	(782)
Constituent Council Requisitions	(190)	(190)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(972)	(972)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

11.1 Movements on balances:

Movements in 2022/23	Vehicles Plant and Equipment £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property Plant and Equipment £'000
At 1st April 2022	885	28	913
Additions	94	22	116
Transfers	14	(14)	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0
At 31st March 2023	993	36	1,029
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st April 2022	(740)	0	(740)
Depreciation charge	(58)	0	(58)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0
At 31st March 2023	(798)	0	(798)
Net Book Value			
At 31st March 2023	195	36	231

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (*continued*)

11.2 Movements on balances:

Comparative Movements in 2021/22

Cost or Valuation	Vehicles Plant and Equipment £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property Plant and Equipment £'000
At 1st April 2021	787	137	924
Additions	10	0	10
Transfers	88	(88)	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(21)	(21)
At 31st March 2022	<u>885</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>913</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st April 2021	(667)	0	(667)
Depreciation charge	(73)	0	(73)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0
At 31st March 2022	<u>(740)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(740)</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31st March 2022	<u>145</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>173</u>

11.3 Depreciation

The following useful lives have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Vehicles, plant and equipment: 4 - 5 years

The Partnership provides depreciation on its Property, Plant and Equipment from the month when it comes into use.

11.4 Capital Commitments

As at 31st March 2023, the Partnership had no capital commitments.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

12.1 Financial Instruments - Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Partnership and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Partnership.

The Partnership's financial liabilities held during the year comprised:

- Trade payables for goods and services received.

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Partnership that is represented by cash, equity instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or other financial assets or a right to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially favourable to the Partnership.

The Partnership's financial assets held during the year comprised:

- Cash in hand;
- Cash and cash equivalents (Loans and receivables). The Partnership maintains its funds as part of the City of Edinburgh Council's group of bank accounts. Any cash balance is effectively lent to the Council, but is offset by expenditure undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Council on behalf of the Partnership. Interest is given on month end net indebtedness balances between the Council;
- Trade receivables for goods and services provided.

12.2 Financial Instruments - Balances

The financial liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories

	Current	
	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
Trade creditors	1,167	718

The financial assets disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

	Current	
	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
Loans and receivables	1,041	529
Trade debtors	107	287

1,148 816

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *(continued)*

12.3 Financial Instruments - Fair Values

The financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Since all of the Partnership's loans and receivables mature within the next 12 months, the carrying amount has been assumed to approximate to fair value. The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	1,167	1,167	718	718

Financial Assets	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans and receivables	1,041	1,041	529	529
Trade debtors	107	107	287	287
	<u>1,148</u>	<u>1,148</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>816</u>

12.4 Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

	31st March 2023	31st March 2022
	£'000	£'000
Total expense and income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services:		
Interest Expense/ (Income)	2	0
	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

13. DEBTORS

	31st March 2023	31st March 2022
	£'000	£'000
Debtors:		
Central government bodies	603	315
Other local authorities	120	254
HM Customs and Excise - VAT	59	20
Other entities and individuals	363	251
	<u>1,145</u>	<u>840</u>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

14. PROVISION FOR BAD DEBTS

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
Cost or Valuation		
Opening Balance	0	0
Provision made during year	0	0
Unused amounts reversed during the year	0	0
Closing Balance	0	0

15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
Bank account	227	95
	227	95

16. CREDITORS

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000 <i>(re-stated)</i>
Central government bodies	(2)	0
Other local authorities	(531)	(630)
Other entities and individuals	(586)	(93)
Employee costs	(41)	(24)
	(1,160)	(747)

Restatement - the balance at 31st March 2022 is re-stated to include £0.601m due to City of Edinburgh Council in 'Other local authorities' - moved from 'Other entities and individuals'.

17. USABLE RESERVES

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
17.1 Unallocated General Fund Reserve	49	104
17.2 Earmarked Balance - Project Budget slippage	159	58
	208	161

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

18. UNUSABLE RESERVES

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2022 £'000
18.1 Capital Adjustment Account	231	173
18.2 Pension Reserve	0	(580)
18.3 Accumulated Absence Account	(11)	(14)
	220	(420)

18.1 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Partnership as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Balance at 1st April	173	257
Reversal of items related to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(58)	(73)
• Charges for revaluation of non-current assets	0	(21)
	115	163
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year		
Capital financing applied in the year:		
• Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	116	10
	231	173
Balance at 31st March		

18.2 Pension Reserve

The Pension Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Partnership accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Partnership makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Partnership has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

18. UNUSABLE RESERVES *(continued)*

18.2 Pension Reserve *(continued)*

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Balance at 1st April	(580)	(990)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	653	509
Reversals of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(208)	(228)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	135	129
Balance at 31st March	<u>0</u>	<u>(580)</u>

18.3 Accumulated Absence Account

The Accumulated Absence Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, for example, annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31st March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Balance at 1st April	(14)	(14)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	14	14
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(11)	(14)
Balance at 31st March	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(14)</u>

19. MEMBERS EXPENSES

The Partnership paid the following amounts to members during the year:

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

20. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Partnership has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Annual Accounts by the Partnership's external auditors:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable in respect of:		
• external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	12	11
	12	11

21. GRANT INCOME

The Partnership credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£'000	£'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Scottish Government - Revenue Grant	(782)	(782)
Constituent Council Requisitions (Note 22.3)	(190)	(190)
	(972)	(972)
Credited to Services		
EU Grant - Bling	(43)	(17)
EU Grant - Connect	(18)	(14)
EU Grant - Primaas	(29)	(33)
EU Grant - Regio Mob	(29)	(6)
EU Grant - Sharenorth	(5)	(42)
EU Grant - Surflogh	(53)	(34)
Contribution - City of Edinburgh Council	(2)	(2)
Contribution - Clackmannanshire Council	0	(3)
Contribution - East Lothian Council	(2)	(6)
Contribution - Falkirk Council	(12)	(4)
Contribution - Fife Council	(91)	(143)
Contribution - First Bus Scotland	0	(5)
Contribution - Midlothian Council	(7)	(9)
Contribution - Paths for All	0	(25)
Contribution - Scotrail	(11)	3
Contribution - Scottish Borders Council	(8)	(69)
Contribution - Scottish Enterprise	(40)	(110)
Contribution - Stirling Communication Centre	(4)	(2)
Contribution - Scottish Government/ Transport Scotland	(729)	(484)
Contribution - West Lothian Council	(1)	(10)
Contribution - HITRANS	(4)	(4)
Contribution - NESTRANS	(6)	(5)
Contribution - SPT	(5)	(4)
Contribution - SUSTRANS	(45)	(159)
Contribution - SWESTRANS	(2)	(2)
Contribution - TACTRAN	(6)	(5)
Contribution - ZETRANS	(1)	(1)
	(1,153)	(1,195)

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

22. RELATED PARTIES

The Partnership is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Partnership or to be controlled or influenced by the Partnership. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Partnership might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Partnership.

22.1 Scottish Government

The Partnership receives grant-in-aid revenue funding through the Scottish Government. Grants received from the Scottish Government are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 21.

22.2 Members

Members of the Partnership have direct control over the Partnership's financial and operating policies. The total of members' expenses paid by the Partnership in 2022-23 is shown in Note 19.

22.3 Other Parties

During the year, the Partnership entered into the following transactions with related parties:

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
• Revenue Expenditure - Support Services		
City of Edinburgh Council - Financial and Clerking Services	44	42
Falkirk Council - HR Services	0	0
	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 42
• Revenue Expenditure - Interest on Revenue Balances		
City of Edinburgh Council	2	0
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 0
• Revenue Expenditure - Other		
City of Edinburgh Council	1	0
East Lothian Council	1	30
Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	0	20
NHS Lothian	0	43
Scottish Government	18	15
West Lothian Council	2	14
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 122

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

22. RELATED PARTIES *(continued)*

22.3 Other Parties *(continued)*

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
• Revenue Income - Requisitions		
Clackmannanshire Council	(6)	(6)
East Lothian Council	(13)	(13)
City of Edinburgh Council	(62)	(61)
Falkirk Council	(19)	(19)
Fife Council	(44)	(44)
Midlothian Council	(11)	(11)
Scottish Borders Council	(13)	(14)
West Lothian Council	(22)	(22)
	<u>(190)</u>	<u>(190)</u>
• Revenue Income - Interest on Revenue Balances		
City of Edinburgh Council	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
• Revenue Income - Other		
City of Edinburgh Council	(2)	(2)
Clackmannanshire Council	0	(3)
East Lothian Council	(2)	(6)
Falkirk Council	(12)	(4)
Fife Council	(3)	(2)
Midlothian Council	(7)	(9)
Scottish Borders Council	(2)	(3)
Scottish Enterprise	(40)	(110)
Scottish Government/ Transport Scotland	(729)	(484)
West Lothian Council	(1)	(1)
	<u>(798)</u>	<u>(624)</u>
• Revenue Income - Agency Income		
Fife Council	(88)	(141)
Scottish Borders Council	(6)	(66)
West Lothian Council	0	(9)
	<u>(94)</u>	<u>(216)</u>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

22. RELATED PARTIES *(continued)*

22.3 Other Parties *(continued)*

The following represents amounts due to/(from) the Partnership at 31 March 2023, with its related parties.

CREDITORS	2022/23	2021/22
	£'000	£'000
• Creditors - Related Parties (Revenue Grants)		
East Lothian Council	0	(28)
Scottish Enterprise	0	(40)
	<u>0</u>	<u>(68)</u>
• Creditors - Related Parties (Other)		
City of Edinburgh Council	(1)	(1)
Falkirk Council	0	0
Fife Council	(5)	0
Scottish Government	(2)	0
	<u>(8)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
• Creditors - Other Parties	<u>(1,167)</u>	<u>(718)</u>
Total Creditors	<u>(1,175)</u>	<u>(787)</u>
DEBTORS		
• Debtors - Related Parties (Revenue Grants/ Other)		
Clackmannanshire Council	0	1
East Lothian Council	0	(12)
Falkirk Council	7	0
Fife Council	100	169
Midlothian Council	4	0
Scottish Borders Council	9	84
Scottish Government/ Transport Scotland	603	315
West Lothian Council	0	11
	<u>723</u>	<u>568</u>
• Debtors - Other Parties	<u>422</u>	<u>272</u>
Total Debtors	<u>1,145</u>	<u>840</u>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

23. LEASES

Operating Leases

From 8th February 2016 the Partnership took occupancy of Area 3D (Bridge) in Victoria Quay, Edinburgh under the terms of a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTO) with the Scottish Government, which forms part of the Civil Estates Occupancy Agreement (CEOA).

The Partnership signed a new MOTO and is permitted to occupy the space from 8th February 2019 to 7th February 2022 (the Prescribed Term) and so on until ended by either party giving notice under the terms of the CEOA. Both parties will, upon provision of not less than 1 year's prior written notice, have the ability to break this agreement.

The Partnership currently has a contract with O2 to lease ten Apple iPhones for staff use. The minimum term for this contract is 24 months before the Partnership has the option to terminate the lease under no penalty. This contract expires in February 2024.

The Partnership currently has a contract with Ricoh UK Ltd to lease an office printer. The minimum term for this contract is 36 months before the Partnership has the option to terminate the lease under no penalty. This contract expires in September 2025.

The Partnership's expenditure on lease payments during 2022/23 was £23,000 (2021/22 £17,000)

The minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
• Not later than 1 year	23	21
• Over 1 year	1	4
	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 25

The Partnership has no other material operational leases.

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

24.1 Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its staff, the Partnership makes contributions towards the cost of post employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until the employees retire, the Partnership has a commitment to make the payments that require to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. As explained in Accounting Policy 1.8, the Partnership is an admitted body to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by the Lothian Pension Fund.

The Partnership participates in:

- A funded defined benefit final salary scheme. This means that the Partnership and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- An arrangement for the award of discretionary post retirement benefits upon early retirement - this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES *(continued)*

24.2 Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Partnership recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to be made is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	2022/23 £000	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000	2021/22 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
<i>Cost of services:</i>				
Service cost, comprising:				
Current service costs	191		207	
Past service costs	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		191		207
<i>Financing and investment income:</i>				
Net interest expense		<u>17</u>		<u>21</u>
Total post employee benefit charged to the surplus on the provision of services		208		228
<i>Other post-employment benefits charges to the Comprehensive Income / Expenditure Statement</i>				
Remeasurement of the net defined liability, comprising:				
Return on pension assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense above	14		(222)	
Actuarial gains and (losses) arising on changes in financial assumptions	(1,519)		(277)	
Actuarial gains and (losses) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(23)		(18)	
Restriction in Pension Asset	647		0	
Other experience	<u>228</u>		<u>8</u>	
		<u>(653)</u>		<u>(509)</u>
Total post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income / Expenditure Statement		<u>(445)</u>		<u>(281)</u>
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code.		<u>73</u>		<u>99</u>
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:				
Employer's contributions payable to the scheme		<u>135</u>		<u>129</u>
		<u>135</u>		<u>129</u>

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES *(continued)*

24.3 Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligations in respect of its defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Fair value of employer assets	2,976	2,821
* Restriction in Pension Asset	(647)	0
Present value of funded liabilities	(2,329)	(3,401)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net asset/(liability) arising from defined benefit obligation	0	(580)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

24.4 Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	2,821	2,463
Interest income	77	50
Remeasurement gain / (loss):		
Other Experience		
Return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(14)	222
Contributions from employer	135	129
Contributions from employees into the scheme	30	29
Benefits paid	(73)	(72)
Unfunded benefits paid	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	2,976	2,821
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Present value of funded liabilities	(3,401)	(3,453)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Opening balance at 1st April	(3,401)	(3,453)
Current service cost	(191)	(207)
Interest cost	(94)	(71)
Contributions from employees into the scheme	(30)	(29)
Remeasurement gain / (loss):		
Change in demographic assumptions	23	18
Change in financial assumptions	1,519	277
Other experience	(228)	(8)
Past service cost	0	0
Benefits paid	73	72
Unfunded benefits paid	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance at 31st March	(2,329)	(3,401)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

* International Accounting Standard 19 imposes a limit on the maximum amount of surplus which can be recognised on the balance sheet. This adjustment reduces the value of the Pension Asset to the maximum restricted amount.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES *(continued)*

24.5 Fair Value of Employer Assets

The following asset values are at bid value as required under IAS19.

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Equity Securities:				
Consumer *	365	12	347	12
Manufacturing *	410	14	373	13
Energy and Utilities *	180	6	156	6
Financial Institutions *	179	6	163	6
Health and Care *	219	7	195	7
Information technology *	124	4	128	5
Other *	203	7	210	7
Sub-total Equity Securities	1,679		1,573	
Debt Securities:				
Corporate Bonds (investment grade) *	46	2	0	0
UK Government *	345	12	246	9
Other *	62	2	53	2
Sub-total Debt Securities	454		299	
Private Equity:				
All *	2	0	0	
All	10	0	13	0
Sub-total Private Equity	12		14	
Real Estate:				
UK Property *	20	1	26	1
UK Property	114	4	123	4
Overseas Property *	4	0	0	0
Overseas Property	1	0	1	0
Sub-total Real Estate	139		150	
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:				
Equities *	40	1	49	2
Equities	2	0	2	0
Bonds *	0	0	53	2
Bonds	86	3	79	3
Infrastructure	424	14	286	10
Sub-total Investment Funds and Unit Trusts	552		469	
Derivatives:				
Foreign Exchange *	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Derivatives	0		0	
Cash and Cash Equivalents				
All *	141	5	317	11
Sub-total Cash and Cash Equivalents	141		317	
Total Fair Value of Employer Assets	2,976		2,821	

Scheme assets marked with an asterisk () have quoted prices in active markets.*

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES *(continued)*

24.6 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Hymans Robertson, the independent actuaries to Lothian Pension Fund, have advised that the financial assumptions used to calculate the components of the pension expense for the year ended 31 March 2023 were those from the beginning of the year (i.e. 31 March 2022) and have not been changed during the year.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in the calculations are:

Investment returns

- Total returns for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 2.2%

	2022/23	2021/22
Mortality assumptions - longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
• Males	19.9 years	20.3 years
• Females	22.9 years	23.1 years
Mortality assumptions - longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
• Males	21.2 years	21.6 years
• Females	24.7 years	25.0 years
Pension increase rate	2.95%	3.20%
Salary increase rate (see below)	3.45%	3.70%
Discount rate	4.75%	2.70%

Estimation of defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the Actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2023 on varying bases. The approach taken by the Actuary is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS19 figures.

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption (i.e. member life expectancy). For sensitivity purposes, the Fund's Actuary has estimated that a one year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

24. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES *(continued)*

24.7 Analysis of projected amount to be charged to profit or loss for the period to 31 March 2024

	Assets £000	Obligations £000	Net (liability) / asset £000	% of pay
Projected current service cost	0	(79)	(79)	(19.5%)
Past service cost including curtailments	0	0	0	0.0%
Effect of settlements	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Service Cost	0	(79)	(79)	(19.5%)
Interest income on plan assets	143	0	143	35.1%
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	0	(111)	(111)	(27.3%)
Total Net Interest Cost	143	(111)	32	7.8%
Total included in Profit or Loss	143	(190)	(47)	(11.7%)

The Partnership's estimated contribution to Lothian Pension Fund for 2023/24 is £135,000.

25. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Partnership's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- Credit risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Partnership;
- Liquidity risk - the possibility that the Partnership might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Re-financing risk - the possibility that the Partnership might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;
- Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Partnership as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements;
- Price risk - the possibility that fluctuations in equity prices has a significant impact on the value of financial instruments held by the Partnership;
- Foreign exchange risk - the possibility that fluctuations in exchange rates could result in loss to the Partnership.

Treasury Management is carried out on the Partnership's behalf by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The Council complies with the CIPFA Prudential Code and has adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Partnership's customers.

The Partnership's surplus funds not immediately required to meet expenditure commitments are held with the City of Edinburgh Council, and the Partnership receives interest on revenue balances on these monies. As the Partnership's surplus funds are held with the City of Edinburgh Council, the counterparty default exposure is effectively nil.

All Partnership invoices become due for payment on issue, and all trade debtors are overdue less than a month.

Collateral - During the reporting period the Partnership held no collateral as security.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

25. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *(continued)*

Liquidity risk

The Partnership is required by statute to provide a balanced budget, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The arrangement with the City of Edinburgh Council ensures sufficient liquidity is available for the Partnership's day to day cash flow needs.

The Council manages the Partnership's liquidity position through the risk management procedures above as well as through cash flow management procedures required by the Code of Practice.

Refinancing risk

The Partnership has only a small level of surplus funds and no long term debt. The refinancing risk to the Partnership relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature.

As such, the Partnership has no refinancing risk on its liabilities.

The Partnership has no investments with a maturity greater than one year.

Market risk

Interest rate risk

The Partnership is exposed to interest rate movements on its investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on an organisation, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods.

For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates - the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall;
- investments at variable rates - the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise; and
- investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall.

The Partnership currently has no borrowings. Changes in interest receivable on variable rate investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance.

However, all investments currently have a maturity of less than one year and the fair value has therefore been approximated by the outstanding principal.

The Partnership's surplus funds are held with the City of Edinburgh Council.

The Council's Treasury Management Team continue to monitor market and forecast interest rates during the year and adjust investment policies accordingly.

Price risk

The Partnership does not invest in equity shares.

Foreign Exchange risk

As at 31 March 2023, the Partnership had financial assets of £212,000 subject to foreign exchange risk.

The foreign exchange loss or gain on these financial assets cannot be determined until 2023/24, when the Partnership is in receipt of the related grant income from the European Regional Development Fund.

The Partnership has no financial liabilities denominated in foreign currencies.

26. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A service provider for the Go e-Bike project has been subject to liquidation proceedings and has ceased to exist. Officers of the Partnership are clarifying ownership of the project equipment and are seeking to progress service provision with an alternative service provider. Discussion is also taking place with project funders.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the members of South East of Scotland Transport Partnership and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran) for the year ended 31 March 2023 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the 2022/23 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the body as at 31 March 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2022/23 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed by the Accounts Commission on 3 April 2023. My period of appointment is five years, covering 2022/23 to 2026/27. I am independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the body. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the body's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the body's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the body's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the Audit Scotland website.

Risks of material misstatement

I report in my Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer and Partnership Board for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Contd.)

Responsibilities of the Treasurer and Partnership for the financial statements (Contd.)

In preparing the financial statements, the Treasurer is responsible for assessing the body's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the body's operations.

The Partnership is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 are significant in the context of the body;
- inquiring of the Treasurer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the body;
- inquiring of the Treasurer concerning the body's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the body's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited part of the Remuneration Report

I have audited the parts of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration Report have been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

Other information

The Treasurer is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Contd.)

Other information (Contd.)

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Christopher Gardner

Audit Scotland

8 Nelson Mandela Place

Glasgow

G1 2BT

Date: _____