



Remote Chief Officer Liaison Group Meeting
14:00 Wednesday 22nd May 2024
Microsoft Teams

Present:

Brian Butler	SEStran
Keith Fiskin	SEStran
Rachael Murphy	SEStran
Michael Melton	SEStran
Beth Harley-Jepson	SEStran
Cheryl Fergie	SEStran
Jamie Robertson	City of Edinburgh Council
Hannah Ross	City of Edinburgh Council
Peter Forsyth	East Lothian Council
Graeme Johnstone	Scottish Borders Council
Jason Hedley	Scottish Borders Council
Lesley Deans	Clackmannanshire Council
Christopher Cox	Falkirk Council
Anna Herriman	Midlothian Council

Apologies:

Iain Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council
Kevin Anderson	Midlothian Council

Ref.		Actions
1.	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
	The Chair welcomed the Officers to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising	
	The minutes from Wednesday 14 th February were agreed as a correct record. BB asked CF to check if the Develop to Deliver report had been circulated.	CF
3.	Regional Bus Strategy – The Case for Change	
	Rachael Murphy ran through the work completed by SEStran so far and the findings are noted as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition in the region • Decline of bus patronage • Subsidising weekend and evening services 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited connections between LAs • Policy and reality are not meeting • There is a case for change <p>RM then highlighted statistics relating to households in the region and noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022-23 local authorities in the SEStran area spent £13 million on annual bus subsidies for tendered mileage • 4% do not have access to a bus stop • 50% (with bus access) outside of Edinburgh have no direct bus to Edinburgh • 8% have no service after 1900 • 18% have no access to bus services after 2200 on a weekday • 10% do not have a Sunday service (rising to 17% outside Edinburgh) <p>RM stated the executive summary will be shared with the Partnership Board in June, this will be circulated to the COs beforehand to collect thoughts and feedback.</p> <p>The case for change will be ready in May, the options appraisal will be in August and the draft strategy ready in December to go to public consultation next year.</p> <p>PF asked what the TPOs were for this, KF stated once the case for change is gathered policy objectives will be defined within the options appraisal.</p> <p>GJ noted SBC have found this process to be valuable. There is additional information to add to the process on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability • 5 year cycle • Local companies can't afford to put the services on • Taxi bus operation <p>GJ asked will there be recommendations that come out of this. RM said this is not solution led and it's too early to say. An agreed understanding will be defined working through the steps.</p> <p>BB stated bus franchising might be an option also looking into BSIPS and a whole range of solutions, but the main thing is to define the case for change first.</p>	RM
4.	Procurement of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	
	<p>Brian Butler gave a brief update:</p> <p>LAs are at different stages but have agreed to be part of the exploration for the EV charging infrastructure. Decisions will be made whether they are going collaboratively or not by September.</p> <p>A steering group has been set up with Officers from all councils, TS and Scotland Excel. A PM should be in place today or tomorrow, their main objectives will be developing an EV task force, PID and project plan. Everything should be in place for the meeting in two weeks.</p>	
5.	People and Place Plan	

	<p>Michael Melton presented slides and updated the group on where SEStran are with the People and Place Plan, and ran through the split of funding and the following points were covered and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3million funding for the region • Consistent data collection, SEStran with compile and evaluate • Mitigate impact of single year funding • Consultancy should be in place within a fortnight • 5 year delivery plan, finalised by end of 2024 • Capital revenue split • Fund accordingly for 25/26 <p>HR asked why funding is split between capital and revenue. MM said SEStran have tried to challenge this with TS and not been given a reason. TS initially split the finding 60% revenue and 40% capital. This has now been changed to 40% revenue and 60% capital. HR would like to discuss this further.</p> <p>LD with such large sums of money timescales are an issue when having to procure, sharing procurement knowledge may be useful.</p> <p>BB noted TS have said they may allow to draw down some funding in advance but are still not committing to multi year funding. BB will email Alan Martin for clarification.</p> <p>JR agrees one year funding is inefficient.</p> <p>PF also has concerns around the capital and revenue split. Long term financial strategy should be in place for maintenance etc.</p> <p>BB encouraged LAs to feedback their concerns to TS.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>BB</p>
6.	Council Requisitions	
	<p>Brian Butler updated the COs: SEStran receive £190000 a year from our eight Councils. This amount has not been raised for a long time. TS are encouraging RTPs to ask for an increase, this has not been decided yet. It will be useful to explore this before the next COs meeting. BB asked COs to supply contacts within Councils who will be able to help get council requisition invoices settled.</p>	COs
7.	RTS Delivery Plan	
	<p>Rachael Murphy provided the COs with a brief update. The aim of the RTS Delivery plan is create a pipeline of larger regional projects that SEStran are keen to help find funding for. The first meeting took place last week, there was a lot of positive discussion. The next meeting will be held in June, Brian Butler and Kevin Anderson will chair jointly.</p>	

	<p>SEStran want to hear from transport planning colleagues, please let people know if you think they should be part of this work. BB stated the regional transport masterplan has now become the RTS Delivery Plan. RM to circulate the PID to COs</p>	RM
8.	Network Resilience/Climate Adaptation	
	<p>Brian Butler led a brief discussion on Network Resilience/Climate Adaptation, the following points were raised and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate will change and weather will worsen • The need to identify critical transport networks • COs to share if they have a Climate Adaptation Plan • Collaborative working to identify risks <p>LD put a link to the SCOTS survey in the meeting chat https://www.nhtnetwork.co.uk/isolated/data/ukrlgsurvey/new/bespoke/1334</p> <p>PF agreed sharing outputs from other LAs would be useful. BB agreed to pull something together and circulate.</p>	BB
9.	Go SEStran	
	<p>Michael Melton presented slides on the GoSEStran app, this provided a quick update on key findings so far, SEStran's current position and then raised questions for the COs. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More focus on demand response transport • High access to healthcare element • Existing funding/contract remains until September • Making the app more relevant to specific areas • Local or National • Integrate VoyagAR • End to end travel restricted due to lack of smart ticketing • Integrated ticketing to be considered • Accountability from traveline for quality of data • How other apps perform <p>BB suggested inviting the National Smart Ticketing Board to give a short presentation at the next COs meeting to update. The idea of inviting a traveline representative and TS was also suggested.</p>	BB
10.	Real Time Passenger Information Screens	
	<p>Keith Fiskien gave an update on RTPI and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data underpins everything and needs aligned • Currently 14 out of 15 operators feeding into the system • Lothian Buses not currently feeding into the system, this should happen from end of June • Screens not matching with apps • Better sharing of data 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working towards less service disruption • Risk of reputational damage • Looking at regulations through the Bus Strategy • Working with operators at a regional level 	
11.	Council Updates	
	Brian Butler stated the Chief Officers Liaison Group should be an informative exchange group and didn't want it to be one sided. LAs are doing some amazing work that SEStran think would be helpful to feed into this group. If you are finalising strategies or plans or starting big projects, it would be great to raise these things at this meeting to update transport colleagues or neighbouring authorities.	
12.	Draft Partnership Board Agenda	
	Keith Fisker ran through the agenda items for the next Partnership Board meeting. KF will lead on this with Cllr Russel Imrie in the Chair.	
13.	AOCB	
	There were no other business matters raised.	
14.	Date of Next Meeting	
	The proposed date of the next meeting is scheduled for 2:00pm on 21 August 2024	