

PROJECTS AND STRATEGY PERFORMANCE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the performance of the Partnership's strategy and project workstreams in Quarter 2 of 2025/26.

2 PROJECTS AND STRATEGY Q1 REPORT

- 2.1 Appendix 1 gives a breakdown of progress of each project within Q2, including against budget and milestones. The risk register and issues log is subject to a separate report on this agenda.
- 2.2 Generally, projects are on timeframe. 3 projects currently have minor delays, and 1 project has a major delay. 25% of milestones are currently complete and 7% are delayed, with the remainder on track. A milestone calendar has been included as Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Some key project and strategy updates over the quarter include:
- 2.3.1 A procurement exercise was undertaken to support the delivery of a Case for Change as part of our Transport to Health project. Urban Foresight has been appointed and will be leading on the delivery of a public and stakeholder consultation in Q3 with the aim of addressing the research gaps previously identified in the Literature Review.
- 2.3.2 Preparations for the *SEStran at 20* event continue to progress – the date and venue are now set, and invites have been sent out. The agenda has been confirmed and includes the launch of our regional bus strategy, presentations on current work and the history of SEStran.
- 2.3.3 SEStran is part of a successful funding bid to the Transport Scotland ZE HDV Skills Challenge Fund 2025-26 - project called SCOT-ZED: Supporting Careers and Opportunity in Transport – for Zero Emission Diversity in the ZE HDV Sector. SEStran will be working with partners Glasgow University and University of West of England to deliver this by March 2026.
- 2.3.4 The public consultation for the Regional Bus Strategy was completed having received over 5000 responses. The consultants have commenced the preparation of a report on the responses, including analysis of the 1600 open text responses received
- 2.3.5 City of Edinburgh Council successfully bid for Bus Infrastructure Funding, meaning that SEStran and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal can progress the mass transit theme of the RTS Delivery Plan, to develop *Project SEStransit*. Local authority partners, Transport Scotland and Network Rail gathered in Edinburgh to discuss the scope and structure of the work stream, as well as to consider maximising pre-existing work like local development plans

2.4 People and Place

- 2.4.1 The key project progress under the 5 themes (plus access to cycles and the community grant fund) has been as follows:
- 2.4.2 As part of our **access to cycles** programme, cycle storage schemes across most LAs have begun procurement and delivery for workplaces, residential and school sites. Fife Council have identified 20 community centres for install of bike repair stations and scooter parking. The Clackmannanshire Council Staff e-bike fleet continues to be promoted internally and has enabled a travelled distance of 450km since July 2025 (replacing vehicle miles with sustainable journeys). The Cycle Access Fund run by Cycling UK is continuing to support repair and recycling organisations across the region, with 50% of this funding now allocated. The Bike Station Wee Bike Library loaned out 110 bikes to kids and 12 loans of cargo bikes. Transition St Andrews have loaned out 90 bikes to students since the term started.
- 2.4.3 With **schools and young people**, The Bike Station in Edinburgh delivered 27 Learn to Ride sessions in schools (128 attendees), 12 adult cycling sessions, 18 Maintenance sessions (58 attendances), and 12 Dr Bike events with 90 bikes checked. In East Lothian Walk to school week reached over 90% of primary school pupils. Clackmannanshire Council installed 5 active travel zone maps at primary schools with launch events and engagement as part of this. The FEL Schools Officer working in partnership with Linlithgow Community Development Trust are delivering curriculum-linked initiatives, active travel roadshows, buggy walks, and community engagement. Sustrans' I Bike delivery was continued in Edinburgh, West Lothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders. Ongoing engagement activities have been delivered, including 180 young people receiving bike servicing in Edinburgh, 200 pupils taking part in scooter sessions in West Lothian. WOW continues to be delivered across a number of LAs in the region. 70,067 active trips have been recorded across the region since the start of term. Scottish Cycling have been delivering cycling sessions in Dunfermline with 60 young people attending.
- 2.4.4 Under the **workplaces** theme, the Bio-Quarter project has delivered monthly Dr Bike sessions, nature walks, a travel plan and car sharing review and 1-2-2 cycle training. Travel Know How is progressing work with 3 NHS boards. Work is about to start on engaging with staff and students at Fife College. Greener Kirkcaldy continue their e-bike loans with NHS Fife at Victoria Hospital. Loans continue to be popular and the loan term will now be extended to 3 months.
- 2.4.5 **Accessibility and inclusion** consists of a range of projects, which includes work in East Lothian, Fife, and SBC continuing with the street audits that were begun in 2024/25. Progress has been made on scheduling and delivery of works, with dropped kerbs work commencing in Musselburgh in East Lothian and tactile paving at a school in Fife. SBC are continuing audits in two towns to develop a pipeline of delivery. Midlothian have started production of materials for their new active travel mascot and have a community event planned for October. Midlothian are also planning a community step count challenge focussed on new housing developments. FEL Scotland continue their referral project with NHS Rheumatology clinicians, smart turbo trainers and bikes have been added to increase the accessibility of the project. CEC have commenced their social prescribing project

with three targeted presentations and two focus groups. Clackmannanshire supported a Cycling awareness day in Alloa town centre with a range of partners. Fife Council Bums off seats campaign held 48 led walks with 600 people attending. SBC have launched a new behaviour change campaign Ridonkulous in Hawick. The campaign is seeking to encourage walking, wheeling or cycling for short everyday trips.

- 2.4.6 Work around **capacity and capability building** has included the planning of three more local shared learning and networking events to take place in early October and bring together LAs, delivery partners and community groups. The Falkirk Behaviour Change Strategy has been reviewed and work is ongoing to finalise it. Work has commenced in West Lothian to develop their behaviour change strategy. The Programme Evaluation report for 2024/25 has been published and shared with all partners. Following the recommendations from this report, we have developed tailored M&E guidance to allow funded organisations to follow a more structured and standardised monitoring approach. We have also started a quarterly newsletter to support knowledge sharing and highlight projects. There are plans to trial a Local Authority joint meeting in Q3/4 to facilitate partnership working and knowledge sharing.
- 2.4.7 On **sustainable transport** projects, the Clackmannanshire Eye Health Transport Scheme initiative with Clackmannanshire Council and NHS Forth Valley has launched. Initially a one day per week bus service to Falkirk Community Hospital from Clackmannanshire, for patients who cannot access this service using public transport. Locations for the CoMoUK pop up mobility hub have been agreed, the hub was in place in Granton in Edinburgh as a test case for a permanent hub. It has now been moved to Hawick and will then move to Haddington. In East Lothian, a contract has been awarded for a new pool car/ car club project. Cars will be located in 4 East Lothian towns. Also in East Lothian, three sites for journey hubs have plans in place to deliver wayfinding totems and they have also been assessed with plans to bring them up to CoMoUK accreditation standards.
- 2.4.8 The 15 funded **community projects** are delivering a range of activities across the region, with a good mix of support for walking and cycling initiatives. Walk It in the Scottish Borders continues to deliver across 4 locations and is looking at potential options for expanding to new locations. The eBikes for Borderers project in Melrose has started working with a local bike recycling organisation for support with hires, servicing and repairs. Parents for Future Scotland has 10 schools actively engaged in Edinburgh and have collected detailed insights into family travel habits and perceptions from 124 parents. Getting there together in north Edinburgh are running led walks, Dr bikes and cycle training with 60 bikes serviced and 43 attendees on led walks.
- 2.5 The processing of Q2 grant claims is underway, currently we are anticipating a slightly lower value compared to the forecasted total claim for this quarter.

3 COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING UPDATE

- 3.1 Communications and marketing achievements include:
- Monthly newsletters and blog posts produced and distributed

- Regular posts on LinkedIn, leading to increased engagement and followers.
- Successful promotion of our bus strategy consultation across all channels, including paid Meta which helped contribute to over 5,000 responses.
- Our Thistle Assistance digital awareness campaign was highly commended in Campaign of the Year category at the National Transport Awards. There were 11 entries shortlisted and we effectively came second.
- Three factsheets produced on our work: People and Place, Transport to Health and RTPI screens
- Continuing our SEStran at 20 work, including procuring a creative agency to work on a digital version of the SEStran vision.
- Publishing our 2024/25 Annual Report.

4 OTHER AREAS OF WORK

- 4.1 Monthly attendance at Winchburgh Station Steering Group and South of Scotland EV Steering group. Attended the Falkirk and Fife Community Planning partnerships.
- 4.2 Responded to the following consultations:
- Scottish Borders Council: Draft Active Travel Strategy Consultation 2025
 - Public Health Scotland's Strategy
 - Public Transport Ticketing Block Exemption
 - Scottish Government Draft Environment Strategy Consultation
 - Draft Climate Change Plan Scrutiny 2025
 - Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy
 - Midlothian's Draft Local Transport Strategy

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report

Michael Melton
Programme Manager
 24th October 2025

Appendix 1: 2025/26 Q2 Projects and Strategy Report

Appendix 2: Current Milestone Calendar

Policy Implications	Outlined project work contributes to the objectives identified within the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy.
Financial Implications	All project work is delivered within confirmed budgets.
Equalities Implications	There are no adverse equalities implications arising from SEStran projects. Several projects actively work to reduce inequalities.
Climate Change Implications	There are no negative climate change implications arising from SEStran projects. Several projects actively work to tackle climate change through the creation of, or support for more sustainable transport options.

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£70,500.00	£534,500.00	£464,000.00
Current Budget	£33,500.00	£504,094.62	£470,594.62
Current Actual	£0.00	£41,806.07	
Current Remaining	£33,500.00	£462,288.55	
Predicted Future Spend	£33,500.00	£451,696.82	
Predicted total spend	£33,500.00	£493,502.89	£460,002.89
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£10,591.73	£10,591.73

	Count	Current Exp Budget	% Exp Budget
Major Delay	1	£51,500	10.2%
Minor Delay	3	£121,385	24.1%
On Target	10	£331,210	65.7%
Underspend >£5k	0	£0	0.0%
Underspend <£5k	0	£0	0.0%
On Budget	13	£461,270	91.5%
Overspend <£5k	1	£42,825	8.5%
Overspend >£5k	0	£0	0.0%
Total	14	£504,095	

Projects Programme and Financial Summary										
Project	Finance Status	Change Since Last Quarter	Programme Status	Change Since Last Quarter	Current Inc Budget	Current Inc Prediction	Current Inc Variance	Current Exp Budget	Current Exp Prediction	Current Exp Variance
Multi Modal Interchanges	On Budget		Major Delay		£0	£0	£0	£51,500	£51,500	£0
Freight Strategy Delivery	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£0
Regional Cycle Network	On Budget		Minor Delay		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
RTPI & Ticketing	On Budget		On Target		£9,500	£9,500	£0	£19,500	£19,500	£0
Regional Bus Strategy	On Budget		Minor Delay		£0	£0	£0	£66,385	£61,577	£4,807
RTS Delivery Plan	On Budget		Minor Delay		£0	£0	£0	£55,000	£55,001	-£1
SEStran at Twenty	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£40,385	£34,600	£5,785
Rail Strategy	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£13,500	£13,500	£0
Data Strategy	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£0
Thistle Assistance	Overspend <£5k		On Target		£24,000	£24,000	£0	£42,825	£42,825	£0
Transport to Health Strategy	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£60,000	£60,000	£0
Regional Bike Share	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£25,000	£25,000	£0
Sustainable Travel Awareness	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£10,000	£0
Project Consultancy Support	On Budget		On Target		£0	£0	£0	£20,000	£20,000	£0
Total					£33,500	£33,500	£0	£504,095	£493,503	£10,592

Project Name	Multi Modal Interchanges
Current Exp Budget	£51,500
Project Code	
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskén
Project Partners	All 8 Local Authorities
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	31/07/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
Major Delay

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£35,000.00	£100,000.00	£65,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£51,500.00	£51,500.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£0.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£51,500.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£51,500.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£51,500.00	£51,500.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	4	57%
Delayed	0	0%
Overdue	2	29%
Complete	1	14%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
Working in line with the Regional Bus Strategy, and strategies developed in 2020, this study will develop recommendations for hub sites in the SEStran region. This will be further developed in Q3 based on the outcomes of the bus strategy and once we have located counters to collect data at key sites.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
•Deliver the eight pilot multi-modal mobility hubs as defined in the SEStran Mobility Hub study	Deliver improved integration Understand local demands for multi-modal hubs and the most appropriate solutions Work with partners to ensure best practice	Refreshed interchange strategy Understanding of the current landscape Awareness of local authority interchange work
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
The project has been stalled by being included in the Bus Infrastructure Funding bid, taken forward by CEC on behalf of the bus alliance. Nonetheless, we have completed the brief, so it's ready to go as soon as we know the quantum of funding available. All future milestones may need to be adjusted once the funding position is clearer. Happily, we will most likely receive the public consultation of the bus strategy before much more progress is achieved, and that should help us understand public priorities.		
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
As Project SEStran progresses, we are looking at project overlap. As part of this, the interchange work will be incorporated into the wider SEStran project which is being financially managed by City of Edinburgh Council as part of BIF. Any gaps remaining can be addressed in 26/27 which will ensure there is no delivery overlap. The funding allocated to this project, £65k, could be reallocated in several ways: Option 1: Shift money into 2526 Stantec work Option 2: Earmark money for SEStran's portion of 2627 RTSDP work Option 3: Earmark money for RBS 2627 work Option 4: Spend differently in 2526		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Freight Strategy Delivery
Current Exp Budget	£50,000
Project Code	
SEStran Lead	Keith Fiskin
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskin
Project Partners	Falkirk, CEC, Fife, MoD, Forth Ports
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	01/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£0.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£50,000.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£50,000.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	5	63%
Delayed	0	0%
Overdue	1	13%
Complete	2	25%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
By continuing our work on freight, we will build local authority capacity and knowledge.		
We expect our role to become more one of support and promotion, but will stay responsive to opportunities as they arise.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
Work with partners to identify, through the further development of the SEStran Freight Strategy, locations where gauge clearances should be increased to enable new and enhanced rail freight services to operate in the region Further develop proposals for new rail freight services, including a potential multi-user freight train running from Grangemouth Explore innovative approaches to movement of freight, tram, passenger trains, drones etc.	Improved local authority awareness and capability - Freight included in LDPs & LTS Freight strategy refresh	Updated regional freight strategy Inform Forth Green Free Port transport plan - supporting Alloa to Rosyth corridor Business case development for test projects
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Review of pre-existing work and outline plan for future work drafted Funding bids entered and results awaited Freight appearing as ket theme of RTSDP work, so planning of freight specific workshop underway Met with Green Freeport infrastructure group & MoD to discuss potential transport options		
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Funding bid to the Transport Scotland ZE HDV Skills Challenge Fund 2025-26 was succesful - project called SCOT-ZED: Supporting Careers and Opportunity in Transport – for Zero Emission Diversity in the ZE HDV Sector. SEStran will be working with partners Glasgow University and University of West of England to deliver this by March 2026. Presented Project SEStransit to Green Free port Infrastucture Sub committee - group will explore how to develop plan for GFP to integrate freight		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Regional Cycle Network
Current Exp Budget	£0
Project Code	92082
SEStran Lead	Beth Harley-Jepson
SEStran Manager	Michael Melton
Project Partners	All 8 Local Authorities
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	05/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
Minor Delay

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£0.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£0.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£0.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	3	50%
Delayed	2	33%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	1	17%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
Mapping of the regional cycle network to provide a single source of information on existing infrastructure and future plans. The project will involve the collation of data from Local Authorities and help identify gaps in the current and proposed network and support Local Authorities to work collaboratively on connecting cross boundary routes. This will not involve the design/delivery of infrastructure projects.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
- Progress the delivery of the SEStran Strategic Network and broader cross boundary networks with partners. Develop further phases of this network to ensure a long-term pipeline of investment - Review destinations served by the active travel network to identify gaps and locations where cross-boundary schemes may be required to ensure an integrated, high quality network exists	- Develop a uniform approach to mapping cycling infrastructure across the region - Create a shared mapping resource that can be accessed by all Local Authorities - Work with Local Authorities to identify opportunities to support cross boundary connections - Create a story map to highlight the extent of the existing network	- Creation of a baseline map of the existing cycle network - Identify gaps in current mapping data - Support the development of a unified approach to mapping cycle infrastructure - Mapping resource for current and future cycle network across the region
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Held meeting with CEC to discuss development of a Regional Cycle Network and developing a consistent approach to mapping of infrastructure.		Identified a preferred uniform approach to mapping infrastructure that aligns with Sustrans approach.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Propose to take to the RTSDP grouping to secure senior buy-in to the approach. Met with Fife Council active travel and networks to agree approach. Engaged with Ewan Doyle about discussing as part of mass transit work. Met with Marked and scheduled meeting with Hitrans to explore potential of tool/data gathering to support this work.		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	RTPI & Ticketing
Current Exp Budget	£19,500
Project Code	92019
SEStran Lead	Rebecca Smith
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskin
Project Partners	7 Local Authorities plus Stirling Council (not inc ELC)
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	16/09/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£11,500.00	£21,500.00	£10,000.00
Current Budget	£9,500.00	£19,500.00	£10,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£0.00	
Current Remaining	£9,500.00	£19,500.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£9,500.00	£19,500.00	
Predicted total spend	£9,500.00	£19,500.00	£10,000.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	4	67%
Delayed	1	17%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	1	17%

Source of Any Income: Scotrail and Local Authorities

Project Summary		
SEStran currently work on two projects supporting real time passenger information available across the region: 1. Purchase and maintenance of around 160 indoor RTPI PCs and screens placed in public buildings (hospitals, Council buildings etc.) 2. A framework which enables LAs to purchase and maintain RTPI screens for the regional bus network as well as using the Novus FX system to update information timetables and services		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
• Introduce Real Time Passenger Information for public transport services through mobile applications, stations and stops and across all parts of the region Deliver integrated ticketing systems, potentially incorporating far capping, which can be used across all modes of public transport and operators, taking into account the digital provision differences in urban and rural areas	• To increase the real time public transport information available across the region To improve the quality of information available via RTPI and app platforms across the region To champion for ticketing options which supports accessible multi-mode journeys	• More screens being online for users of the public transport network Information being trusted by the public as reliable and up-to-date Encourage smart ticketing to be trialled and improved across the region Link with other RTPs/ LAs to increase economies of scale for RTPI infrastructure and customer support
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Asset register tagging progress - EL screens tagged and issues raised with provider Journeo - on track Meeting with Journeo to monitor SLA and screen issues Added new requested locations for indoor screens to list (from RM's Transport to Health work)		3 screens back online to provide RTPI information in various public sector buildings - screens online now at 56%
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Meetings with new locations - charity sector and NHS sites. Potential for digital widget to be set up to provide PT information without the PC and screen infrastructure. 70% of locations now have site asset tagged, tags sent to the organisation, or have been flagged as inaccessible.		Increasing engagement with new and existing locations has allowed us to raise the profile of the work. Discussions around creating information 'widgets' which can be installed into the organisation's own equipment offers the opportunity to provide high quality information without the infrastructure. The widget is being developed by the provider and will be tested in Q3.
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Regional Bus Strategy
Current Exp Budget	£66,385
Project Code	92087
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskén
Project Partners	All 8 Local Authorities
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	05/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
Minor Delay

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£71,000.00	£71,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£66,384.62	£66,384.62
Current Actual	£0.00	£5,727.22	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£60,657.40	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£55,850.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£61,577.22	£61,577.22
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£4,807.40	£4,807.40

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	0	0%
Delayed	1	25%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	3	75%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
The RTS sees the bus network at the heart of the region’s public transport system, building alongside the National Transport Strategy (NTS2). Almost half (47%) of residents across the South East of Scotland used a bus service at least once a month in 2019 and patronage is building back. At SEStran’s June Partnership Board Meeting, the Towards a World Class Bus Service paper begun the process of shaping a Regional Bus Strategy for the South East of Scotland.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
• Undertake a Regional Bus Connectivity study for non-Edinburgh travel to identify settlement pairs where travel demand is high and bus services are poor, as a means to promoting new routes and connectivity (in partnership with other policies) •Undertake a Regional Bus Priority study which will identify regional, cross-boundary, quality bus corridors and key bus priority interventions to reduce bus journey times and improve bus journey time reliability where Edinburgh is likely to be a focus •Deliver the bus priority interventions funded by Transport Scotland's Bus Partnership Fund and subsequently identified by the Regional Bus Priority study •Review the bus powers detailed in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and identify if they could be implemented across all or parts of the region within an integrated strategy to enhance the bus network	To continue strategic progress from 24/25 To engage partners/ public in bus opportunities To build consensus around the best path forward	Worked up options, based on case for change and review of policies. Work Package 3: Appraisal of Delivery Options Work Package 4: Consultation on the Draft Strategy Work Package 5: Finalise Strategy
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Whilst progress and engagement have been strong, members of the board, including the chair, have suggested that pushing the completion date of the strategy out would allow more review time after the public consultation. As such, milestones have been adjusted.		SEStran staff reviewed the draft policies which had been considered by the board/ working group from Integrated Mobility Forum/ operators and local authorities. The policies had been ranked against their reception with these audiences, as well as their deliverability. A shorter list of questions is being compiled to form the public consultation.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
The public consultation has been published and is receiving significant attention. 5000 plus responses		The consultation is underway with specific comms for each LA in hope of regional equity Reception has been enthused and should provide a strong basis from which to launch the strategy.
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	RTS Delivery Plan
Current Exp Budget	£55,000
Project Code	92042
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskin
Project Partners	All 8 Local Authorities
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	05/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
Minor Delay

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£55,000.00	£55,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£55,000.00	£55,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£8,379.67	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£46,620.33	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£46,621.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£55,000.67	£55,000.67
Predicted Variance	£0.00	-£0.67	-£0.67

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	7	78%
Delayed	0	0%
Overdue	1	11%
Complete	1	11%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
Building on the ESESCRD and SEStran Concordat, this delivery plan will highlight projects Local Authorities want to develop that exemplify the themes and objectives of the RTS. By identifying these opportunities, we can make best use of CRD and SEStran efforts and actively pursue funding for these.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
Partner councils work with SEStran through the statutory planning processes to implement RTS policies with regards to major developments	Identifies strategically important infrastructure and integration projects Identify priority projects to be delivered in the next 10 years. Identify priority projects to be developed further. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan Maintenance of an up-to-date matrix of projects in the region	Up to date and useful tool with local authorities project proposals GIS mapping to view projects on boundaries and their potential link-ups PowerBI tool, to quickly assess projects against chosen criteria like RTS or RPF them
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Progress on the delivery plan has been stalled whilst SEStran and City Region Deal seek clarity on the STPR2 Delivery Plan commitments as any changes to the priorities identified in STPR2 will need to be assessed and priorities through the RTS Delivery Plan matrix before the project can move to the next stage.		Progress on the delivery plan has been stalled whilst SEStran and City Region Deal seek clarity on the STPR2 Delivery Plan commitments as any changes to the priorities identified in STPR2 will need to be assessed and priorities through the RTS Delivery Plan matrix before the project can move to the next stage.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Successful BIF funding has progressed MT theme to develop Project SEStran Data theme progressing with our work with Arup. Freight progressing via strategy work Decarb unprogressed RCN progressing AT theme Interchanges options need to be agreed		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	SEStran at Twenty
Current Exp Budget	£40,385
Project Code	
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskén
Project Partners	LAS, TS,
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	05/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£40,000.00	£40,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£40,385.00	£40,385.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£5,400.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£34,985.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£29,200.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£34,600.00	£34,600.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£5,785.00	£5,785.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	5	50%
Delayed	0	0%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	5	50%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
Having been founded in 2005, RTPs have existed for two decades, an anniversary that should be celebrated.		
We plan to celebrate this milestone with events and a re-publication of the RTS vision.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
N/A	To celebrate the milestone of our RTS To engage stakeholders and make new connections Display the vision that guides our RTS in a more engaging way	Event series, perhaps linked to board meetings Final, major event Rich picture version of RTS vision
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
We have produced three newsletters, blog posts, factsheets. The annual report is nearly complete A provisional date has been sent for a celebration event (Dec 4 2025) Chair have been updated on suggested agenda SEStran at 20 Teams backgrounds created		
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
TBP brought on Cab sec agreeing to speak Manifesto development diaried in - first draft complete Vision work procured and progressing Event booked and invites sent out. Agenda almost finalised.		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Data Paper
Current Exp Budget	£50,000
Project Code	
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskén
Project Partners	WFM
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	30/09/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£0.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£50,000.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£50,000.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	2	22%
Delayed	2	22%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	5	56%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
We will build an understanding of how our local authorities, other RTPs, Transport Scotland, and partner organisations like ESESCRD think about mapping and data challenges and opportunities.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
Drawing on the findings of the monitoring reports, revisit the RTS when the post-pandemic picture has stabilised to determine any policy adjustments required to reflect the ‘new normal’ circumstances	To understand what partner organisations do around mapping and data To build internal skill set on GIS, and associated data/ mapping products To consider what we can learn from open data sources and how it could impact our work.	Discovery Paper on Data and Mapping Inventory of data and mapping resources and capacity within the organisation
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
We are meeting the milestones attached to this project, and are now working in Miro to understand more about what we already have access to/ would need to pay for.		We have: - compiled a list of questions to answer - contacted Transport Scotland about their data strategy - begun data Miro board for organisation -met with UT's leads on data - begun analysis of RCN
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Outline meeting with Arup and proposal shared with us Comments returned Waiting for second draft proposal		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Thistle Assistance
Current Exp Budget	£42,825
Project Code	92077
SEStran Lead	Sandra Lavergne
SEStran Manager	Michael Melton
Project Partners	All RTPs
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	30/09/2025

Finance Status
Overspend <£5k
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£24,000.00	£32,000.00	£8,000.00
Current Budget	£24,000.00	£42,825.00	£18,825.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£12,344.03	
Current Remaining	£24,000.00	£30,480.97	
Predicted Future Spend	£24,000.00	£30,480.97	
Predicted total spend	£24,000.00	£42,825.00	£18,825.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	9	45%
Delayed	2	10%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	9	45%

Source of Any Income: Other RTPs

Project Summary		
Thistle Assistance (card and app) is a national scheme that provides support to users that may face additional barriers to access public transport. It eases the communication between users and transport staff to make the experience more accessible and enjoyable.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
Deliver improved public transport information in a variety of formats, supported by appropriate wayfinding infrastructure on the transport network,	Increase distribution of the Thistle Assistance programme Raise awareness of the scheme nationally and locally Increase engagement with transport providers	Improve the journey experience in public transport for people with disabilities and mobility challenges. Improve feeling of safety for people with disability and mobility challenges when taking public transport. Contribute to making public transport seen as more accessible by people with disability and mobility challenges, Thistle Assistance embedded into transport providers' staff induction and training programme.
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
The digital campaign delivered with Republic of Media ran for 6 weeks and was completed at the end of April 2025. The learning will help shape the next campaign, which is aimed to be delivered from September/October for 2 to 3 months, budget dependent. This campaign has been shortlisted as part of the National Transport Awards in the Campaign of the year category. Winners will be announced in October 2025. 5,000 cards / leaflets were ordered from current supplier to meet high demand during promotional campaign. All RTPs have been contacted to share highlights of 24/25. Meeting held with TS on 28/05/2025 to discuss progress to date. Printing and card distribution supplier appointed.		The digital campaign has been extremely successful and has contributed to increasing awareness of the scheme as well as increasing its uptake; it saw a total of 3,376 cards requested (up 2,477%) requested and 1,784 apps downloaded (up 5,147%). The project plan has been revised based on the lessons learned from the campaign and previous initiatives.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Minor amendments have been made on the card request form based on Lessons learnt. Further development work is currently being undertaken to collect personal information from card requests and app. This will be finalised by the end of October, after which the next campaign will be taking place (from November). Privacy notice being updated. Procurement exercise started to appoint a media agency for future promotional campaigns. Progress on stakeholder engagement: met with TS and all the RTPs for progress update. Transport operators survey distributed.		Update of the privacy policy and amendment on the types of personal data collected in line with data policies will enable: - distribution of future surveys directed at existing users - collection of additional user data Collection and analysis of this information will lead to a better understanding of the current audience of the scheme (and potential gaps, as well as use and impact of the scheme in the overall passenger experience. Transport operators survey will provide a more robust baseline on current awareness and engagement with the scheme by the operators.
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

Milestones					
Name	Due Date	Revised Date	Completed Date	Status	Last Updated
App quarterly maintenance Q1	30/06/25		05/05/25	Complete	30/07/25
Printing brief circulated to 3 potential suppliers	01/06/25		08/05/25	Complete	30/07/25
Printing supplier appointed	30/06/25		09/06/25	Complete	30/07/25
Provide key updates to the Board	20/06/25		20/06/25	Complete	30/07/25
POD laying out plans for 25/26 approved and signed off	30/09/25		01/08/25	Complete	01/08/25
First RTP Thistle Assistance meeting	30/09/25		01/09/25	Complete	01/09/25
Update privacy policy prior to any new marketing initiative	30/09/25		30/09/25	Complete	30/09/25
App quarterly maintenance Q2	30/09/25		03/07/25	Complete	30/07/25
Update card request form prior to any new marketing initiative	30/09/25	31/10/25		Delayed	30/09/25
Plan next digital marketing campaign	30/09/25	31/10/25		Delayed	30/09/25
Transport operator survey created and distributed	30/09/25		25/09/25	Complete	25/09/25
App quarterly maintenance Q3	19/12/25			On Track	30/09/25
Results from transport operator survey collected and analysed	19/12/25			On Track	30/09/25
Digital marketing campaign done	19/12/25			On Track	30/09/25
User survey created and distributed	19/12/25			On Track	30/09/25
Procurement exercise started to appoint a printer/distributor on a multi-year contract	19/12/25			On Track	30/09/25
App quarterly maintenance Q4	31/03/26			On Track	30/09/25
User survey analysed	31/03/26			On Track	30/09/25
High level project plan for 26/27 based on all data collected and recommendations	31/03/26			On Track	30/09/25
Procurement exercise finalised with a supplier appointed	31/03/26			On Track	30/09/25

Project Name	Transport to Health Strategy
Current Exp Budget	£60,000
Project Code	92062
SEStran Lead	Rachael Murphy
SEStran Manager	Keith Fiskien
Project Partners	NHS Boards
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	30/09/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£491.15	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£59,508.85	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£59,508.85	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	5	38%
Delayed	2	15%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	6	46%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
We started engagement with our region's four Health Boards and established a learning network creating a space for sharing knowledge and experience. Building on this, we've co-hosted an event with Public Health Scotland on Health and Sustainable Transport. Given the importance of this work, and many complex aspects, we have opted to develop a strategy for the region on Transport to Health.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
Support the delivery of bus services and infrastructure measures which ensure access to healthcare for all	Reduce barriers on access to health services in the region Continue collaborative work with key stakeholders in the health sector and beyond Integrate TtH into other areas of work led by SEStran	Gain a better understanding of existing projects / available data in the TtH sector in the region and beyond Try and assess the overall current spend in TtH and how to maximise impact Develop a case for change Maintain regular contacts and engagement with Health Boards and key stakeholders
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
We are progressing well against delivery of the strategy. Challenges remain around Health Board capacity to engage with the work. As such, we are going in person to meet each Board over the summer months to review the PID and TOR documents with them and understand any challenges specific to their geographies or partners.		Engagement Plan and Literature Review completed and published. We have produced a first draft of our PID and TOR documents for internal review These have been shared with the Health Boards for their comment. We have presented the Literature Review to our Shared Learning Network and our Board, taking note of suggested structure for future Strategy production. TS have included it in their reporting on the NTS2.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Meetings held with Borders, Lothian, Fife. Further meeting required for Fife and FV. Positive feedback from Fife. Further data collected by DES in August 2025 on disable people's experiences to access healthcare services; data can be compared to an initial survey distributed in 2019. C4C tender exercise finalised with Urban Foresight appointed. Public and stakeholder engagement will be taking place in Q3.		The C4C will focus on addressing partially or fully the identified research gaps from the Literature Review.
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

Project Name	Regional Bike Share
Current Exp Budget	£25,000
Project Code	92076
SEStran Lead	Beth Harley-Jepson
SEStran Manager	Michael Melton
Project Partners	Local cycling organisations
Lead Partner	SEStran
Last Updated	05/08/2025

Finance Status
On Budget
Programme Status
On Target

Budget	Income	Expenditure	SEStran Spend
Original Budget	£0.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Current Budget	£0.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Current Actual	£0.00	£2,488.00	
Current Remaining	£0.00	£22,512.00	
Predicted Future Spend	£0.00	£22,512.00	
Predicted total spend	£0.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Predicted Variance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Milestone Status	Count	Percentage
On Track	2	50%
Delayed	2	50%
Overdue	0	0%
Complete	0	0%

Source of Any Income: n/a

Project Summary		
This project will support access to cycles in the region by promoting opportunities for public bike share, connecting up existing community bike share projects and supporting the delivery of access to cycles projects. This project will continue to provide support to the existing go e-bike project locations where SEStran has assets. This will include support with training, maintenance and networking across the region. The e-bike employer trial will be continued, focusing on NHS sites in tandem with work through TravelKnowHow.		
RTS Actions	Project Objectives	Project Outcomes
• Identify locations where implementation of shared mobility solutions could be beneficial and reduce the level of ‘forced’ car ownership • Expand the provision of bike-sharing initiatives across the region	• Installation of a Brompton cycle hire unit and provision of 8 hire bikes in Haymarket Station or alternative site • Increase awareness and access to e-bikes as an option for commuting to work through three e-bike employer trials • Increase access to e-bikes to the public through supporting training and e-bike loans for community groups • Carry out promotion of existing Brompton lockers at QMU and Sherrifhall P&R	• More people are enabled to choose cycling as a trasnport mode • More people have the opportuniy to trial an e-bike and choose to switch to cycling for more of their journeys
Q1 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q1 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Employer trial has started in St Johns hospital for a 4 week period. Future locations are being explored in Midlothian and Edinburgh. We have several times attempted to receive confirmation from Scotrail about placement of a Brompton locker at Haymarket without receiving a response. If reponse not recieved by end of August, will explore whether there are any viable alternative locations.		Continuation of trial at St Johns, engaging 20+ staff members in utilising an e-bike for commuting journeys. Engaged with QMU to organise promotion of Brompton locker to students returning/starting in September. Ongoing support to existing community groups to engage in training.
Q2 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q2 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Engaged with Midlothian and East Lothian about potential locations for Brompton locker. E-bikes surplus to requirement moved to LCDT in Linlithgow to support local hires.		
Q3 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q3 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress
Q4 Project Progress and RAG status update		Q4 Objectives & RTS Actions Progress

[illegible]

