

People and Place Grant Awards

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to ask for Board approval to make one grant award under the People and Place programme that exceeds the delegated authority of the Partnership Director.

2 MAIN REPORT

- 2.1 As per the Grant Standing Orders, any grant awards to Local Authorities between £1million and £3million require approval from the Performance and Audit Committee, and awards over £3million require Board approval, prior to issuing. As the Board chooses to delegate decision making to the Performance and Audit Committee, it retains the right to make decisions that are normally delegated. The Board is being asked to make this decision at this special meeting to avoid delaying the award confirmation until the next Performance and Audit Committee meeting on 6th June.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 6th December 2024, the Board approved the People and Place Delivery Plan and, in line with the Grant Standing Orders, also approved the process for grants to be given to Local Authorities. This process has seen a collaborative approach taken to these grant awards, with indicative budgets set by SEStran for each LA area based on population, and discussions held as to how much of this funding would be spent directly by the LA, and how much would be available to delivery partners for specific projects. LAs have then developed detailed project proposals, with input from SEStran as needed, which have been reviewed by the SEStran team and approved by the Partnership Director.
- 2.3 As a result of this process, a grant award to City of Edinburgh Council of £1,041,079 is proposed. This covers all funding to CEC through People and Place – the Local Authority Delivery Support, Regional Priority Intervention Fund, and the Access to Cycles and Cycle Storage Fund. The total People and Place budget for 25/26 is £6,369,000. When regional projects and third party delivered access to cycles projects are removed, this leaves £3,982,253 – of which the total award to projects in Edinburgh (including from delivery partners) represents 32.1% (compared to a regional population share of 33%).

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Partnership Board is asked to approve the award of £1,041,079 to City of Edinburgh Council under the People and Place programme.

Michael Melton
Programme Manager
23rd April 2025

Policy Implications	The People and Place Plan aligns with the objectives of the RTS and therefore will help deliver on SEStran's policy objectives
Financial Implications	All costs are within the grant award from Transport Scotland, so there is no financial impact on the SEStran core budget. Funding agreements are in place for each grant to ensure funds are appropriately managed.
Equalities Implications	In supporting people to travel actively, the grants should have a positive impact on equalities. Specific elements of the grants have been designed to further support the accessibility of active travel, including a focus on the provision of adaptive bikes and a programme focused on physical barrier removal on pavements. An EqlA has been undertaken on the Plan and recommendations from this will be incorporated where possible.
Climate Change Implications	In promoting behaviour change from private cars to active travel, the grants will support the transition to net zero.