

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT SUMMIT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress of the South East Scotland Transport Summit.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This event will mark 20 years of Regional Transport Partnerships in Scotland, following the 2005 Transport Act, and will refocus efforts as we approach 10 years remaining of the Regional Transport Strategy.
- 2.2 The main purpose of the event is to influence key decision-makers and influencers ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary elections in 2026.
- 2.3 Over recent years, there has been much discussion about transport governance – the split of responsibilities between national, regional and local levels.
- 2.4 Recent developments, such as the advent of the People and Place Programme, have demonstrated that Regional Transport Partnerships are ideally placed to deliver cross-boundary programmes where a regional rather than national or local approach provides optimum benefits.
- 2.5 The summit presents a valuable opportunity to bring this opportunity to life in south east Scotland, by showcasing SEStran's past accomplishments, its present strategy and projects, and the role it can play in supporting future governmental objectives and priorities and tackling regional transport challenges.

3. MAIN REPORT

- 3.1 In June, SEStran officers met with the SEStran Chair and Deputy Chairs to discuss the potential of such an event, and to get their initial feedback on the proposed structure and format.
- 3.2 Following this guidance, officers have secured a venue – Surgeons' Quarter in Edinburgh – and begun inviting key stakeholders.
- 3.3 Invitations are being sent in batches to ensure that key attendees are given priority and that total numbers are contained within the capacity of the venue.
- 3.4 The current draft agenda is as follows. This is very much a work in progress and may change before the event.

Welcome and introduction	SEStran Chair
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Keynote Speech	Cabinet Secretary
History of RTPs	SEStran Deputy Chair
SEStran past, present and future	SEStran Partnership Director and former directors
Highlights of current SEStran projects	SEStran staff
Launch of Regional Bus Strategy	SEStran Strategy Manager
Workshop on the benefits of a regional approach	All participants
Title to be confirmed	Professor Kate Pangbourne of Leeds University

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1
- Confirm external speakers and finalise agenda details
 - Continue inviting guests and stakeholders

Rachael Murphy
Strategy Manager
 26 September 2025

Policy Implications	Progressing the strategy will deliver opportunities to work more closely with decision makers on realising SEStran policy.
Financial Implications	This work is budgeted for within the SEStran project budget.
Equalities Implications	Equity will be a key theme for staff to draw out throughout the event, particularly when talking about SEStran projects, the bus strategy and the future for SEStran. Accessibility was strongly considered when choosing the venue.
Climate Change Implications	Attendees will be encouraged to travel to the venue sustainably, and the venue has strong public transport connections.