Projects & EU Exit Update

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The report provides Chief Officers with an update on the current status and progress of the various projects SEStran is involved in and covers the position on the EU exit process.

2. Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

2.1 On 17th January 2019, SEStran held an RTPI Project meeting at the WYG Offices in Edinburgh. In attendance were representatives from Stagecoach East Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, Traveline Scotland, Borders Buses, Borders Council, and WYG.

2.2 Requests have been made to include more small operators into the RTPI system. WYG will investigate whether additional operators can be imported into the existing system.

2.3 For the short term, INEO agreed to continue providing their service until the end of 2018/19. SEStran will develop a plan to fill the gap until a replacement system comes into place.

2.4 Occasionally, incorrect information is displayed at the Galashiels interchange, which is most likely caused by out-of-date timetable information within the system or an incorrect interpretation of the calender by the system. WYG is currently investigating these issues. In the meantime, WYG will improve the failure message and refer to the timetable or Traveline website when no information is available on the screens.

2.5 The City of Edinburgh Council is finalising the preparation for a new content management system (CMS). The Procurement Team of the CEC have determined that a NEC Contract tender should be issued within the next couple of months. It is hoped to have the new system operating early in the new financial year. Bustracker SEStran will be integrated with the new CMS.

3. Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme (RCNGS)

3.1 SEStran's successful bids to Community Links funding have progressed well with studies approaching conclusion. Feasibility reports are due to be completed in the coming weeks with feedback to follow from Sustrans officers.

3.2 The study of Buckhaven-Kirkcaldy is due to progress with Fife Council to design subsequent to Sustrans feedback and public engagement.

3.3 The BioQuarter Active Travel corridor has progressed through to design along much of the route. Stakeholders were shown initial designs in January with further work to progress in cooperation with City of Edinburgh Council.

4. **Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland**

4.1 SEStran have procured services for the development of a feasibility study of the A701 for improvements to public transport, walking and cycling provisions. Ove Arup & Partners Ltd. have been awarded the contract for the amount of £34, 467.50.

4.2 SEStran in collaboration with Tactran will be procuring services to study the A9 corridor between Larbert and Stirling, with connections into the wider active travel network around Larbert.

5. **GO e-Bike**

5.1 In addition to the first four e-Bike hubs (currently operating in Fife, West Lothian and Falkirk), SEStran was awarded £300,000 in funding by the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund to expand on the GO e-Bike project. SEStran is currently in the process of selecting 6 more hubs across the region.

5.2 Assets have now been procured for Social Bite Village[1] in Edinburgh and Tweeddale Youth Action in Peebles[2] to develop two new hub sites. The launch of these two sites is likely to be early spring.

5.3 SEStran has been working with East Lothian and Midlothian Councils regarding the placement of the four further hubs. The location of these sites has now been identified with a view to link these hubs with a transport interchange in the town centres of Musselburgh and Dalkeith. Tender documents are currently being prepared to take this forward.

5.4 The GO e-Bike website is under construction with content being agreed between hubs.

5.5 Funded from the Sustainable Transport budget, SEStran on 9 January 2019, made a grant award of £107,915.00 for the development of two additional e-bike hubs under the Forth Valley Bike Share scheme developed by Forth Environment Link (FEL) for deployment in Falkirk & Clackmannanshire. This is based on an appropriate procurement exercise carried out by FEL and builds on SEStran's earlier investment in e-bike hubs and on support already secured by FEL from other stakeholders..

5.6 The decision to award the funding to FEL was taken by the Interim Partnership Director after consultation with the Partnership Chair in

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[1] http://social-bite.co.uk/the-social-bite-village/.
[2] http://tweeddaleyouth.co.uk/.

accordance with Clause 40 "Items of Urgency" of SEStran's Standing Orders (as amended August 2017) contained in the Partnership's Scheme of Delegation. This was necessary to provide sufficient time to ensure that the work could be completed during the current financial year.

Clause 40 requires that should such a decision be necessary between meetings of the Board, then it must be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

6.   Cycle Training & Development – Cycling Scotland

6.1   As part of trialling a new model for delivering Bikeability Scotland training in schools, a number of pilots are being developed within the SEStran region. One pilot is being explored in the Scottish Borders to support smaller rural schools where resources are more limited to deliver Bikeability training in a central location. A pilot in Edinburgh is also being considered to provide additional support to schools in more deprived areas to enable them to deliver Bikeability. Cycle training will also be offered as part of the development of the Go e-Bike hubs.

7.   Smarter Choices Smarter Places

7.1   SEStran was successful in a bid to the Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund in November 2018. SEStran was awarded £13,650 as a 50% match for a project to look at travel behaviour in and around Edinburgh.

7.2   SEStran will be working with Trivector Traffic AB, which has developed a mobile app to track how people journey, how far, how fast, why, and by what means. SEStran will be conducting a data collection period from the 4th – 31st March 2019.

7.3   SEStran will report the findings of this project in June.

8.   EU projects - update

8.1.1   **SHARE-North**[3] focuses on shared mobility modes and their potential to address sustainable transport challenges in the North Sea region. This includes developing, implementing, promoting and assessing car sharing, bike sharing, ride sharing and other forms of shared mobility in urban and rural areas and employment clusters. The planned living labs integrate modern technology with activities to support changes in mobility behaviour. The objectives include: resource efficiency, improving accessibility (including non-traditional target groups), increased efficiency in the use of transport infrastructure, reduction of space consumption for transport, and improving quality of life and low carbon transport.

8.1.2   On 12 December 2018, the EU North Sea Region Programme Secretariat announced that the SHARE-North project has been approved for an extension until December 2021.

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[3] http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/share-north/.

8.1.3 In the extension application, SEStran planned for the promotion of Tripshare (SEStran's carpool platform) in a region wide campaign and update the logo.

8.1.4 SEStran will also be working with Taxistop Belgium to replicate the 'Carpool Addict Label', which is a reward scheme for employers that continue to promote carpooling within the workplace. Earlier in February, SEStran's Project Officer travelled to Brussels to present Tripshare SEStran and exchange good practices at a 'Carpool Addict' event organised by Taxistop.

8.1.5 Lastly, SEStran will be working with several project partners to explore the introduction of 'Mobihubs' (mobility hubs) in the region, taking experiences from Bremen, Germany, and Bergen, Norway.[4] The aim of Mobihubs is to integrate shared mobility modes into one hub, making mobility more efficient and regaining valuable street space. Examples include combining a car sharing station with public transport, easy cycling and pedestrian access. SEStran is now in the process of identifying suitable locations for the implementation of Mobihubs and would welcome any suggestions from Chief Officers.

8.2.1 **REGIO-MOB**[5] aims to promote "learning, sharing of knowledge and transferring best practices between the participating regional and local authorities to design and implement regional mobility plans (or Regional Transport Strategies) bearing in mind the stakeholders with regional relevance and contributing to the sustainable growth of Europe".

8.2.2 As part of the monitoring of action plans, SEStran reported the delay in the first active travel audit carried out by Sustrans. SEStran received the final version in November 2018 and concluded the arrangements with Sustrans. Using the PASTA methodology[6], SEStran will be measuring the health benefits of the GO e-Bike scheme.

8.2.3 The next partner meeting will be held in Niepolomice, Poland from 14-15 March 2019. SEStran will be presenting on the progress of implementing the Action Plan.

8.3.1 **SURFLOGH**[7] aims to improve the role of logistics hubs in the network of urban logistics in the North Sea Region. By introducing city labs, a transnational platform is created to promote innovation in city logistics. These platforms will bring together different actors to exchange knowledge, work on innovative pilot projects and implement results within policy strategies and the urban logistics system.

8.3.2 SEStran's main role in the project is to work together with Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute (TRI) to develop business cases for

[4] https://mobilpunkt-bremen.de/english/

[5] http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/regio-mob/.

[6] http://www.pastaproject.eu/home/

[7] http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/surflogh/.

environmentally friendly transport. It is also working with local SME's to trial deliveries of goods by cargo-bikes, in and around the city of Edinburgh. Zedify (formerly Outspoken Delivery) has been identified as pilot delivery partner to deliver the e-cargo bike pilot scheme. The Edinburgh pilot was formally launched at the SEStran Freight Forum in November 2018.

8.3.3 The last partner meeting was held in Mechelen, Belgium from 5-6 February 2019. SEStran provided the project partners with an update on recent activities.

8.4.1 In December 2018 Funding was approved for a new Interreg North Sea project: **BLockchainINGovernment (BLING)**[8]**:** Blockchain is a key enabling technology that will underpin efforts to deliver innovative services under the Digital Agenda for Europe. The BLockchain IN Government (BLING) project focuses on providing one of the first dedicated platforms to bring these tools and approaches into local and regional services. SEStran will be working with thirteen project partners to deliver the project. SEStran will be developing a pilot with the University of Edinburgh, which will showcase innovative use of the technology in a transport environment.

8.4.2 The kick-off meeting was held in Zwolle in the Netherlands from 7-8 February 2019.

9.   Proposed projects

9.1   PURSUITS: In September 2018, the project partners submitted the second stage proposal for the Pursuits project under the EU Horizon 2020 programme. In January 2019, the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency of the European Commission announced that the project application was unsuccessful.

10.   Further Initiatives

10.1   ECOMM: SEStran is no longer hosting the European Conference on Mobility Management due to the high financial risks associated with it, which is exacerbated by the latest Brexit position and emerging pressures on the 2019/20 budget.

10.2   Hate Crime Charter: SEStran is involved in a working group, along with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional hate crime charter on public transport. Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland have taken ownership of the first draft. Once the draft version is finalised, SEStran will trial the Charter in Fife, Clackmannanshire and West Lothian. Based on the learnings from this trial, SEStran hopes to roll out the Charter nationally.

10.3.1   Can do & Thistle Card App: SEStran has been working with Scottish Enterprise Can Do to develop an intermodal journey planner and Thistle

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[8] https://northsearegion.eu/bling/

Card App, which will make it easier for people to use the Card when using public transport.

10.3.2 The tender competition run by Innovate UK for applications has taken place, closing in January 2019 with 39 very interesting entries received. From these 39, 5 will be taken forward into Phase one of the project. The assessment process will be completed by end February 2019.

10.4.1 **Electric Vehicle Strategy**: Following the last Chief Officers meeting, it was proposed that SEStran should develop an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the region. This strategy is to address barriers to the uptake of electric vehicles and challenges for local authorities to support electric vehicle infrastructure.

10.4.2 SEStran's Project Officer planned an initial meeting with available Chief Officers earlier in February to discuss the outline, strategic objectives and scope of an electric vehicle strategy for the region. Learnings will be taken from the draft electric vehicles shared with SEStran by TACTRAN and HITRANS.

11. **SEStran Forums**

11.1 **The Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum** will be hosted by SEStran on 2 April 2019.

11.2 **The Integrated Mobility Forum** will be hosted by SEStran on 16 April 2019.

11.3 **The Logistics and Freight Forum** will be hosted by SEStran on 29 May 2019.

12. **EU Exit update**

12.1 The UK is due to leave the EU at the end of March 2019. Following a 'meaningful vote' in the House of Commons on 15 January 2019, the Prime Minister's deal with the EU was rejected by 230 votes. As a result, the risk of leaving the EU without a deal has increased substantially. The Prime Minister is engaging in talks with various MPs in an attempt to secure a majority in Parliament for her deal.

13. **Recommendations**

13.1 It is recommended that the Chief Officers take note of the contents of the report.

13.2 Furthermore, the Chief Officers are invited to submit any suggestions for the introduction of Mobihubs as mentioned in paragraph 8.1.5.

Julie Vinders
Project Officer
8 February 2019

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	None
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None

Project outputs

Real-Time Passenger Information	In the short term, SEStran is exploring options with INEO to keep the service going until the agreement comes to an end. It is hoped that the new system operating will be in place early in the new financial year. Bustracker SEStran will be integrated with the new CMS. **Timeframe**: financial year 2019/20
Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme (RCNGS)	3 feasibility studies are being undertaken by Aecom worth £90,248.93 using 100% funding from Community Links. **Timeframe**: spring 2019
Regional Active Travel Development Fund	SEStran has awarded funding to Arup to carry out a feasibility study for the A701 corridor **Timeframe**: financial year 2019/20
GO e-Bike	2 new GO e-Bike hubs will be launched early spring at Social Bite Village in Edinburgh and Tweeddale Youth Action in Peebles. **Timeframe**: spring 2019
Cycle Training & Development – Cycling Scotland	As part of trialling a new model for delivering Bikeability Scotland training in schools, a number of pilots are being developed within the SEStran region. **Timeframe**: ongoing until summer 2019
Smarter Choices Smarter Places	SEStran was awarded £13,650 as a 50% match for a project looking at travel behaviour in and around Edinburgh. SEStran is working with Trivector Traffic AB to conduct data collection through a mobile app which tracks how people travel, how far, how fast, why, and by what mode. **Timeframe**: March 2019
SHARE-North	With the project extension being approved by the EU North Sea Region Programme Secretariat, SEStran will be working with project partners to promote Tripshare and replicate the carpool addict label. SEStran will

	also be looking at introducing 'Mobihubs' (mobility hubs) to the SEStran region. **Timeframe**: ongoing until December 2021
REGIO-Mob	Sustrans provided SEStran with first Active Travel Audit. Moving forward, SEStran will be using reports prepared by CoMoUK to report on the health benefits of the GO e-Bike project. **Timeframe**: ongoing until March 2020
SURFLOGH	SEStran is working with Zedify to deliver the e-cargo bike pilot scheme. This pilot scheme will inform the development of a business case for first/last mile delivery solutions in sustainable urban freight logistics. **Timeframe**: ongoing until October 2020
BLING	SEStran will be working with various project partners, including the University of Edinburgh, to develop and implement a transport focused trial pilot that aims to deliver Blockchain in government. **Timeframe**: ongoing until December 2021
Hate Crime Charter	SEStran is developing a Hate Crime Charter aimed at reporting and preventing hate crime incidents. After a regional trial, SEStran hopes to roll out the Charter nationally. **Timeframe**: financial year 2019/20
Can Do & Thistle Card App	Can Do funding will be used to develop a intermodal journey planner and Thistle Card App **Timeframe**: financial year 2019/20