

EX100. SEStran Consultation on Proposal to move to a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services setting out a response to a consultation by SEStran on moving from a Model 1 Regional Transport Partnership to a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership.

SEStran is a Regional Transport Partnership (RTP), created in 2005 under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. It is made up of eight member Councils (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders).

Currently SEStran is a Model 1 RTP. At present local authorities hold a wide range of transport powers and duties and transferring some of these to the regional level is an option which requires the RTP to move to a Model 2 or 3. Model 3, Passenger Transport Authority (PTA), is an enhanced method of partnership such as Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Among other functions they procure local bus services.

Depending on the functions transferred to them from Councils (or operated concurrently) PTAs could:-

- plan and fund socially necessary bus routes;
- work in partnership with private operators to improve bus services through bus priority schemes or quality partnerships;
- plan and implement investment in local public transport networks including new bus, rail or active travel stations/hubs;
- provide comprehensive public transport information services or regional integrated ticketing schemes; and
- manage and maintain bus interchanges, bus stops and shelters.

For Falkirk Council this might mean that the bus services budget (currently £1.2m) would transfer to SEStran (probably via a levy) and that SEStran would control and tender the Falkirk area local bus services along with those of the other seven SEStran member Councils.

The report noted that in the absence of a convincing case for centralising the Council's current public transport functions, the principle of subsidiarity should apply and the functions should be retained by the Council.

Decision

The Executive agreed to inform SEStran that the case for a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership had not been made and therefore Falkirk Council does not support the proposal.