

**NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS****STATEMENT 19****G6. NON-CONSOLIDATION INTEREST IN OTHER ENTITIES (CONTINUED)****6.4 Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) now replaced by City Region Deal**

The council was formerly a member of SESplan which was composed of 6 local authorities who had a statutory duty under Section 4 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 to work together to prepare, and keep under review, a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the South East of Scotland.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 removed the need for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans, with Strategic planning matters being set out in the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which was under preparation by Scottish Government.

SESplan remained a legal entity until NPF4 came into force after adoption by Scottish Ministers on 13 February 2023. As a result, responsibilities have transferred from the SESplan Joint Committee to the City Region Deal Project.

During 2023/24 and 2022/23 no contributions were made to SESplan and the amount of £82,175 was paid to City Deal in both 2022/23 and 2023/24.

**6.5 Scotland Excel**

Scotland Excel was launched in April 2008 to establish a centre of procurement expertise for the local government sector in Scotland. Its remit is to work collaboratively with the 32 local authority members and external suppliers to raise procurement standards, secure best value for customers and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector procurement in Scotland. During 2023/24, the council contributed £133,337 (£128,379 2022/23), 3.3% (3.3% 2022/23) of Scotland Excel's funding.

**6.6 Seemis Group LLP**

Seemis Group is the software provider of the standard management Information system within Scottish Education and works closely with its members and the strategic bodies responsible for education direction in Scotland. West Lothian's student data is processed and managed by Seemis software. Seemis supports local authorities and their associated schools in delivering their statutory and discretionary responsibilities. During 2023/24, the council contributed £210,800 (£210,800 2022/23), 3.9% (3.9% 2022/23) of Seemis Group LLP's funding.