

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY (SEDG)

THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

Attendees:

Norma Austin Hart	Third Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG)
Laura Douglas	SSEAL
Diane Laws	SSEAL
Kathy Cremin	South of Scotland Enterprise
James McClung	Old Luce Development Trust
Matt Kitson	Driftwood Cinema
Kalpana Ratnam-Roarty	User and Carer Involvement
Leah Halliday	The Guild
Matt Baker	The Stove
Anne Lindsay	Mid Steeple Quarter
Margaret Pool	Langholm Initiative
Christina Johnson	Stranraer Development Trust
Julia Watt	Whithorn Trust

Introduction

The purpose of SEDG – Norma reminded the group of the purposes of SEDG and the relationship between SEDG, SSEAL and the Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG). In particular the 5 purposes outlined in the SEDG Mission, Vision and Objectives explain the key role of SEDG – listed below.

1. ensuring the Social Enterprise community has a strong voice in Dumfries and Galloway.
2. developing capacity and capability of Social Enterprises so they can maximise their contribution to the economy of Dumfries and Galloway.
3. being a central source of knowledge for Social Enterprises.
4. providing opportunities for networking, peer support and collaboration.
5. raising the profile of the D&G Social Enterprise community

Regional Economic Strategy

Norma explained she sits on the Regional Economic Partnership (REP) who lead on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). She represents Social Enterprise and the wider third sector. The draft strategy focuses on 6

key themes, which appear to have been broadly well received. The themes are: (1) skilled and ambitious people, (2) innovative and enterprising, (3) rewarding and fair work, (4) cultural and creative excellence, (5) green and sustainable economy and (6) thriving and distinct communities. Consultation on the strategy has ended and the strategy is expected to be published on the 1st October. We will ensure you have sight of this as well as sharing it via the media channels such as Slack and the Third Sector website.

A Regional Economic 3-year Action Plan will follow and will focus on the 3 key areas of 'Green, Fair and Flourishing'. Information following each of the REP meetings plus other meetings Norma attends can be found on the Third Sector website in the 'Working Together' section.

D&G Social Enterprise Strategy

Laura Douglas is leading a short life working group to develop a D&G Social Enterprise strategy and then action plan. The group has met once and has reviewed the available data on SE in the region, identified needs and started looking at actions needed to meet the needs. The strategy is being developed within the same framework used for Scotland's Social Enterprise strategy i.e., with three pillars: (1) Stimulating Social Enterprise, (2) Developing Stronger Organisations, and (3) Realising Market Opportunity. Builds that were suggested during the meeting will be added to the working draft, and next the short life working group will look at outcomes/ indicators / measures of success as well as identifying key stakeholders and partners.

Delivering the strategy via an action plan will not be a ~~Third Sector~~ TSDG-led / delivered product but will be a shared endeavor with Social Enterprises. The working group will also look at the guiding principles on how this would be achieved.

The next draft of the D&G Social Enterprise Strategy will be shared with the SEDG network late September / early October.

Communication to Social Enterprises

Diane Laws raised the issue of how to communicate successfully with all Social Enterprises going forward as there is a wealth of information to share and also a need to create a community of SE talking to each other. Slack is having limited success.

The group suggested a Facebook page and to also add topics for discussion or guest speakers to the SEDG meeting to attract people. It was also suggested that SE who may benefit from the topics should be directly targeted so they knew it was taking place.

AP: TSI to set up SE Facebook page

AP: SEDG members to suggest topics they would be interested in discussing at the next SEDG meeting

Terms of Reference for SEDG network meetings

Norma discussed the need for the SEDG network to be led by Social Enterprises with The Third Sector providing support. The following was agreed: -

Frequency – A network meeting every quarter, dates to be planned in advance

Format – To continue virtually as this allows everyone to attend. Have a face-to-face meeting annually with the facility for people to dial in remotely if required

Duration – 2 hours with the face-to-face meeting being longer to allow for networking

Chair – It was agreed the chair should be someone from a SE. The chairs' role will be formalised but will primarily be agreeing the agenda and leading the meeting. TSDG will provide administrative support for the chair. Norma will chair the next meeting where we will look to appoint a new Chair.

Next steps and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in early January 2022. A date and invite will be issued closer to the time.