



THIRD SECTOR
Dumfries and Galloway

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

Regional Economic Partnership

22 September 2023

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

Working together to put our sector first
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy horizontal bands in shades of blue and yellow, creating a sense of movement and energy.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.

1. Chair Russel Griggs made it clear that he would prefer to hold meetings in person, several agreed.
2. I pointed out that the minutes of 23 June in para 4 regarding the discussion about the third sector representation on the Convention of the South of Scotland (CoSS) did not reflect my record of the meeting. The minutes state:
 - a. *Some REP members felt it was important that the Third sector had a place as core members. The REP recognised the purpose of CoSS and that the Third Sector could have a perspective depending on the agenda but could be brought into discussions as appropriate. This would be highlighted to the new Deputy First Minister (DFM) as she considered future membership.*
3. My record of the meeting notes that Russel asked the whole REP if they had any objections about the third sector being on CoSS and no objections were raised, and agreed to highlight this to the DFM. He agreed to have the minute to be changed to reflect this.
4. The update on the work of the CoSS focussed on the recent CoSS meetings and progress on place-making and natural capital.
5. I made several points:
 - a. The letter from DFM John Swinney to me in March 2022 to me demonstrated a willingness to consider third sector involvement
 - b. The next letter from DFM Shona Robison to me of September 2023 closed down the request on the advice of the CoSS Senior Officers Group. This is on the basis that it is only for public sector agencies. Third sector would be invited on specific themes.
 - c. I pointed out that every theme mentioned by Cllr Hamilton in his update of CoSS had third sector at their centre; place making, natural capital, net zero.
 - d. There is no aspect of the economy or civic life in south of Scotland that does not have input from third sector so why not give it a consistent voice at the CoSS?
 - e. I agreed that the REP had already done as much as it could and closed down a suggestion that staff would go round all REP members to get their view
 - f. The key question back to DFM is how can the CoSS give a complete picture of delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation in SoS from a third-sector-less CoSS? I made it clear that TSDG would be putting this question to the DFM.
6. There was a presentation from SoSE on the Housing Sub-Group.
7. There was an update on the transport sub-group. Transport and housing in Scotland are in the hands of the people who develop them rather than those who use them. This is a lobbying point for the REP to Scottish Government.
8. I referred to my notes and a key point about community transport:
 - a. *The data about community transport is lacking, with limited information about section 19 and 22 activities. I suggested that this is something that should be gathered more effectively by SG. RG agreed that this should be fed back to the SG from the REP.*
9. Karen Jackson confirmed that this request is included in the list of lobbying points and requests to SG
10. There was a presentation about the Skills sub-group
11. There was a discussion about the RES Delivery Plan key thematic updates
12. There was a presentation about the Creative Community and the launch of the SoS Creative Economy Guide with an unusual video.
13. The draft Regional Land Use Framework was presented and I asked the REP to note that the community reps endorsed the proposal that the Framework should go out to consultation.