



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

Convention of the South of Scotland

4th October 2021

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

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

KEY POINTS

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. The second meeting of the CoSS took place on 4 October. There were 56 people on the Teams call.
2. It was led by Cabinet Secretary Kate Forbes and attended by the leaders of both DGC and SBC as well as many representatives from the public private and third sectors including myself.
3. The main item on the agenda was the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the South of Scotland which was launched on 30 September.
4. Kate Forbes outlined the relationship between the RES and the national strategy for economic transformation (NSET). It will be important to be able to say that the actions from both will lead to a successful Scottish economy in ten years' time.
5. 'At the heart of both is the aspiration of both to be bold'.
6. Scottish government's chief economist Gary Gillespie gave a presentation on the NSET. This is also a ten-year strategy. Both take place in the context of Covid recovery, post EU exit, fair work agenda, long term demographic trends and Net Zero.
7. In the NSET there are emerging aims around entrepreneurial potential, a place-based theme, fair work with good green jobs.
8. The NSET is driven by an advisory council which has broad representation.
9. The emerging themes are
 - a. Wrap around life-long skills
 - b. Entrepreneurship and a strong business environment
 - c. Productivity
 - d. Unlocking economic opportunities to drive productivity in net zero context
 - e. Addressing structural inequalities
10. NSET is based on extensive consultation with industries and stakeholders. Over 200 responses to consultation.
11. Publication of NSET expected in late autumn.
12. The CoSS also heard presentations on the South of Scotland RES and three-year delivery plan.

The CoSS was asked to:

- a. Endorse the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership's Regional Economic Strategy; and the insight it gives on the strengths and opportunities for the economy of the South of Scotland;
- b. Commit to taking collective action required to deliver on our agreed ambitions for the region;
- c. Seek regular updates from team South of Scotland partners on the progress on delivering the ambition in the RES; and
- d. Agree that the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy provides a strong basis for discussion on the regional and strategic links with the emerging 10 Year National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

13. These were accepted and agreed by the CoSS. The point was made that there are no representatives from the third sector or social enterprise in the council leading the NSET.

14. The delivery plan was covered with input by a number of national agencies: SDS, VisitScotland, Scottish Enterprise, Nature Scot, Scottish Forestry and Land, Creative Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland.

15. I pointed out the absence of any third sector or social enterprise intermediaries.

16. The CoSS agreed to support the delivery of the RES and how it will support the NSET. Each region will be asked to submit a report on how they contribute to the NSET. A further report will be brought back to the CoSS.

17. I made the point that the absence of TS and SE representatives in the council for the NSET and the intermediaries today gives cause for concern about the ability of the third sector to be as impactful as possible in the delivery of the RES.

