



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

8th March 2022

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. Under matters arising from the last meeting there was a discussion about the Convention of the South of Scotland which took place on 28 February. I mentioned that I had written to the DFM about the inaccessibility of the meeting and the lack of TS representation. I agreed to give an update on his response at the next REP meeting.
2. There was a presentation on the progress with co-ordinating the delivery plan of the RES- slides are available.
3. A measurement framework for the RES delivery plan is intended to be in place by end of the year. A SLWG of REP volunteers and SoSE staff will be set up to take this forward and I volunteered to participate along with several other community representatives.
4. There was also a presentation on the launch of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation; based on 6 Programmes, 18 projects and 77 actions- delivery plans to be developed over next six months. There will be the opportunity to have regional tailoring for delivery of the NSET.
5. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-strategy-economic-transformation/>
6. There will be planned alignment of the NSET and the RES which may present opportunities. The REP SLWG on the measurement framework for the RES needs to look at how the RES outcomes contribute to the NSET outcomes.
7. SoSE staff will be doing the detailed analysis of the NSET actions and the RES delivery plan.
8. The REP heard a presentation on the Draft National Planning Framework 4 (Draft NPF4) and how this is relevant to SoS. It will align national policy on transport, climate change, growth deals, planning and place planning.
9. Closing date for comments on the draft is 31 March with adoption expected by Summer 2022.
10. When NPF4 is adopted it will become part of the national development plan and LAs will be required to refer to it in Statutory Development Plans and they in turn to link to local development plans.
11. There are four overarching themes:
 - a. Sustainable places- reducing carbon footprint
 - b. Liveable places- where we can live better, 20-minute place
 - c. Productive places- greener fairer and more inclusive economy
 - d. Distinctive places- using our assets

12. Six spatial principles
13. Spatial Strategy action areas; Scotland is in five parts; we are in Southern Sustainability
14. <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>
15. The SG economist felt that there was more work to do on the Southern Sustainability section because it does not yet reflect the work of the RES and the REP.
16. Some of the major projects in D&G were mentioned e.g. Chapelcross and Stranraer developments which will be relevant to the NPF4.
17. The removal of strategic development plans will not relieve local authorities for estimating housing and land requirements in each area but should make the process simpler.
18. The NPF4 reframes 35 existing policies which are grouped under the four key themes mentioned above. They should be clearer and tighter as a result.
19. There is no delivery plan for NPF4; the economist expressed disappointment.
20. Members of the REP pointed out the timescales for consultation and how little time there is to assemble a rigorous response. How when and by whom will representations be made?
21. There was agreement that the NPF4 is urban centric and cannot be allowed to stand as it is. There is a sense that the NPF4 'bypasses' the South of Scotland with high speed rail and road links.
22. I shared my concern that the top down planning process that link national regional and local strategy can create an impenetrable wall which communities will find alienating. If your consultation has not actively engaged with the third and community sectors it will become discredited.
23. Others lamented the absence of consultation with children and young people; the irrelevance of 20 minute neighbourhoods in rural areas; the importance of the car even in net zero times.
24. The SG officials offered to meet with REP members before the consultation closing date.
25. There was also a presentation on the Strategic Transport Plan for Scotland.

