



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

1st October 2021

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

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

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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 REP noted the successful launch of the Regional Economic Strategy on 30 September.
2. The focus of the meeting was on the three-year delivery plan which will achieve the strategy's objectives and provide the next level of detail.
3. The delivery plan has been developed alongside the RES in the last three months. There has been consultation with stakeholders at regional and national level.
4. The REP members have had access to drop in sessions on the development of the delivery plan.
5. The feedback has been broadly positive: Overall language needs to be accessible and jargon free. The activities need to be linked to the RES objectives. Actions needs to be prioritised and where possible should build on existing activity.
6. The feedback on the themes:
 - a. **Skilled and ambitious people:** more needs to be made of the colleges' digital hubs; digital skills strategy must be part of a wider SoS digital strategy; employability needs to feature in delivery plan; work needs to be done to bring the workforce planning work in the H&SCPs into alignment with the RES delivery plan
 - b. **Innovative and Enterprising:** businesses need to be a bit more confident; address networking gaps; colleges and Unis need to be visibly supporting innovation
 - c. **Fair and rewarding work:** low number of comments suggests that this theme is broadly right. The evidence base will have to be strong for this one as we move out of furlough and into a period of greater uncertainty
 - d. **Creative and cultural excellence:** remember culture is more than just buildings;
 - e. **Green and sustainable economy:** Our big USP is our natural environment; a toolkit would be useful; explore national park opportunity; role of housing in net zero pursuit; growing local supply chains which should be a priority
 - f. **Thriving and distinct communities:** renewed approach to capacity building; development of community transport hubs; place plans- what are they?; a bottom up approach will be important and will need investment in community capacity and capability.
7. The REP agreed that all references to business should be 'social enterprise and business'.
8. The launch of the delivery plan is aimed at late Nov /early Dec.
9. SoSE officers will refine the draft delivery plan, taking account of feedback and discussion today.

10. The next version will have more detail, timescales and lead partners and will be ready for next REP meeting on 5 November.
11. If approved by the REP it will go to councils and SoSE board for approval of delivery plan; partner organisations will be asked to endorse the delivery plan and possibly complete a survey on the actions they will take to support delivery.
12. Regarding measuring progress: a series of outcomes will be drafted. They will be based on Green, Fair and Flourishing – the three RES principles.
13. The National Performance framework - which the RES and delivery plan will have to accommodate - has 11 outcomes and 81 indicators, some of which are proxies.
14. It is clear from desk research that the existing indicators and baselines are patchy, but it is important that our outcomes are not driven by the availability of indicators. The framework does need to be as simple as possible and at the same time we are moving away from traditional measures of success.
15. Sometimes we need to acknowledge what we don't know in relation to outcomes. Where possible, attribution of indicators should be linked to the RES delivery plan.
16. The next version of the outcomes framework will be brought back to the REP.
17. The REP discussed the arrangements for the next Convention of the South of Scotland on 4 October. Cllr Mark Rowley will give an update on the RES and delivery plan. Future conventions will have a role in the communication about the progress of the RES.

