
PROPOSED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOL BETWEEN SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL AND SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE

Report by Executive Director (Corporate Improvement & Economy)

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

26 November 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes that Scottish Borders Council enters into a Strategic Partnership Protocol with South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) to assist both bodies to work collaboratively together to achieve their joint aims and for the benefit of the economy in the area.**
- 1.2 South of Scotland Enterprise formally commenced its operations on the 1st of April 2020. Its creation represents a major change in the in the economic development landscape across the South of Scotland and offers opportunities to take different and innovative approaches to the delivery economic development across the South of Scotland.
- 1.3 Scottish Borders Council retains economic development amongst its functions and it is considered vital that both bodies work together in a collaborative way to achieve their joint aims. In recent years, SBC has entered into partnership protocols with its strategic partners - such as Live Borders and CGI. As this has proved to be an effective tool, it is considered that it would be helpful and consistent with that approach to enter into such a protocol with the new Agency.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that approval is given to enter into a Strategic Partnership Protocol with South of Scotland Enterprise in the terms detailed in the Appendix to this report.**

3 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- 3.1 The South of Scotland Enterprise Act 2019 established the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE). Its formal operations commenced on 1 April 2020 and the Act provides that its aims are to:
- a) further the sustainable economic and social development of the South of Scotland, and
 - b) improve the amenity and environment of the South of Scotland
- 3.2 It is recognised that one of the most critical factors for the effective operation of SOSE will be its relationships with the two Local Authorities within its areas.
- 3.3 Scottish Borders Council retains the function of economic development amongst its responsibilities and is committed to working with the Agency to achieve our mutual aims including, of course, the Regional Economic Strategy. The new Agency is therefore very much a strategic partner of the Council. This reflected in SOSE being a new statutory partner in the Community Planning Partnership
- 3.4 In recent years the Council has chosen to enter into partnership protocols with its strategic partners such as Live Borders and CGI. The purpose of those protocols is to set out the rules of engagement between the two organisations; to establish and commit to working collaboratively together in a mutually supportive way to ensure that strategic aims and goals are met. It is considered that it would be appropriate and consistent to enter into such a protocol with this newly created and important strategic partner.
- 3.5 The Appendix to this report contains a proposed Strategic Partnership Protocol. The Protocol details the aims of the Strategic Partnership and the commitment from both parties for working together in such a way as to maximise the benefit for the Scottish Borders. It is considered that this is an appropriate basis to establish a relationship with the Agency.

4 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 **Financial**
There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.
- 4.2 **Risk & Mitigations**
There is a risk that if the recommendations in this report are not agreed, an opportunity to strengthen the relationship with a key strategic partner will be lost.
- 4.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**
An integrated impact assessment will be completed. It is anticipated that strengthening the relationship between SBC and the Agency will have a positive impact on the economic well-being of the Scottish Borders area.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

It is anticipated that strengthening the relationship between SBC and the Agency will have a positive impact on the economic and environmental well-being of the Scottish Borders area.

4.5 Carbon Management

It is not anticipated that there will be any effects on carbon emissions as a direct result of the recommendations in this report.

4.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Schemes of Administration or Delegation are required by the recommendations in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Executive Director Finance & Regulatory, the Monitoring Officer / Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council, and Corporate Communications and have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

5.2 The Corporate Management Team have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Rob Dickson
Executive Director
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Signature

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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Strategic Partnership Protocol

We, the Scottish Borders Council (a local authority established under Section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994) and the South of Scotland Enterprise (established by Section 1 of the South of Scotland Enterprise Act 2019), intend to work closely together to achieve our joint aims of furthering sustainable economic and social development and improvement of the amenity and environment.

We agree it would be beneficial to enter into this Protocol to set out the ways in which we will work together to achieve those aims.

Now therefore we agree as follows:

- (1) We will work with each other cooperatively in partnership to discharge our responsibilities in relation to our joint aims and to apply our respective specialist knowledge and skills and expertise to achieve that end.;
- (2) Make a sincere effort to work together as one team; understand the other party's obligations, goals, expectations, duties and objectives and actively support each other to be mutually successful;
- (3) Be open, honest, transparent and professional in all dealings relating to our joint aims and to give a true account of such dealings;
- (4) Work within a spirit of co-operation to enable the achievement of our joint aims to a high standard;
- (5) Resolve differences that may arise in relation to our joint aims by discussion and negotiation wherever possible;
- (6) Communicate clearly and effectively, and in a timely manner, on all matters relating to our joint aims;
- (7) Make the most efficient use of resources ensuring we achieve Best Value to the benefit of both ourselves and our residents;
- (8) Commit to providing continuous improvement ideas;
- (9) Give an early warning to the other Party of any matter that they become aware of that could affect the achievement of any shared aim;

To foster a successful working relationship at every level, the Parties will endeavour to implement the following:

- (10) Agree and develop communication channels across both organisations;
- (11) Co-locate personnel wherever practicable to maximise communication, collaboration and deep business understanding at all levels.
- (12) Second personnel across the Party's organisations where that will bring demonstrable benefits.