
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Report by Director - Resilient Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

25 August 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' agreement to renew the membership of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership.**
- 1.2 When the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) was established, it was agreed the members would initially be appointed for a period of two years.
- 1.3 As the REP has been operating since September 2020, membership should now be renewed. The biennial membership review also provides an opportunity to reconsider the overall composition of the REP.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommend that Council:-**
 - (a) Approves the proposals outlined for the renewal of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership membership as detailed in Paragraph 4.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In October 2019, Scottish Borders Council agreed to support the establishment of South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The remit and composition of the REP is set out in the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The REP aimed to support the establishment of South of Scotland Enterprise in 2020 by developing and driving forward a new Regional Economic Strategy for the South of Scotland for the first time. It comprises members of Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), together with appointed members from business, communities, social enterprise, Third Sector, Registered Social Landlords, and representatives from colleges, universities and public bodies including the Scottish Funding Council, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, and VisitScotland. In addition, two young person's representatives have also been appointed, one drawn from each local authority area.
- 3.3 The REP also links into the Convention of the South of Scotland (COSS) which is chaired by the Deputy First Minister. The first meeting of the South of Scotland Convention was held in Dumfries in February 2020.

4 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Following the operation of the REP for the last two years it is proposed that the Terms of Reference are revised and the membership of the REP is widened to incorporate the following members:
 - a) Regional NHS Boards (NHS Borders and NHS D&G);
 - b) Historic Environment Scotland;
 - c) South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA), and
 - d) Young Person's representatives, one drawn from each local authority area.
- 4.2 It is also proposed that:
 - a) Representation from Scottish Enterprise (SE) is removed. SE was originally included to support the transition period to support the creation of SOSE, and will continue to be involved in the South of Scotland as an active member of COSS;
 - b) The Third Sector and Registered Social Landlords are removed from the open recruitment process and REP membership assigned to representatives nominated by each of the Third Sector Interfaces and by Registered Social Landlords;
 - c) Closer engagement on regional transport issues impacting the local economy is achieved through the inclusion of both Regional Transport Partnerships (SWestrans and SEStran) as members of a re-established Regional Transport Working Group. This group would supply

information to the REP as required and would be able to attend meetings of the REP when requested; and

- d) The process of open recruitment commences in September for representatives from the private sector, social enterprises, and communities, noting current REP members can apply again.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There is an annual cost of approximately £20k required to part-fund the secretariat for the Regional Economic Partnership in conjunction with strategic partners Dumfries and Galloway Council and South of Scotland Enterprise. This sum is normally allocated from the Economic Development Budget.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The renewal of the membership of Regional Economic Partnership will allow the REP to continue to deliver its agreed functions for the benefit of the region, and there are no additional risks contained in this report.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

A key aspect of Regional Economic Partnership's work is to reduce barriers to economic growth and target inequality. The Regional Economic Strategy Delivery Plan and Monitoring Framework will help ensure that information in relation to equalities groups is constantly monitored.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

The delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

5.5 Climate Change

There are no climate or sustainability issues arising from this report. The delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy aligns with achieving sustainable development and net zero targets.

5.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing issues arising from this report.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no proposed changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications are being consulted and any comments received will be tabled at the meeting.

Approved by

Jenni Craig
Director - Resilient Communities

Author(s)

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Graeme Johnstone	Lead Officer
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Background Papers:

Council Report – 31st October 2019 (Convention of the South of Scotland and Regional Economic Partnership)

Executive Committee Meeting 15th September 2020 (The Establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership)

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Graeme Johnstone can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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