

MINUTE OF MEETING

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE – BOARD MEETING
31 MARCH 2022
NORTH WEST CASTLE, STRANRAER

<p>Board Professor Russel Griggs OBE (Chair) Alistair Cameron (via MS Teams) Professor Sara Carter Helen Forsyth Duncan McConchie Lindsay McDowall Jane Morrison-Ross, Chief Executive (via MS Teams) Jeremy Sainsbury</p> <p>SOSE Senior Leadership Team Anthony Daye, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources (via MS Teams) Karen Jackson, Director of Strategy, Partnership and Engagement Bryan McGrath, Director of Place and Enterprise Dr Martin Valenti, Director of Net Zero</p>	<p>SOSE Corporate Office Support Linsey McGillivray, (note) Fiona Sköller</p> <p>SOSE Attendees (via MS Teams) Jayne Ashley, Head of Natural Capital Susan Cannon, Corporate Governance Lead Kate Dagg, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Peter Dobson, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Tracey Graham, Communications and Marketing Manager Julie Hogg, Community Development Specialist Fiona Jefferson, Strategy Manager – Inward Investment and International Trade Stella Milsom, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Kate Musgrave, Head of Area Operations Kathryn Payne, Business Reporting Manager Claire Renton, Head of Area Operations</p> <p>Guests Representatives from Wellbeing Economy Alliance</p> <p>Guests by MS Teams Scottish Government Officials - Regional Economic Development Division</p> <p>Representatives from Destination Tweed</p> <p>Apologies John Evans, Director of Transformation and Development</p>
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WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed Board members and guests from Wellbeing Economy Alliance to the fifth hybrid meeting. Apologies were noted from John Evans, Director of Transformation and Development. It was noted that future main Board meetings were expected to be face to face meetings rather than hybrid or via MS Teams. The

default would be to attend meetings in person. Ad hoc Board meetings would continue to be via MS Teams.

WELLBEING ECONOMY

2. Representatives from Wellbeing Economy Alliance attended the Board to provide a workshop on wellbeing economy.
3. It was commented that SOSE was well placed to take a lead role in the wellbeing economy and to expand the toolbox to intervene more holistically with businesses. The NSET and Regional Economic Strategy could be delivered together, SOSE could place wellbeing at the core of their business and strategy and imbue in the way they allocated funds and delivered products and services. SOSE had an opportunity to be a trailblazer in the world economy.
4. Board found the presentation thought provoking and wished to help companies on their journeys. There was discussion about recognising and valuing existing small businesses, family-owned businesses and women owned businesses rooted in communities in the South of Scotland.
5. Examples of good practice were noted including accreditation by B Corp and the potential to work with businesses who wished to go down that path if they thought it appropriate. SOSE could help businesses understand the journey. Other examples of wellbeing economy for the common good movements were the Worker Co-operative movement, Green City Wholefoods and Mondragon Corp (in Spain).
6. Board members discussed the circular economy and consideration to co-locate social enterprise and community organisations to share best practice and be more business-like. WEvolution was an example of a facilitating organisation that enables action learning sets for groups of entrepreneurial women.
7. SLT were interested to hear the Board's comments and noted this was the beginning of a process to deliver a wellbeing economy and is something SOSE were keen to take forward.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

8. There were no declarations of interest. It was noted with reference to Chapelcross that Jeremy Sainsbury was a member of the Dumfries and Galloway Leadership Group.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

9. The minute of the main Board meeting on 3 February 2022 and the ad hoc meetings held on 24 January 2022 and 23 February 2022 had been circulated.
10. Bryan McGrath, Director of Place and Enterprise, informed the Board on progress with MidSteeple.

Decision: The minutes of the meetings held on 3 February, 24 January 2022 and 23 February 2022 were approved by the Board.

ACTION LOG

11. Discussion took place around:

- Item 58 – The wider housing shortage.
- Item 13 – An understanding of the demand for industrial units around Galalaw.

The action tracker was noted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

12. The Chair informed Members of engagement breakfasts and discussions held on housing, transport and digital infrastructure. Also discussed was the re-focus of communities since Covid. The Chief Executive, and the Chair had an excellent meeting with Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

13. The Chief Executive thanked the entire SOSE team and specifically thanked each Director for their hard work on the year-end report and resource review work. She spoke of the work around Borderlands and the planned series of sessions on specific focus projects. Colleagues were congratulated on securing a Bronze Award in Climate literacy.

14. The Board approved the new format of the SLT Dashboard. A summarised version will be shared with staff. There was comment on the percentage of new community clients and it was confirmed that the balance of new clients was as expected.

PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

15. Board considered five project funding applications. Three of the proposals were agreed in principle and two proposals merited further discussion at a future Board.

“Details of projects funded, and their values are published by SOSE on a quarterly basis once all relevant contractual terms have been agreed. Please refer to the SOSE website for information on the Grant Funding that we have distributed. [SOSE – Accessing our information](#)”

FINAL DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23

16. Kathryn Payne, Business Reporting Manager led the presentation. Board noted the Final Draft Budget for 2022/23 and its six recommendations detailed on slide 7 of the presentation for approvals.

Decision: The Board were content with the six recommendations for approvals detailed in the presentation.

BORDERLANDS – Destination Tweed

17. Representatives from Tweed Forum delivered a presentation on Destination Tweed. The slides showcased what the Tweed had to offer, and the 13 projects planned around the core themes of Landscape and Biodiversity, People and Activities and Sustainable Infrastructure.
18. The Chair thanked Tweed Forum for their presentation, saying it was exactly the type of project required in the South of Scotland for natural capital and also for tourism. Others could learn from this example.

2021/22 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY

19. An update was provided on the status of SOSE's 2021/22 funds and an overview of the organisations and projects funded to date. SOSE had a plan going forward to interface and engage with third sector organisations to create opportunities.

Decision: The Board noted the update on the 2021/22 SOSE funds and the wide range of projects and organisations that have been supported.

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (CRR) AND RISK APPETITE – Annual refresh 2022-23

20. The paper provided a high-level summary of the new Corporate Risk Register. The planned introduction of Pentana would enable review of the risk register automatically.

Decision: Board :

- i) **Approved the refreshed CRR for 2022-23**
- ii) **Approved the Risk Appetite Statements and Tolerances for 2022-23 and noted the intention to review half-yearly**
- iii) **Noted the updated PESTEL (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal) including Macro and Local issues.**

EVOLUTION OF LOAN POLICY

21. A paper had been provided on SOSE financial transactions, risk mitigation, the current loan criteria, SOSE Loan Book, default implications, loan provision recommendation, and loan delivery. Board discussed the paper and were informed that work was being done to signpost to appropriate funding.

Decision: Board advised officers to look to adapt the wording to allow for flexibility.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

22. Peter Dobson, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist, gave a presentation on the Whithorn New Town Hall project. The project has created a

local hub for the community to access versatile space for multiple purposes such as meeting and training and includes a bunk house for walkers on the Whithorn Trail.

AOB

23. Developing Young Workforce (DYW)-

- Karen Jackson, Director of Strategy, Partnership and Engagement, advised that SOSE had been having discussions with Scottish Government and the Chairs of the two DYW groups to see if they could create more alignment between the two DYW groups and share information.

24. Russia Sanctions

- Fiona Jefferson, Strategy Manager – Inward Investment and International Trade, provided an update on what SOSE had been doing and why, and practical steps going forward.
- On UK Government sanctions, SOSE core team and working group were looking at due diligence and legal implications. Weekly meetings were taking place internally and weekly with stakeholders and partners.

25. Budget

Anthony Daye, Director of Finance and Corporate Relations updated Board on the Budget. Given the challenges it had been a great effort by everyone, and Board gave congratulations.

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

- i) SOSE Board Forward Plan was noted.

DATES OF NEXT MEETING

- 09 May 2022
- 27 May 2022
- 02 June 2022 (venue tbc)