

## MINUTE OF MEETING

[Note: This public minute includes words or sentences removed in the interests of effective conduct of public affairs.]

## SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE – BOARD MEETING

08 DECEMBER 2022

SMITHS HOTEL, GRETNA GREEN

<p><b>Board</b> Professor Russel Griggs OBE (Chair) Alistair Cameron Professor Sara Carter Viv Cockburn Helen Forsyth Emma Guy via MS Teams Kirsten Hannay Duncan McConchie Lindsay McDowall Jane Morrison-Ross, Chief Executive Jeremy Sainsbury via MS Teams Paul Winstanley</p> <p><b>SOSE Senior Leadership Team</b> Anthony Daye, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources Karen Jackson, Director of Strategy, Partnership and Engagement Bryan McGrath, Director of Place and Enterprise Dr Martin Valenti, Director of Net Zero</p> <p><b>Guest Speakers</b> Delivery Board NSET Carbon Capture Scotland</p>	<p><b>SOSE Corporate Office Support</b> Linsey McGillivray (note) Fiona Sköller</p> <p><b>SOSE Attendees (in person)</b> Mark Rowley, Strategy Manager - Tourism</p> <p><b>SOSE Attendees (via MS Teams)</b> Chloe Brown, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Isabel Conway, Strategy Manager, Strategic Planning and Partnerships Garry Legg, Head of Strategy, Partnership and Engagement Neil MacGregor, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Sharon Ogilvie, Community Development Advisor James Pattison, Community Development Advisor Ed Shoote, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist</p> <p><b>Guests by MS Teams</b> Scottish Government Officials – Regional Economic Development Division</p>
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### WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed Board members and colleagues to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above. The meeting was declared as quorate.

### GUEST SPEAKER – NSET DELIVERY BOARD

2. Joint Chair NSET Delivery Board attended to give an overview of the policies and challenges of the Delivery Board which was set up in June 2022 and met bi-monthly to oversee the delivery of the six programmes of NSET. Each of the six programmes had a lead, a programme Board and a delivery plan.

Approved at Board on 02.02.2023

Discussion was around the Regional Economic Partnership, tourism, transport and digital infrastructure, housing, construction, rising costs, renewables, entrepreneurial scaling and changing labour demographics.

## **HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

3. Carbon Capture Scotland Ltd (CCS) inspired the Board with their enthusiasm and ambition of the UK's largest biogenic carbon capture plant and the support received from SOSE. SOSE would continue to work with CCS with its projected timeline and plans to grow further with its solution project Nexus to capture and remove CO2 and reverse the carbon produced by homes. CCS was looking at the road map for CO2 export. Board members congratulated CCS for its innovative mindset and drive.

## **BOARD INTERNAL MATTERS**

4. This item was discussed in private with Board Members and SLT.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

5. Jeremy Sainsbury informed that he was a member of Dumfries and Galloway Economic Leadership Group although had no role in the Chapelcross Project. Emma Guy noted interest in the Mountain Bike Innovation Centre as project manager for delivery of the Cycling Work Championships in 2023.

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND ACTION LOG**

6. The minute of the full Board meeting on 06 October 2022 was approved. The action tracker was noted.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

7. The Chair informed of Ministers visiting the South of Scotland and of a successful roundtable on Natural Capital. A roundtable on Regenerative Agriculture was planned for January. Positive reports had been received from Scottish Government and stakeholders.

## **SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DESTINATION ALLIANCE (SSDA) PRE-MEET DISCUSSION**

8. The Chair advised of the appointment of the new Chief Executive to the South of Scotland Destination Alliance, its membership and the opportunity for SOSE and SSDA to communicate and operate together.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

9. The Chief Executive updated the Board members on excellent work internally on finance and budget, the Operating Plan and the Action Plan and development in Place and Enterprise. The Chief Executive met with local Council Chief Executives and also attended the Natural Capital roundtable.

Board members commented on the reporting format and requested the inclusion of a slide entitled "issues" to highlight any areas of concern or for discussion with Board.

## **JOINT ITEM WITH SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DESTINATION ALLIANCE (SSDA) BOARD**

10. SSDA Board members joined SOSE Board members for discussion on shared values and vision for businesses, tourism and communities in the South of Scotland. Presentations were provided by SOSE and SSDA. Discussions were around:
- Policy, landscape, infrastructure, and vision.
  - Communication and working better together by interfacing.
  - Economic, social, and environmental areas in remit.
  - The Regional Economic Strategy.
  - The Just Transition to Net Zero.
  - Shared ambition and values.
  - Strengthening alignment around key areas such as cycling.
  - Potential and opportunity for rural businesses associated with agriculture.
  - Communities and the need to welcome tourists and provide for them.
  - To jointly respond to the needs of businesses facing the cost-of-living crisis, particularly of those involved in tourism.
  - To work more effectively collaborating with partners such as Visit Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council and others.
  - SSDA work to delivering four pillars of activity: Industry Leadership and capacity building, Industry engagement and business readiness, Destination development strategy and planning and Scotland Starts Here.
  - Working together and to develop relationship whilst avoiding duplication.
  - Improving communications to increase awareness, understanding and collaboration.
  - To have clear priorities, focus and shared objectives.
  - Lonely Planet recently awarded “Best in Travel 2023” to the South of Scotland and it is hoped the South of Scotland will become a “go to place” rather than a “go through place”.
11. SOSE Board members thanked the SSDA Board for their presentation and commented on their excellent work during a critical period, especially in tourism. Key collaboration would enable moving forward to drive the vision for the South of Scotland and economic recovery.

## PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

12. The Board considered three project funding applications, all of which were approved.

*“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 -*

*<https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/resources/grants-opportunities>”*

## MOUNTAIN BIKE INNOVATION CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

13. The Board were provided with an update on the project.

## FINANCE UPDATE AND DRAFT BUDGET 2023

14. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources provided a finance report and an initial draft budget for 2023.

**Decision: The Board noted the Finance Update to October 2022 and the Initial Draft Budget 2023/24.**

## ACTION PLAN UPDATE

15. The Head of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships attended to deliver a presentation on the Action Plan. Board discussion included:
- A wish to dovetail the operating plan with the financial package
  - To add SOSE's priorities for the region
  - It was noted there was no mention of National Performance Framework
  - The Board expressed that the presentation had good structure and thanks were given.

## **PRINCIPLES FOR PIVOTAL COMPANIES**

16. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources provided a paper to Board members on pivotal organisations that SOSE seek to support and to look at the criteria of these organisations. The Board appreciated the well written paper.

**Decision: The Board endorsed the approach for the prioritisation of pivotal organisations for SOSE interventions**

## **SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (SOSEP) PROJECTS**

17. The Director of Place and Enterprise introduced the Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist who attended to give a summary of the SOSEP projects that were delivered with Scottish Government funding prior to the establishment of SOSE. The report also captured the key lessons learned.
18. The Board found this useful to see the outcomes of these projects and there was discussion around seeing outcomes of smaller projects in future. SOSE Communications and Marketing are currently working with Place and Enterprise to write a story book with case studies.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

19. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources had met with the Board Health and Safety Champion. There were no issues to update the Board on, but regular reports would be provided to the Senior Leadership Team and also to the People and Organisational Development Committee.

## **AOB**

20. SOSE had engaged with an independent firm to arrange to refresh Board members in the Equalities Act 2010.

## **PAPERS FOR INFORMATION**

21. The undernoted papers were provided to Board members for information:
- Minute of POD Committee on 10 August 2022
  - Minute of Economics Committee on 11 August 2022
  - Minute of ARC on 26 September 2022
  - Forward Plan.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Approved at Board on 02.02.2023

22. 02 February 2022 – venue tbc