



MINUTE OF MEETING

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE – BOARD MEETING
18 AUGUST 2022
THE JOHNSTON, ST MARY STREET, KIRKCUDBRIGHT DG6 4EG**

<p>Board Alistair Cameron (via MS Teams) Viv Cockburn (via MS Teams) Helen Forsyth Professor Russel Griggs OBE (Chair) Emma Guy Kirsten Hannay Duncan McConchie Lindsay McDowall Jane Morrison-Ross, Chief Executive Jeremy Sainsbury Paul Winstanley</p> <p>SOSE Senior Leadership Team 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>Guests in attendance Susan Aktemel, Homes for Good Julia Mulloy, Scottish Borders Housing Association</p> <p>Apologies Professor Sara Carter</p>	<p>SOSE Corporate Office Support Linsey McGillivray (note) Fiona Sköller</p> <p>SOSE Attendees (in person) Jayne Ashley, Head of Natural Capital Rob Davidson, Strategy Manager, Community Wealth Building David Ford, Head of Economy and Insights</p> <p>SOSE Attendees (via MS Teams) Susan Cannon, Corporate Governance Lead John McDowell, Business Development Specialist James Pattison, Community Development Advisor Claire Renton, Head of Area Operations Ed Shoote, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Alex Stewart, Head of Area Operations Eilidh Todd, Community Development Specialist Paula Ward, Economic Infrastructure Development Specialist Jo Wawrzyczek, Economic Infrastructure Development Project Manager</p> <p>Guests by MS Teams 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.

INTERNAL BOARD MATTERS

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. Emma Guy noted interest in the Mountain Bike Innovation Centre and Paul Winstanley noted interest in CivTech. It was agreed that both Board members would remain in the meeting for respective items.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4. The minutes of the Board meetings on 9 May 2022 and 2 June 2022 were approved.

ACTION LOG

5. The action tracker was noted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

6. The Chair gave a verbal update with the following key points noted:
 - The Chair and Chief Executive had met with the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise and regular meetings would take place going forward. Thanks were given to SOSE staff who organised the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise's recent visit to Dumfries and Galloway.
 - SOSE Board Deputy Chair would attend the Convention South of Scotland in September in SOSE Chair's stead.
 - Positive feedback had been received following SOSE's presence at the two agricultural shows in Scottish Borders and in Dumfries and Galloway. Thanks and congratulations were extended to the Communications team.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

7. The Chief Executive provided an update which noted the following key points:
 - She had attended a meeting on the cost of living crisis and SOSE was working in collaboration with partners to support local businesses and communities in this predictably difficult period.
 - SOSE had entered a new partnership with Zero Waste Scotland.
 - She had meetings with the Interim Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council, the Deputy Director of More Homes at Scottish Government and the leadership teams of the enterprise agencies.
 - Work continued on actions as a result of the staff survey.
8. The SLT update and dashboard was provided.

HOUSING

9. The Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Housing Association presented an overview on housing in the South of Scotland and the ambition to respond to the escalating and challenging market. Housing played a critical role in economic recovery and there was opportunity to deliver placemaking for new and existing homes and to release the potential of communities and support businesses.
10. The Chief Executive of Homes for Good informed the Board of Scotland's first social enterprise letting agency and what it might be able to do in the South of Scotland. There was opportunity for Homes for Good to operate in the private rented sector to provide an alternative to the bigger housing association organisations. SOSE was working with them to research and analyse the validity of establishing a Homes for Good model in the South of Scotland.
11. The Board had discussion on the exodus of private landlords, the housing needs in the South of Scotland, the issue of second homes, the challenge of converting homes, the

issue of communication and transport, modular building, procurement collaboration and benchmarking with other countries e.g. Denmark.

Decision: The Board noted the work being undertaken with Homes for Good and noted the update paper on SOSE's approach to help tackle housing issues in the South of Scotland.

PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Board considered four project funding applications.

“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> “

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT UPDATE

12. The Head of Area Operations updated the Board on the performance measurement framework and the impact of what SOSE had achieved for the South of Scotland in alignment with Scotland's regional and national objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and NSET. There was discussion around the number of measures, resources, priorities and phasing. Thanks were given to the Team for the considerable amount of work undertaken.

Decision: The Board agreed the overall Performance Measurement Framework.

FINANCE /BUDGET

13. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented the Annual Report and Accounts to the Board for approval. The Report and Accounts had been audited by Audit Scotland and had been to the Audit and Risk Committee. Auditors had been complimentary of SOSE and were impressed with how issues were processed.
14. The Financial Report for July 2022 was presented to the Board.

Decision: The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and noted the Financial Report.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

15. The Strategy Manager, Community Wealth Building gave an overview of Community Wealth Building, its five principles, the relevance to the South of Scotland, legislation and work plans. Board members were supportive of Community Wealth Building and the benefit to communities and enterprises that SOSE serve. There was discussion around SOSE's role to facilitate others by communicating with colleges, universities and collaborating with SBC visiting communities.
16. SOSE's Head of Natural Capital spoke to the Board on land reform in a net zero nation and the wealth of knowledge of the Community Team which would help land managers and communities.

SOSE CYCLING PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

17. The Director of Place and Enterprise provided background to the strategy which would drive behavioural change and deliver against a range of outcomes including health and wellbeing, stimulate workforce inclusion and contribute to Net Zero commitment.

Decision: The Board endorsed the South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy 2022-2032 as an appropriate effective response to the RES delivery plan and recognised the importance of cycling to the South of Scotland.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE – Coast to Coast Project.

18. SOSE's Economic Infrastructure Development Project Manager gave a presentation on the project aims to stimulate post covid recovery of tourism and hospitality sectors by promoting the route to tourism from Stranraer to Eyemouth. The Board members were hugely excited for the opportunities and were appreciative of the project challenges.

AOB

19. The following points were covered:

- a) Committee Annual Reports for Board approval:
- Audit and Risk Committee
 - Remuneration, Nominations and Human Resources Committee (People and Organisational Development) Committee
 - Economics Committee
 - Shadow Workers Interest Committee (SWIC)

Decision: The Board approved the above Committee Annual Reports.

- b) Terms of References for approval:
- Audit and Risk Committee
 - People and Organisational Development (RNHR)
 - Economics Committee

Decision: The Board approved the above Committee Terms of Reference documents

- c) Duncan McConchie was appointed Board champion of Health and Safety.
- d) The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources provided a verbal Health and Safety report.

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

20. The following papers had been shared with the Board:
- a) SOSE Board Forward Plan
 - b) CivTech Update

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21. 6 October 2022 at the Cross Keys Hotel, Kelso