



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

02 FEBRUARY 2023

PHILIPBURN HOTEL, SELKIRK

<p>Board Professor Russel Griggs OBE (Chair) Alistair Cameron Viv Cockburn Helen Forsyth Emma Guy Kirsten Hannay Jane Morrison-Ross, Chief Executive Duncan McConchie Lindsay McDowall Jeremy Sainsbury Paul Winstanley (MS Teams)</p> <p>SOSE Senior Leadership Team Karen Jackson, Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Engagement Bryan McGrath, Director of Place and Enterprise Anthony Daye, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources Dr Martin Valenti, Director of Net Zero, Nature and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Apologies: Professor Sara Carter</p>	<p>SOSE Attendees Tara Bolland, Business Coach, Youth Led Enterprise Kathryn Payne, Business Reporting Manager</p> <p>SOSE Corporate Office Jane Malloch, Executive Assistant Linsey McGillivray, Board and Committee Secretariat and Governance Support Officer</p> <p>SOSE Attendees (via MS Teams) Nick Silverstein, IT and Digital Manager Paul Swarbrigg, Business Development Specialist Stuart Thomson, Business Development Specialist</p> <p>Guests by MS Teams Scottish Government Officials – Regional Economic Development Division</p> <p>Guest Speakers Representative from Frangipane Gluten Free Bakery</p>
--	--

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed Board members and colleagues to the first meeting in 2023. Apologies were noted as above. The meeting was declared as quorate.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP – GUEST SPEAKER, FRANGIPANE BAKERY

2. The Director of Net Zero, Nature and Entrepreneurship introduced Tara Bolland, Business Coach (Youth Led Enterprise) and the owner of gluten free bakery, Frangipane. A presentation was provided illustrating the SOSE Entrepreneurial lifecycle: the four pillars of activity; Inspire, Activate, Incubate (Launching in 2023), Accelerate (Launching in 2024) and the cycle of support provided to individuals.

Discussion:

- SOSE's links with agencies to best support clients.
 - Good communication with Business Gateway.
 - The support of Young Enterprise Scotland and relationships with High Schools.
 - The maintenance of communication with Director of Education and local school boards.
 - The build-up of a role model network to take into schools.
 - SOSE and Zero Waste Scotland joint funded post – circular Economy Coach.
3. The representative spoke of her aim, core beliefs, and informed of her journey starting from winning a best student business idea to her ownership of Frangipane. She had received mentoring from SOSE including tailored guidance, practical and specialist expert support.

Suggested key points to consider for entrepreneurs in rural areas included:

- Housing – lack of
 - Business premises – competition
 - Transport – lack of transport network provides difficulties in recruiting staff.
 - Support to access networks for peer support, particularly for neurodivergent entrepreneurs.
4. Members were impressed with the presentation and were excited to hear of plans to set up an e-commerce website.

BOARD INTERNAL MATTERS

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6. The Chair declared interest in Glenmuckloch as Chair of the Scottish Mines Restoration which were now not involved in the site of the Pump Storage Hydro project.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND ACTION LOG

7. The minute of the full Board meeting on 08 December 2022 was approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

8. The Chair's update included:
- there were several consultations underway at present which puts pressure on teams (there were four different consultations around Community Wealth Building and land reform).
 - The Chair complimented the Strategy Manager, Natural Resources and his team on the Regional Land Use Partnership events.
 - The Net Zero Team was praised for the interesting roundtable on regenerative agriculture.
 - A positive meeting was held with the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

9. The Chief Executive update noted:
- Monkey Puzzle had begun providing organisational leadership training
 - Upcoming Ministerial visits and the success of the recent roundtable on regenerative agriculture.

PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

10. The Director of Place and Enterprise introduced the undernoted project funding applications.

The Board considered three project funding applications, two of which were approved, and further clarification was requested on one application.

“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> “

INWARD INVESTMENT: TRANSITION TO NET ZERO PROJECTS UPDATE

11. The Director of Net Zero, Nature and Entrepreneurship provided updates on the progression and timescale of two projects. Discussion was around early-stage businesses and loans to help businesses grow.

FINANCE UPDATE REPORT AND DRAFT BUDGET 2023

12. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources provided a finance report to December 2022 and the final draft budget for 2023.

Decision: The Board noted the Finance Update to December 2022 and the Draft Final Budget 2023/24.

MY SOSE UPDATE

13. The IT and Digital Manager provided an overview of the progress of the Janus Project/MYSOSE portal. Members of the Audit and Risk Committee had appreciated being consulted in advance on the challenges. Challenges were discussed and it was hoped to go live October/November 2023.

Decision: The Board noted the revised financial projections.

AOB

14. Glenmuckloch update
The Director of Net Zero, Nature and Entrepreneurship spoke of the opportunity for the South of Scotland for this restored site - the planned construction of a pump storage hydro plant, windfarm, village houses provision and the ongoing tourism element: forestry tracks, windfarm tracks and visitor centre, potential to be a centre of expertise for carbon capture renewables.

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

Approved at Board 30.03.23

15. The undernoted paper was provided to Board members for information:

- Forward Plan

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 30 March 2023