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**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

**REPORT OF MEETINGS**

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

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**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**



*Working together to put our sector first*  
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

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## KEY POINTS

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.**

1. The main purpose of this REP meeting was to consider the first formal draft of the regional economic strategy.
2. There was an update from the Education and Skills Strategic Co-ordination group which is a subgroup of the REP and responsible for overseeing the delivery of the regional skills investment plan. It has met twice and will report to the REP.
3. The REP received a presentation on the development of the regional economic strategy, the context, process and the next steps.
4. The strategy has been based on consultation with 1000 individuals and organisations. It embeds Covid economic recovery planning with longer term objectives. The strategy emphasises place and the people and communities of the South of Scotland and their confidence about its future.
5. It was a collaborative approach with a significant input from the RES Reference Group. See diagram attached.
6. The vision for the South of Scotland's economy is:

*"We will be a region of opportunity – where natural capital propels green growth, quality of life is unmatched, communities are empowered and cultural identity is cherished, attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in the South of Scotland and enabling those already here to thrive".*

7. The values of the South will be green, fair, and flourishing, adaptable and connected with effective leadership.
8. There are challenges and opportunities: the aging demographic, a low paid economy, natural capital and quality of life. The strategy reflects a balance of these.
9. The framework has six themes: skilled and ambitious people; innovative and enterprising; rewarding and fair work; cultural and creative excellence; green and sustainable economy; thriving and distinct communities.
10. The strategy is supported by a series of background and technical papers.
11. The REP held a brief discussion about the strategy but agreed that detailed feedback could be given through the imminent consultation period.
12. The consultation process will involve the community planning partnerships of both Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway and the councils of those areas. It will be open to the public and communities of the South.
13. There will be a survey, open online meeting sessions and use of partners' networks. It is an opportunity to provide any final detailed comments.
14. In parallel will be the ongoing development of the delivery plan and measurement framework. which will be linked to the themes and priorities. This will then be in place when the strategy is finalised later in 2021.

15. There is an aim to move away from the traditional way of measuring success of this type of strategy. This will include well-being and social impact. Consultants have been hired to develop this and will present to the REP in September.

