



**THIRD SECTOR**  
Dumfries and Galloway

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**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND**

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

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

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**These notes are the personal observations of the key points at the meeting of interest to the third sector by Norma Austin Hart, chief executive of Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway. They are not a formal minute of the meeting.**

### 1. Regional Economic Strategy

The focus of the Regional Economic Partnership (REP) meeting was on the development of the regional economic strategy (RES), which has been led by the consultants RMS (see the attached slide deck for more details).

- 1.1 The REP received a presentation on the engagement process so far. Christopher Rawson claimed a 'good critical mass' of responses to the consultation. The slide referred to 40 TSOs across the South of Scotland. I challenged the scale of the response from the third sector and suggested that more thought should be given to how to communicate with the sector when the draft strategy is ready. The discussion was wide ranging about the proposed vision, themes, priorities. Some of the comments included: there is an absence of reference to health and well-being, the part children play; the work here lacks a distinctively South of Scotland tone. There is a need to move towards more narrative and the actions which will flow from that. The draft strategy will be considered at the next REP meeting on 8 June. After that it will go out for endorsement between June and October when it will be finalised.
- 1.2 There will be three RES reference group meetings between now and 8 June. The REP asked for an update from the RES reference group before 8 June. I asked for a report at the REP meeting on 8 June on the detail of what will happen to the draft strategy between June and October.
- 1.3 The following themes are emerging from the consultation:

- **Theme 1: Thriving & Distinct Places** – making the South of Scotland stand out as the place to live, emphasising quality of life, connectivity and active communities...
- **Theme 2: Fair & Productive Jobs** – creating and investing in employment that is **high value, fair, diverse, resilient** and will secure long-term prosperity...
- **Theme 3: Skilled & Talented People** – developing and attracting a labour pool that is able to **support existing key sectors** and **sustain the jobs of the future**...
- **Theme 4: Cultured and Creative** – celebrating and expanding the region's distinct heritage and positioning culture and creativity at the **heart of a vibrant economy**...
- **Theme 5: A Low Impact Economy** – harnessing the **full potential of the region's natural capital** to support sustainable energy and a build greener future...
- **Theme 6: Bold and Enterprising** – affirming the region's role as a **hub for research, innovation and enterprise**, founded on ambition, technology and ecosystems...