

Recruitment Pack

Members of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership



Background to the formation of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

In May 2016, the Scottish Government's First Minister announced a review to ensure that Scotland's public agencies were delivering the joined-up enterprise and skills support that Scotland's young people, universities, colleges, businesses, and workers need to increase sustainable economic growth.

The Enterprise and Skills Review Phase 1 report recognised that there was a need to do things differently in the South of Scotland to improve the area's productivity and make a step-change in its growth. It recognised the unique challenges facing the South of Scotland and committed to creating a new vehicle to meet the enterprise and skills needs of the region.

Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review committed to establishing a new public body in the South of Scotland to bring a fresh approach, with a clear focus on place, informed by the economic context and sensitive to the needs and opportunities of the area.

In October 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy introduced the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill to the Scottish Parliament. A key matter raised was the need to ensure that SOSE is fully attuned to the needs of the South of Scotland. In the foreword to the consultation to establish SOSE, the Cabinet Secretary said: *"We want the South of Scotland to drive forward its own future, a future created of the South, by the South, and for the South. And we want to ensure we're doing all we can to see that this future is one of fair work and inclusive growth."*

In discussions between the Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council, it was agreed that arrangements be put in place to ensure effective local input into the development of the strategic direction of economic development of the South of Scotland within which SOSE is operating. To that end, it was agreed that a Regional Economic Partnership [REP] be established as well as a Convention of the South of Scotland.

South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

The REP will have a wide membership and be co-chaired by Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils. It will comprise local public sector partners including SOSE, representatives of the business community, social enterprises, the third sector, communities, and registered social landlords.

The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership's primary purpose will be to secure and enable sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the South of Scotland.

It will do this by:

- Setting the strategic direction for the regional economy in the South of Scotland by developing the economic strategy and action plan.
- Addressing the strategic economic issues facing the South of Scotland through effective partnership work.
- Ensuring that, collectively, partner capacities and resources are harnessed to maximum effect.
- Bringing together stakeholders from across the area under a common purpose to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the South of Scotland.
- Identifying barriers to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly those that are specific to the South of Scotland.

South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership and the Convention of the South of Scotland

The work to drive inclusive growth in the South of Scotland will also be complemented by another body: the Convention of the South of Scotland. The Convention will bring together public sector partners from the South and Scottish Government ministers twice a year. This forum will help to ensure that all partners are working together and delivering effectively. The Convention will oversee regional economic performance, and also consider emerging challenges, and align partners around new action to address these matters.

The REP will be able to input to the Convention. An annual report from the REP will be considered by the Convention. This will outline the work done to deliver the Regional Economic Strategy, and will allow the opportunity to raise issues which have been identified as limiting the delivery of the strategy. These issues can then be discussed by the Convention if necessary for possible intervention by Scottish Government or its public bodies.

The REP will also have to take account of the relationship between the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy and the other economic arrangements within the region, such as the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, which will both deliver other important economic development projects in the South of Scotland. These deals have developed their own governance structures, which relate directly to these projects. The REP will not

be dealing directly with these matters.

Appointments to the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

The REP is looking to recruit 12 members from a range of different backgrounds.

It is important that the REP has people with a variety of skills and experiences, enabling the REP to effectively consider the needs of the different facets of the economy. All board members will require some general awareness, skills and personal qualities that enable them to make a full contribution to the work of the REP. These skills may have been gained through involvement in business and social enterprise, volunteering, life experience, and working with communities.

The REP is looking to recruit:

- 4 people from the private sector.
- 2 people from social enterprise.
- 2 people from the third sector.
- 2 people from Community Development.
- Two representatives of registered social landlords.

As part of the recruitment process, a geographical and a gender balance will be applied. It is intended that half of the appointed members are drawn from Dumfries and Galloway and half are drawn

from the Scottish Borders.

Person Specification

Applications will be assessed against the range of criteria outlined below. It is not essential that all of these are fulfilled by every applicant. However, matching as many of them as possible will be an advantage.

Experience

- Living or working in the South of Scotland or demonstrating an interest in its development.
- Knowledge and understanding of the communities in the South of Scotland.
- Knowledge of the current economic challenges facing the South of Scotland.
- Awareness and understanding of local and national economic strategies.
- Knowledge and understanding of inclusive growth.
- Experience of developing and providing oversight of a strategy.
- Communicating effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.

Skills

- Ability to think strategically to set the direction of the South of Scotland.
- Collaborative working and knowledge sharing.
- Putting forward views in an objective way.
- Managing performance against an agreed framework.
- See the 'bigger picture'.

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- Communicate effectively.

Terms of Appointment

Members will be appointed for an initial period of 2 years.

Travel expenses will be covered but these positions are not paid.

The REP will meet at least once a quarter [4 times a year].

Meetings will take place in different parts of the South of Scotland, rotating between Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

Early release from your position must be in writing to the REP chair.

A declaration of interest must be completed following appointment.

criteria outlined in the person specification.

Key Dates

Timetable for appointments

Closing date for applications	08 March 2020
Shortlisting	Week beginning 9 March 2020
Appointment of members	17 March 2020
First full meeting of the REP	April 2020

Links and Reference Documents

[South of Scotland Enterprise Act \(2019\)](#)

[DGC Report/ SBC Report](#)

[South of Scotland Economic Partnership](#)

Appointment Process

Applications should be submitted by way of an up to date CV and supported by a covering letter which outlines how your experience and skills will enable you to support the work of the REP.

To arrange an informal discussion please contact Alan Manthorpe – South of Scotland Alliance Policy Officer - 01835 824000 (Extension 5914)

Please submit your application by email to: alan.manthorpe@scotborders.gov.uk by 5pm on 08 March 2020.

Applications will be shortlisted against the