

SLAED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, 25th January 2022
MS Teams

MINUTE

1. Welcome & Introductions

IB welcomed SLAED members to the meeting, noting that this is the second SLAED AGM that has been held virtually.

2. National Strategy for Economic Transformation

IB introduced Gary Gillespie, Chief Economist at the Scottish Government, who gave a presentation on the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET). This is due to be published at the beginning of February. He noted that the strategy will be made up of five key programmes of action:

- Entrepreneurial People and Culture
- New Markets and Opportunities
- Productive Businesses and Regions
- Skilled Workforce
- A Fairer and More Equal Society

The NSET will focus on a new culture of delivery, with clear understanding of what the actions are against the priority areas, who takes ownership of them, who will deliver them etc. There will also be a focus on system delivery, where outcomes and impacts are clear across all of these priority areas. Transition is a strong theme throughout the strategy, and the Scottish Government is aiming to move towards a clearer and more streamlined delivery landscape. Success will be measured against detailed delivery plans, which will be developed after the publication of the strategy.

3. Q & A Session

Gary Gillespie invited SLAED members to ask questions on the NSET. Members were keen to ensure that all local authorities will benefit from, and contribute to, the priorities in the strategy. This is particularly important for smaller, island and rural authorities which are often left behind. They also highlighted that lessons should be learned from previous strategies, in terms of what has or has not been successful. For example, local authorities are not always fully consulted or at the table for important discussions at the national level, and this should be addressed going forward. Gary Gillespie agreed that local authorities will have an important role to play in developing delivery mechanisms following the publication of the strategy.

It was noted that there is a challenge across Scotland around productivity and below average levels of R&D. This has been central to previous strategies and opportunities have been highlighted in the NSET, such as leading on the transition to net zero. Members highlighted that place-based investment and regeneration are priorities for local authorities and Gary Gillespie confirmed that the actions within the strategy will be aligned to this and can be applied locally.

It was agreed that it can be challenging to balance transformation and reform with political pressure for new initiatives and announcements from government. This can result in short term actions being

prioritised over longer term initiatives that take time to deliver outcomes. SLAED members noted that changing the system will take time, therefore longer funding cycles would be greatly beneficial to local authorities delivering initiatives on the ground. Gary Gillespie and SLAED members agreed that improving wellbeing should be at the core of all of this.

4. Chairperson's Update on Business Since Previous AGM

IB gave an update on the work of the SLAED Executive and sub groups over the last year and this is set out in more detail in the previously circulated paper. She thanked colleagues from across all local authorities for their input into the SLAED groups in what has been a particularly challenging year for economic development officers.

IB noted that a key achievement this year has been the publication of the SLAED Strategic Plan for 2022-25. She thanked colleagues for their input into this, as well as the Improvement Service for bringing it together and developing the final plan. For the coming year, the priority for SLAED will be delivering on the Strategic Plan whilst continuing to work with partners and add value at all levels of economic development across Scotland. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains reflective of SLAED priorities.

IB highlighted that Pamela Smith is moving on to a new role in Public Health Scotland, and will therefore be stepping down from SLAED and her position as Chair of the People Group. IB thanked Pamela for her extensive input into the People / Employability Group and noted that the group is in the process of appointing a new Chair.

5. Finance Update

HY gave an update on SLAED's financial position over the 2021/22 period, which was previously circulated. Reserves have remained relatively consistent due to limited spend as a result of meetings taking place virtually. HY noted that two minor updates have been made to the accounts after the circulation of the AGM papers, therefore an updated financial position will be circulated post-meeting. These amendments are:

- A charge of £3,750 for Improvement Service support in refreshing the Strategic Plan; and
- Confirmation of the £7,683.69 ringfenced for employability.

Members agreed the accounts are an accurate record of SLAED's finances at January 2022.

6. Election of Executive Members

There have been no proposed changes to the Chairs of the sub groups since 2020/21. However, following the circulation of AGM papers, Pamela Smith has confirmed that she will be moving on to a new role in PHS and will step down as Chair of the People Group. She has asked People Group members for nominations for a new Chair by 2nd February, and these will be considered by the Executive in due course. Executive members agreed for 2022/23 are:

Chairperson	Ishabel Bremner, Argyll & Bute
Deputy Chairperson	Pamela Stevenson, Fife
Deputy Chairperson	Rory Young, Dundee City
People Group Chair	TBC
Business Group Chair	Allan Conry, North Lanarkshire

(co-chairs)	Graham Smith, Glasgow City
Tourism Group Chair	Tracey Martin, Falkirk
UK Funding Group Chair	Malcolm Leitch, Glasgow City
Rural Group Chair	Juliette Cooke, Dumfries & Galloway
Performance Group Chair	Gary Hughes, Aberdeenshire
Member without Portfolio	Sharon Thomson, Glasgow City

Vice Chairs of the sub groups can also attend meetings in place of the Chair when they are unavailable. Vice Chairs of the groups are as follows:

People Group Vice Chair	TBC
Business Group Vice Chair	No Vice Chair (co-chair approach)
Tourism Group Vice Chair	Andrew McKean, Renfrewshire Colin Simpson, Highland
UK Funding Group Vice Chair	John Davidson, Dundee City
Rural Group Vice Chair	No Vice Chair
Performance Group Vice Chair	David Boyle, Glasgow City Wilma Gordon, Angus

7. **AOB & Close**

It was noted that publication of the SLAED Indicators Report has been delayed. This is due to associated delays in the availability of some of the key data, as well as reduced capacity of some local authorities to provide their own data. These are similar to the challenges faced by the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) which has also delayed publication of its annual report.

Attendance List

Ishabel Bremner (Chair)	Argyll & Bute Council
Pamela Stevenson (Vice Chair)	Fife Council
Rory Young (Vice Chair)	Dundee City Council
Blair Duthie	Aberdeen City Council
Gary Hughes	Aberdeenshire Council
Reid Hutchison	Aberdeenshire Council
Wilma Gordon	Angus Council
Zalina Dzhatieva	Argyll & Bute Council
Kate Fraser	Argyll & Bute Council
Fergus Murray	Argyll & Bute Council
James Paterson	Argyll & Bute Council
Al Bryce	City of Edinburgh Council
Susanne Donkin	City of Edinburgh Council
Philip Ritchie	City of Edinburgh Council
Elin Williamson	City of Edinburgh Council
Lynne Burgess	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Juliette Cooke	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Ross MacKenzie	Dundee City Council
Laura Babington	East Dunbartonshire Council
Suzanne Bruce	East Dunbartonshire Council
David Gear	East Dunbartonshire Council
Alison Laurence	East Dunbartonshire Council
Laura Moir	East Renfrewshire Council
Peter Corbett	Fife Council
Mike Crosbie	Fife Council
Michael Drever	Fife Council
Ian McCrory	Fife Council
Morag Millar	Fife Council
Declan Brennan	Glasgow City Council
Ewan Eccleston	Glasgow City Council
Ivonne Hamilton	Glasgow City Council
Jackie Hill	Glasgow City Council
Irene Holding	Glasgow City Council



Jane Morrison
Graham Smith
Sharon Thomson
Jennifer Horn
Annie Watt
Caroline Brown
Allan Conry
Mark Hynds
Yvonne Weir
Stuart Allison

Jackie Thomson
David Littlejohn
Lynn Webster
Ruth Cooper
Mark Smith
Steve Keating
Kenny Lean
Sarah Phillips
Stephen Brooks
Clare Stewart
Hugh Lightbody
Pamela Smith
Hannah Young
Gary Gillespie

Neisha Kirk
Malcolm Leitch
Mike McNally
Glasgow City Council
Glasgow City Council
Glasgow City Council
Inverclyde Council
Midlothian Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Orkney Islands Council

Orkney Islands Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Renfrewshire Council
Shetland Islands Council
South Lanarkshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Stirling Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian Council
COSLA
Improvement Service
Improvement Service
Scottish Government



Glasgow City Council
Glasgow City Council
Glasgow City Council