



South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

RECRUITMENT PACK



The Regional Economic Partnership [REP] was set up to drive the strategic direction of economic development in the South of Scotland. It is one of a number of REPs established across Scotland following the Scottish Government's review of the enterprise and skills system.¹

It has a wide membership and is co-chaired by Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils. It is made up of 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 is to secure and enable sustainable and inclusive economic growth across the South of Scotland.

It does this by:

- setting the strategic direction for the regional economy in the South of Scotland by developing the 10 year [economic strategy](#) for the region. The second three year [delivery plan](#) has just been published for 2025-2027
- 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.

The REP will ensure the actions outlined in the Delivery Plan are taken forward, helping to realise our vision to create a "Green, Fair and Flourishing" South of Scotland. Some of the key actions achieved so far include:

- development of a Regional Land Use Partnership and associated Framework
- production of a responsible tourism destination development and marketing strategy for the South of Scotland
- development and launch of a Net Zero Investment Guide

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 is complemented by another body: the [Convention of the South of Scotland](#) (COSS). The Convention brings together public sector partners from the South and Scottish Government ministers twice a year. This forum helps to ensure that all partners are working together and delivering effectively. The Convention oversees regional economic performance, considers emerging challenges, and aligns partners around new action to address these matters.



¹ Scottish Government's Enterprise and Skills Review [Phase 1](#) and [Phase 2](#)

The REP inputs to the Convention, providing updates highlighting issues important to the South. The reporting process outlines 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, with the possibility of intervention by Scottish Government or its public bodies.

The REP also takes 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 are both delivering 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.

The REP is looking to recruit eight 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 members 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 various routes, such as involvement in business and social enterprise, volunteering, life experience, and working with communities.

The REP is looking to recruit:

- four people from the private sector (business and enterprises)
- two people from Social Enterprise
- two people from Community Development.

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 projects
- experience or knowledge of one or more of the priorities outlined in the Delivery Plan for 2025-2027

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
- seeing the 'bigger picture'
- communicating effectively.

Knowledge of one or more of the six key themes of the Regional Economic Strategy

- Skilled and Ambitious People
- Innovative and Enterprising
- Rewarding and Fair Work
- Cultural and Creative Excellence
- Green and Sustainable Economy
- Thriving and Distinct Communities

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]. There will also be the opportunity to join subgroups which will involve additional meetings.

Meetings will take place in different parts of the South of Scotland, in-person and online. In-person meetings will alternate 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.

Key Dates

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 sosrep@sose.scot.

Please submit your application by email to sosrep@sose.scot by 9am on 10 February 2025.

Applications will be shortlisted against the selection criteria week beginning 10 February 2025 and members will be appointed by end of February 2025.

The next meeting of the REP is planned for 21 March 2025.

Links

[South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership](#)

[Convention of South of Scotland](#)