



Update on D&G Regional Economic Strategy

Background

The new Regional Economic Strategy for 2008-13 was launched in October 2008 following wide consultation earlier that year. Four key themes have been identified in the strategy:

1. Business Infrastructure
2. Growing Business
3. Quality of Life
4. Developing a Competitive Workforce

Current status

A workshop to consider themes 1-3 was held in October 08 and it was identified that there were a number of ongoing activities which were addressing the themes. A further workshop was held on theme 4 with an update session held in February 09 to further develop 1-2 key themes on development a Competitive Workforce.

Links to Third Sector

Consideration was given when developing the Strategy to identify the Social Economy as a discrete sector, but it was felt more appropriate that each organisation would fit under the theme most appropriate to their business activity. For example, childcare organisations could potentially fit under Theme 4 as providing a service which contributes to the development of a competitive workforce.

There is therefore potential for Third Sector organisations to link their activities to the Strategy themes, as part of the operational plans that lie “below the waterline” of the Single Outcome Agreement.

Members of Dumfries & Galloway Local Social Economic Partnership (LSEP) are meeting with Council officials in March to discuss a report commissioned by the LSEP on the Social Economy and its potential for further development; this report is currently in draft and will be circulated to 3SF members when finalised.

Copies of the Strategy can be downloaded from D&G Council website or from DGFedCVS.

Conclusion

3SF members are asked to note the Strategy, consider how their activities fit into the four Strategy themes and feedback any specific comments to AECVS.

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