



South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership Delivery Plan 2025 - 2027



The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) is very happy to give you our 2nd economic delivery plan.

This plan explains what we will do over the next 3 years, from 2025 – 2027.

We will keep working with our partners to make the South of Scotland the best place to live, work, visit, learn, **invest** and do business.

LIVE WORK LEARN

Invest is when someone puts time or money into something to make it better.



In the next 3 years we will work together to help the people of South of Scotland access the homes they need, have good transport options and the skills and training they want.





Our first plan was written in 2021.



We spoke with a lot of people from lots of different places.

There were 47 actions in the first plan that went into 6 themes.



We spoke about what was needed to help the actions in the plan become possible.



Our first plan gave our partners a strong focus. It made our plan seem more real.



It helped us to work together and make sure we knew what part everyone was working on.



What we have done well so far:



We have a new website to show what a great region the South of Scotland is for businesses.



We have a new Cycling plan. We hosted the **UCI** Cycling World Championships.

This was so well done that the South of Scotland (SOS) got a special award that is recognised all over the world saying that the SOS is a bike region.



UCI Union Cycliste Internationale is French for the **International Union of Cyclists**. It is a group that make rules for cycling all over the world.



We lead on brand new projects such as the South of Scotland **Regional Land Use Partnership**.



A **partnership** is when two or more people or groups work together for a shared aim or goal.



Working together we created the South of Scotland Housing Action Plan.

This plan has ten actions that members will do to make new homes and give people more choices of homes in the South of Scotland.



We made and started the South of Scotland **Responsible** Tourism Strategy. This is a 10-year plan to increase the visitor **economy** by £1 billion. It will also support a further 6,000 jobs.



Responsible means to take charge of, or care for something.



Economy describes how a country or place is doing in making goods, and how much money it has.

It can also show how well the people and the places where they live are doing.



Sectors of the Economy

There are three
**Sectors of
Economy**



The **economy** is divided into three areas:

Private, public and third. Within each area of the **sectors** there are different types of businesses with different aims and outcomes.



Creative industries are all around us. They can be seen in the clothes we wear, the buildings we live and work in, the music we listen to, the books we read, the adverts on our screens, the apps we use and in lots of other places.

South of Scotland **Creative Economy** guide

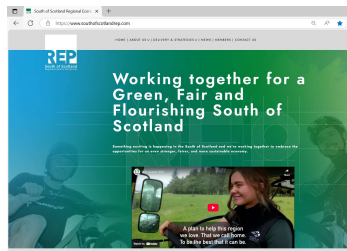
We have made a map of this sector in the South of Scotland and produced the **Creative Economy** Guide.



We came together and made our first **SOS Net Zero** investment guide.



Net Zero means that the amount of greenhouse gas that we put out into the air and the amount we can take out of the air will add up to zero.



We have a new website where people can find out what we have been doing and how they can get involved.



Please visit our website or our Facebook page or LinkedIn page to find out more.



We know we still have a lot to do to meet our aims for the South of Scotland in our 10-year plan.



We need to act quickly to make this happen.



We will make even stronger partnerships and work harder to make big changes for good.



People living in the South of Scotland told us what was most important to them and what needed to be done quickly.



These are the 3 most important actions.



Main Action 1

Making new houses that are in the places where they are needed.

This will attract new people and keep the people who are already living in the South of Scotland.



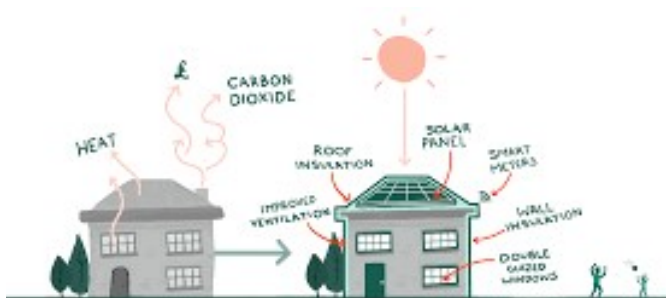
We will do this by

Growing our own building sector.

Telling people why this region is a good place to build homes.



These houses should meet the needs of the people wanting to live in them.



We will join with other people who are working on similar projects putting things into houses that already exist to make them **Net Zero**.



We will look at the plan before the end of the first 2 years to make sure we are still working on our aims and goals.



Main Action 2

Trying to find ways to make transport better in the South of Scotland.

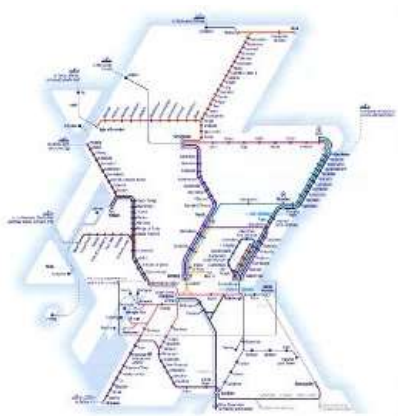


We will do this by

Using data to help us make a strong case for transport investment in the South of Scotland.



Speaking with people across the region and Scotland about finding different ways to solve the transport problems in the South of Scotland.



Looking into how we can build better transport links and partnerships both north and south of the border.



Main Action 3

Create ways in which skills can meet the future needs of the region.

We will do this by

Trying to get rid of **barriers** that exist when trying to increase training.

A **barrier** is something that stops someone or something from getting in or moving on.

We will take part in the Scottish Government's programme of national skills reform.



We have 3 main actions and 9 extra actions The 9 extra actions are:

Action 1

Put into place a better way of giving support to our **enterprises**.

Enterprises are usually businesses that have a plan to make money. Some enterprises put their profit back into the business.

A **Social Enterprise** is a business that wants to make money but also wants to make a difference to people and places.

We will do this by

Better help for enterprises so that they can grow.

We want to support groups of people that don't usually get involved with enterprises.

Making sure our help will best meet the needs of businesses in South of Scotland.

This will include micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

Finding new ways to tell people about the support we can offer to businesses.



ENTERPRISE





Action 2

Make and put into place a plan for investment into the South of Scotland.



We will do this by

Making and putting into action a plan for investing in the South of Scotland.



Telling people about the new Invest in South of Scotland website.



Make the website better.



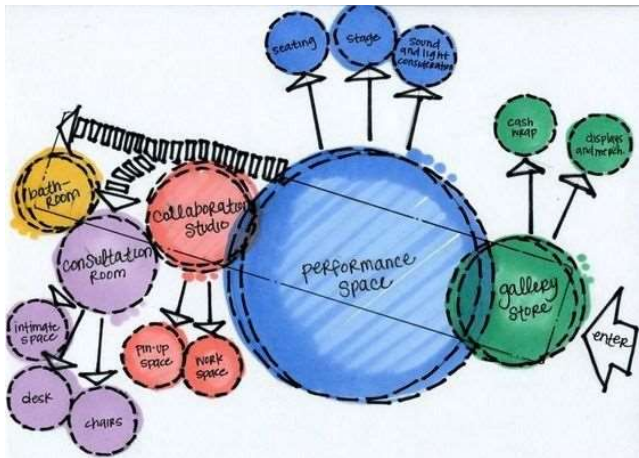
Finding new ways to show what the region has to offer. We might use the **Global Scots Network** to show off the South of Scotland to the whole world.



Action 3

Create a **spatial picture or plan** for the South of Scotland to showcase key regional projects, links and how money was spent.

A **spatial picture or plan** is used to study or draw what a space may look like in the future.

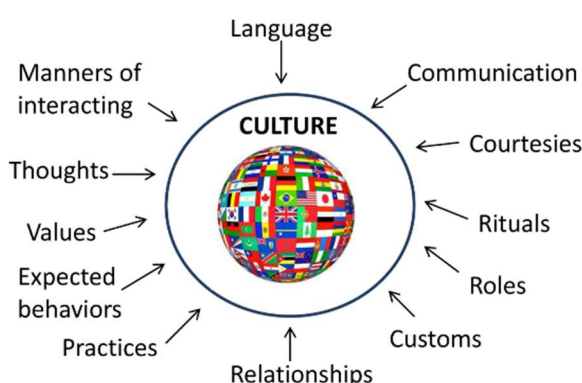


We will do this by

Making a full spatial plan for the South of Scotland that shows the main places where

- people connect
- things are being made even better
- money is being put in to make something even better.





Action 4

Supporting a growth plan for **culture** in the region.

We will do more mapping of the **creative economy** and enhance our film and TV work and skills.

Culture is the feeling of belonging to a group in society based on shared things like food, clothes, language etc.) Culture can be shared through the arts like drawing, acting and making things.

Creative economy is based on people's use of their mind to increase an idea's value or to make new original things.

We will do this by

Working with our partners in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders on developing a Culture plan.

We will expand the new mapping of the creative economy in the South.

We will start and put into action the South of Scotland Screen plan 2025 – 2030 which will give better options for making film and TV in the region.



Action 5

Support the **Natural Capital Innovation Zone** through the Borderlands programme, the Regional Land Use Framework and working with new partners.

Natural Capital is a way that we rely on nature and how we can put a value on that.

An **Innovation Zone** is an area where new ideas happen.

We will do this by

Starting new projects through the **Borderlands Natural Capital Programme** to lead the way in looking at the land and seas in different ways.

Building and making strong links in the **private, public and third sector**.

The **private sector** are businesses which make money because of what they do.

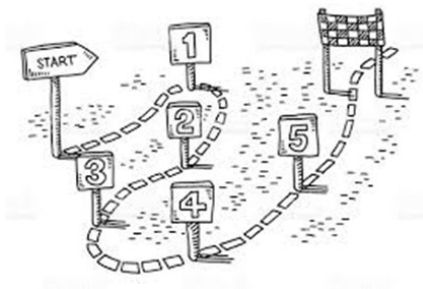
The **public sector** includes governments, councils and NHS services.



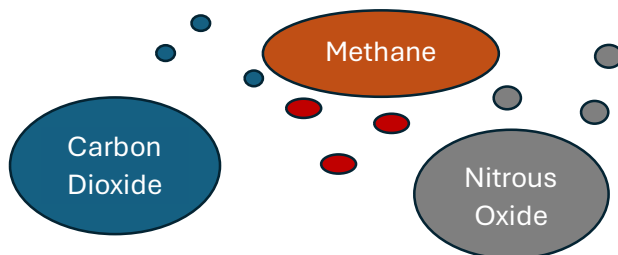
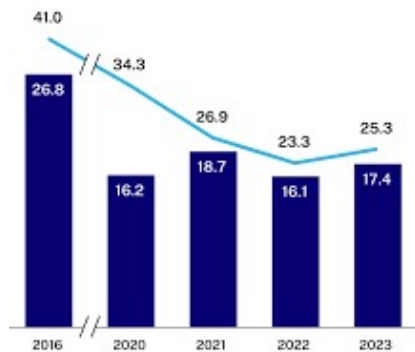
The **third sector** is not about making a profit but making a change to society. The Third Sector can include things like charities and volunteers.



Working together in a joined-up way to put into action the Regional Land Use **Framework**.



A **framework** is another name for a guide on how to do something.



Action 6

Create pathways for a **Just Transition to Net Zero** for parts of our regional economy.

Just Transition is moving from one thing to another in a fair way.

We will do this by

Looking at regional **emissions baselines** and make sure these align with the National Transition plans and the **National Climate Intelligence Service**.

Emission baseline is how we measure how much gasses like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are given off when carbon is used.

The **National Climate Intelligence Service** is funded by the Scottish Government and local governments to help councils make area wide plans to reduce emissions.



Action 7

Design, make and put into place a trial to find the best ways of making housing that has already been built in the region meet the Net Zero levels.

We will do this by

Finding out the most common types of social housing.

Checking if the houses are good to live in.

Working out how to make bad houses good and changing things to make the houses better.

Working with experts to find any skills gaps and helping fill the gaps.

We will also work with experts to look at how **tenants** have their voices heard.

A **tenant** is someone who rents a house or workspace from someone else who is usually called the landlord.





Action 8

Find out what advice and help is available to people and groups and use this to make a joined up 'pathway' to get this support.



We will do this by

Finding out where experts are that can give advice and help to groups that have good ideas.



Target gaps that were found during the mapping process and make support better.



Making and telling everyone about the clear pathway so groups can access the right support whichever company they approach.



Building more awareness of what help we can offer and what is already happening.



Action 9

Map how we use digital tech. to help people.

Look at where the gaps are.

Look at where digital tech. is working well in the South of Scotland.

Use this mapping to agree a core set of ways we can use digital tech.

We will do this by

Mapping out how we use digital tech. to help.

Using our mapping to make us better at working across groups.





Case Study 1



Net Zero **Investment** Guide

To **invest** is when someone puts time or money into something to make it better.



The Net Zero **Investment** Guide was written by

- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Scottish Borders Council
- Skills Development Scotland and
- South of Scotland Destination Alliance

They worked together with



- Scottish Development International and
- Scottish Government



The guide shows everyone how many natural things are in the region and how much value they have.



There is also a strong research base and a helpful business setting.



These makes the South of Scotland a great place for **entrepreneurs**, start-ups and companies that are already meeting the Net Zero Challenge in new ways.

An **entrepreneur** is someone who starts a business or social enterprise.



The guide gives good examples of these while showing ways of trying new things.



It highlights other chances to support the vision of a green, fair and healthy region.



It is hoped that all these good things in the region will help people decide that they want to invest in the South of Scotland.





Case Study 2



South of Scotland Regional Land Use **Partnership**

A **partnership** is when two or more people or groups work together for a shared aim or purpose.



The South of Scotland was a trial area for the Scottish Government's Regional Land Use Partnership.



The project brought together a wide range of people as well as those from the public sector, landowners, and the third sector across the South of Scotland.





Over 600 people took part and helped to make a draft **framework**.

A **framework** is another name for a guide on how to do something



This draft was published in 2023 and the final framework came out in 2024



It set out a clear vision and aims of the Regional Land Use **Framework**



The framework shows us the need to make decisions by making sure everyone who uses the land has a say in what happens to it.



It makes sure we remember to use the good things that we have wisely, as one day they will run out.



Case Study 3



South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy

A **strategy** is another word for a plan.

The South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy has been written by 5 partners.



These are

- South of Scotland Enterprise
- South of Scotland Destination Alliance
- Scottish Borders Council
- Dumfries and Galloway Council and
- VisitScotland



The strategy is the first of its kind in the South of Scotland.



It sets out a bold 10 year plan for our visitor **economy**. This plan is about people who come to visit the region for holidays or trips.



Economy describes how a country or place is doing in making goods, and how much money it has.



It can also show how well the people and the places where they live are doing