



# South of Scotland Draft Regional Economic Strategy

Update to Dumfries and Galloway CPP – 11 June 2021



# Overview

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**Update on Development**

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**The Draft Strategy**

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**Next Steps**



# Update For CPP

- **South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership agreed to proceed with consulting on the draft Regional Economic Strategy at its meeting on 8 June 2021**
- **Summary of content and ambition of Draft Strategy**
- **Consultation approach outline**
- **Encourage CPP partners to participate - consultation presents the opportunity for feedback from all stakeholders**



1

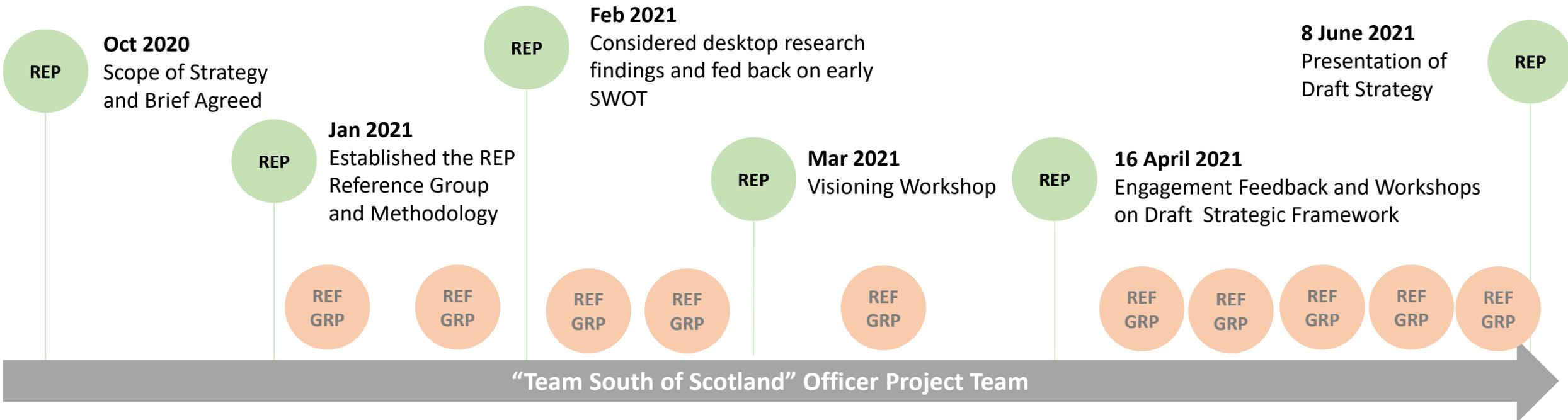
Update on  
Development

# The purpose of the RES

**“To shape the future economic direction of our region, getting to grips with the key issues and setting out a clear, collective and compelling vision focussed on long term outcomes”**

- Opportunity to...
  - align partner aims and ambitions
  - translate partner commitment into firm priorities
  - proactively drive inclusive, sustainable, green growth
  - better co-ordinate partner capacity and resources
  - tailor the efforts of national agencies – locally responsive
  - positively influence other regional and local plans – ‘golden thread’
  - Embed SG economic recovery planning within context of a long term strategy

# How the RES has been developed



**RSM**  
**December 2020**  
Engaged External Consultants – RSM – to bring capacity, expertise and external challenge

**February and March 2021**  
significant external engagement via themed discussions, direct interviews, surveys & online drop ins aimed at businesses and communities

**Focus to date has been on development of the strategy – focus on delivery plan to follow.**

# Engagement Summary



2

Surveys

215

Business Responses

442

Non Business Responses



38

Direct Discussions

c.140

Individuals

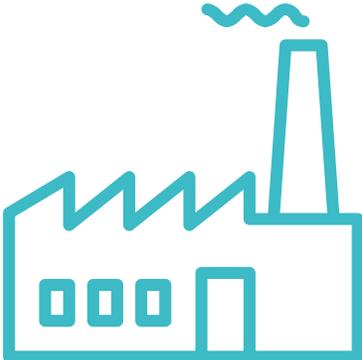


9

Thematic Workshops

c.100

Individuals



3

Business Focus Groups

c.15

Businesses



6

Open to All Mtgs

20

Individuals



Dedicated phone number



Dedicated email

OFFICIAL

# 2

## The Draft Strategy



# What Makes the South Special

- Our strategic location, spanning the English border and Irish and North Sea coastlines
- Our unique industrial heritage linked to farming, fishing, forestry, textiles, food and drink
- Our distinct cultures and places, shaped by centuries of history and landmark events
- Our vibrancy, showcased through a rich and diverse tapestry of people and businesses, thriving artists and creative minds
- Our distinctive and fiercely proud, resilient communities of all sizes
- Our proximity to major urban catchments, including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Carlisle, Newcastle, and Belfast

# Our Vision & Values

Sharing prosperity

Making the most of our  
potential

**In 2031... Green, Fair  
and Flourishing**

Thinking differently

Pioneering environmental  
responsibility

**We will be a region of opportunity – where natural capital propels green growth, quality of life is unmatched, communities are empowered and cultural identity is cherished, attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in the South of Scotland, and enabling those already here to thrive**

# Facing up to our challenges

## Challenges...

- Ageing, declining population
- Some of our jobs pay poorly, are insecure and limit standards of living
- Low innovation
- Low productivity
- Fewer business start ups
- Our people are less likely to attain higher level skills
- Our region has some areas of high deprivation
- Infrastructure deficits – including transport & connectivity – holding back growth and reducing attractiveness
- Not enough homes
- Not making the contribution to Scotland's decarbonisation targets that we could
- Uncertainty and impacts of COVID-19 and the UK's exit from the EU



## but, Optimism too...

- Our quality of life
- Open, green and blue space in abundance
- Well positioned to draw in labour
- Acceleration of home working affording residents greater job choices
- Natural capital presents huge opportunities
- Test bed for social care and smart technology deployment
- Our own dedicated development agency
- Commitment to fair work
- Enterprising spirit
- Strong breadth and increasingly collaborative further and higher education sector
- Strong and visionary RSL sector
- Active network of Third Sector organisations
- Committed and transformational investment pipeline linked to Inclusive Growth and City Deals

# Strategic Framework – 6 Themes

**THEME 1: SKILLED & AMBITIOUS PEOPLE**

**THEME 2: INNOVATIVE & ENTERPRISING**

**THEME 3: REWARDING & FAIR WORK**

**THEME 4: CULTURAL & CREATIVE EXCELLENCE**

**THEME 5: GREEN & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

**THEME 6: THRIVING & DISTINCT COMMUNITIES**

# 3

## Next Steps



# Timeline to Final Strategy



**Need to capture and plot other partners' approvals too.**

# Approach to Consultation

- Re-connect with those REP engaged with – we listened... have we got it right
- Try to reach others – look to maximise response rate
  - Potentially some focussed effort on Young People and harder to reach groups
- Primarily online – structured approach to feeding back via ‘Citizen Space’
- Underpinned once again by a strong communications strategy
- Development of toolkit to support partners in raising awareness
- Partnership organisations encouraged to respond too – encourage CPP partners to take time to do this

# Parallel Development of Delivery Plan

- Delivery Plan to comprise of:
  - Small number of focused high-level actions identified for each of the priorities within the Strategy's six themes
  - Performance targets and key indicators through which progress can be measured
- REP's role one of strategic oversight, above and beyond strategic leadership
- To have a three year rolling focus – detail proportionate
- To be worked up in parallel to consultation on the draft strategy
- Delivery plan to be in place alongside the RES when it is published in its final form later in 2021.



Mull of Galloway 12m  
New York 3540m  
London 323m  
Newcastle 131m  
Belfast 300m  
Iceland 1100m

# Comments and Observations