



Social Enterprise Reference Group

SE Strategy Sub-Group

Following the inaugural SE Reference Group in June 2017, Senscot intimated its interest in co-ordinating a sub-group that would feed into the main SE Reference Group.

Whilst we appreciate that Scottish Govt Third Sector Division wishes to get feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, our feeling was that the make-up of the Reference Group does not adequately reflect those to whom the SE Action Plan and its individual measures are aimed at – i.e the beneficiaries of the 92 ‘actions’.

Our proposal is to establish a SE Strategy Sub-Group that would be made up of membership-led intermediary organisations (circa 50%) – both local and national – as well an equal number of representatives of locally-based social enterprises (circa 50%).

We would propose meeting 2 to 3 times per annum to consider and reflect on the progress of the SE Action Plan and to feed back to the SE Reference Group on areas that we believe are working well and those areas that we feel are not having the impact that may have been intended.

The role of the Membership-led SE Sub-Group is important for two particular reasons. Not only will those engaged in the wider delivery of many of the actions have first-hand feedback from the intended beneficiaries of the different actions underway – informing them of what is working and what is not; but also that Scottish Govt is genuinely taking steps, and being seen to take steps, to engage with grassroots social enterprises and their representative bodies – accounting for the single biggest percentage of SEs from across Scotland.

It is our belief that these organisations are the cornerstone of the sector in Scotland and, if the Strategy is to have the impact we all hope for, their contribution and views should surely carry the greatest weight as the Strategy and supporting Action Plan/s evolve over the years ahead.

Senscot has already had some discussions with other membership-led organisations and we would be keen to host the first meeting in late March 2018.