Senscot and the Cultural Social Enterprise Network consultation response to the [Draft Cultural Strategy for Scotland](#)

What is your view of the vision as set out in the strategy?

Senscot and the [Cultural Social Enterprise Network](#) welcome the creation of the new Cultural Strategy. There have been a variety of responses from Cultural social enterprise network members with regards to the Vision – views are included in each question response.

The view, in general, is that the vision fits well with social enterprise activity in the cultural sector but that there needs to be clearer, more specific actions to ensure significant and measurable change. Connecting to community, health and wellbeing as well as economic activity places culture at the heart of change in Scotland. Social enterprises operating within the cultural sector already deliver positive social change and should be considered as examples of best practice.

What do you like or dislike or what would you change?

The statements are very broad but, with a strong action plan in place, will be useful for arguing a case for supporting culture.

- There is a sense that the Strategy has been written as if starting from new. It is important to recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution of what currently exists and what is being delivered well.
- The vision, and wider document, is wordy, complex and, in places, difficult to grasp.
- Vision statements are not connected to the body of the strategy. Will the action plan be directly connected?
- The vision should relate to real and measurable change.
- It is a good basis for moving forward but it is vital that it is adequately resourced.

What is your view of the ambition transforming through culture?

Senscot and the Cultural SEN welcome the recognition of the relationship culture has to social and economic prosperity. The inclusion of health and wellbeing, education, young people, older people and poverty is vitally important.

What do you like or dislike or what would you change about transforming through culture?

- Links to the Community Empowerment Act and other policy areas that could be used to ensure delivery.
- Links to the Social Enterprise Strategy for Scotland particularly actions relating to long-term sustainability of organisations.
- A more practical way of increasing opportunities is needed rather than relying on a single person to convince others.
- There are gaps in relation to procurement opportunities - use of community benefit clauses, PSPs - as a way of changing behaviour within public bodies.
- A knowledge exchange is needed to branch creative/ cultural, and public/ private/ third sectors, bringing best practice and innovative ideas.
- Links to [public health reform](#)
- Acknowledgement of inequality and impact of health and role of culture in addressing this.

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1

- Statements need to be stronger with definitive action attached to each. Using the word 'Consideration' does not seem strong enough.
- The use of the word 'developing' suggests that work is not already happening. There should be acknowledgement of what already exists and stronger statements to ensure that best practice is recognised, and old mistakes are not repeated.
- It is important to raise the profile of culture across all government departments and influence other key areas e.g. public health reform, democracy matters.
- There are concerns that a 'Cultural Leadership' role would divert money/resources from grassroot organisations.
- Any 'Cultural Leadership' role must ensure true representation from across the sector.

2

- There are concerns that a national partnership is not connecting with communities and giving them a say - better to resource grassroots.
- This should include international connections. – Internationalising Social Enterprise - A Strategy for Scotland includes academia and agency partnership connections

3

- Pleased to see culture being aligned with community, health, employability etc. This link is important to ensure culture recognition at a government level.
- Local authorities and Public Bodies should be obliged to work with organisations and individuals outside of ALEOs
- The Senscot Briefing 'Loneliness and Social Isolation: The Role of Social Enterprise' contains a case study of Lingo Flamingo who have developed positive relationships with local authorities, academia and the care sector.

What is your view of the ambition empowering through culture?

Senscot and Cultural SEN members acknowledge that this is a positive ambition and whole-heartedly support the notion that culture should be more accessible for every person in Scotland. However, some of the statements within this part of the Strategy are very broad – and make it difficult to envisage how they may be delivered.

What do you like or dislike or what would you change about empowering through culture?

- Inclusion of Community Empowerment Act
  - o Asset Transfer
- Inclusion of participatory budgeting
  - o True PB plans required rather than events to give out small grants.
- Inclusion of Intangible Cultural Heritage
  - o Including international connections
- Inclusion of infrastructure
  - o Transport availability and cost
- Inclusion of Democracy Matters outcome

Please provide comments on the aims and actions under empowering through culture

1

- How will this be done?
- Stronger links to technology needed
- Understanding the cultural capital of an area is key to creating opportunities for stronger community involvement.

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- The Senscot briefing '[Cinema & Community Regeneration: The Role of Social Enterprise](#)' contains a case study of three social enterprises that connect communities and create opportunities through film.

2

- Social enterprises are already making a considerable contribution both socially and economically across Scotland. The social enterprise census 2017 states the economic contribution of social enterprises in Scotland as £2billion GVA. The Social Enterprise Strategy for Scotland includes partnership working across sectors linking with education, local development, employability, and public and consumer markets.
- It is very important that it is community-led and not national organisations making decisions without local engagement. Without this, the credibility of the Strategy could be undermined.
- Senscot is already working with national bodies and social enterprises. The Culture and Social Enterprise Roundtable has been set up to form a strategically placed partnership to help deliver the change required to overcome barriers faced by cultural and creative social enterprises and to unlock the potential added value they could bring. The Roundtable meets regularly during the year and, by connecting with the Cultural and Creative SEN, seeks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information and to influence Government policy in this direction. Representatives from the Cultural and Creative SEN work closely with the Cultural Roundtable to ensure a flow of communication.

3

- Again, recognition on what is already being successfully delivered is required.
- The Senscot briefing '[Community Tourism: The Role of Social Enterprise](#)' contains a case study of Dornoch CIC, a social enterprise that brings together private, public and third sectors to improve the tourism offer in the town. Through this is there is support for and recognition of the cultural value of the area- community led festivals, heritage, and creative activity are at the heart of delivery.

What is your view of the ambition sustaining culture?

Of the 3 ambitions this is the strongest in relation to deliverable activity. We would hope to see national and local partners identified including social enterprise partners.

What do you like or dislike or what would you change about sustaining culture?

- Reference to economic contribution of cultural activity
    - See [Social Enterprise Census 2017](#)
    - 777 social enterprises in arts and creative industries
    - 361 social enterprises in tourism, heritage & festivals
    - 81% of arts and creative industries pay at least the living wage
    - 13% of arts and creative industries make use of zero hours contracts
    - largest number of social enterprise new starts has been in the arts and creative industries sector- 128 new starts
- Reference to Scotland's [Social Enterprise Strategy 2016-2026](#) in regards to support structures
- Inclusion of cultural planning
- There is a need to provide quality business support designed for the cultural sector. Linking to partners such as Business Gateway; Scottish Enterprise; Just Enterprise; Cultural Enterprise Office- a programme of sector specific support should be developed and delivered by the sector for the sector.

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1

- Plans around the National Investment Bank are welcomed but as the majority of the sector is made up of SMEs the impact can only be limited. Other examples exist- community bonds - see SCRT information below , Social Investment Scotland, Big Issue Invest etc.
- Social enterprises generally have a variety of different income streams including grant funding, trade with the general public through services or products, trade with the local authorities and the health sector, and trade with the private sector. Better understanding of the breadth of activity delivered over different sectors is required.

2

- The Social Enterprise Networks provide a forum for social enterprises to access peer support, share resources and develop effective solutions to shared challenges. They give social enterprises a collective voice with which to raise important issues at both a local and national level. Further development of this work would ensure more cultural social enterprises and start-ups would have access to this important of peer support.
- Funded through the Social Enterprise Strategy Action Plan, P4P is an initiative which supports social enterprises and third sector organisations to better access public procurement and other contracting opportunities and to build partnerships and consortia. Procurement is an area not covered within this Strategy that could have a valuable impact on the sustainability of many organisations and individuals.
- This should be connected to academia. It is important to connect training and producing a workforce in areas where employment opportunities exist?
- Training outside of traditional routes should be recognised.
- Cultural SEN member The Tower has created a digital learning hub that provides opportunities for young people on the West Coast of Scotland.

3

- Limited reference to tourism. Scotland's culture is a primary reason for tourists to visit Scotland and for Scottish people to holiday at home. Better understanding of this and the ability to take advantage of the tourism sector would increase long-term sustainability.
- Strong links exists between private 'freelance' sector and social enterprises- delivery of projects, partnerships for tenders, need for expertise etc. Supporting long-term sustainability of social enterprise would in turn create more opportunities for freelancers to work with social enterprises.

All members of the Cultural Social Enterprise Network are involved in the cultural sector and delivering social benefits to their community.

The Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise in Scotland lays out the values and behaviours of social enterprise. These values and behaviours are closely aligned with much of the strategy.

Cultural SEN members suggestions: -

- Regional Screen Scotland - links with community cinema and Screen Machine
- See Think Make - example of how to provide emerging artists with the opportunity to develop their leadership potential at the start of their professional journey, gaining an Arts Award in the process.
- FVSE runs the Stirling Highland Games as a vibrant cultural social enterprise including volunteering and employability opportunities as well as generating income to do more of the

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same through the year. They also have plans to make this a year-round attraction to maximize the vision of the organization and the potential of the cultural attraction for the local community.

- The Stove Network in Dumfries and Galloway, where rural communities set up as regional 'Chamber of the Arts' giving makers and creators a say and access to funding for what their local areas required in the way of cultural support and advancement.
- Nordic Horizons
- Creative Dundee
- Creative Edinburgh
- Creative Renfrewshire

SCRT aims allow the third sector to pool its financial resources for the mutual benefit of the sector and the communities it serves. This is a model – which could involve establishing a bespoke Loan Fund – is worth exploring for the cultural organisations. The SEN Bridging Loan Fund is an example of bespoke design

P4P provide tailored one-to-one support including:
- Identify potential procurement opportunities
- Developing a 'bid library'
- Training
- Support and advice on areas such as:
  - tender writing
  - European Single Procurement Documents
  - Reviewing submissions, and
  - Gathering feedback

What can you or your organisation do to support the vision, aims, ambitions and actions of the strategy?

Senscot's vision "of a socially just Scotland served by a thriving social economy" includes culture and creative organisations and closely aligns with a number of core elements within the Strategy.

Senscot will continue to support the Cultural Social Enterprise Network, creating opportunities for social enterprises to come together for peer support, share resources and develop effective solutions to shared challenges. The Cultural Social Enterprise Network gives social enterprises a collective voice with which to raise important issues at both a local and national level. The members of the Cultural Social Enterprise Network are also invited to take part in joint thematic activity, connecting with relevant issues in health, sport, community food, employability and tourism, and raising the profile in these sectors.

In addition, Senscot will continue be involved in developing sector support - working between front line social enterprises and Scottish Government policy makers – helping to develop strategy and action priorities. We will continue to, with partners, incubate and spin out new services which grow the social economy. We will continue to support the Cultural Roundtable and link with national strategy and policy.

Through network activity, newsletters and advocacy, we champion the role of the social economy in creating a just and prosperous Scotland.

What do you think success for the strategy will look like?

The Culture Strategy for Scotland will address the issue of ongoing sustainability for social enterprise in the cultural sector. It will establish markers for best practice and identify set goals for improvement in the sector. The cultural landscape will be more inclusive, creating opportunities for all communities to engage and take advantage of cultural activity. Communities will be at the heart of decision making. Public bodies will develop more and equal partnerships for delivery, understanding the long-term cost advantages rather than choosing short-term benefits. The final document will include a clear, resourced action plan – that will include realistic and but ambitious outcomes and outputs.

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Additional comments from Cultural SEN members:

- Artists paid at least the living wage
- A community cultural centre in every community (similar to a sports centre)
- Monitoring and measuring of its impact
- A more connected Creative Scotland – ensuring that those not funded by CS are also able to become connected.
- A well-funded, well balanced, well distributed cultural economy
- A country that thrives, with healthy, happy individuals with wide interests, opportunities, food and homes.
- A vibrant, transformed Scotland with heritage, existing resources, people and place included in the emerging future - all with artists and communities at the core.

The Senscot Briefings contain case studies that tie directly into this strategy - providing a clear picture of the value of culture in Scotland's communities.

What is your view of the proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating the strategy?

Cultural SEN members feel that greater clarity should be given to requirements around monitoring and evaluation - and that this should be addressed within an action plan.
- The new National Outcome appears to lack targets for growth or improvement – and, therefore, will be difficult to be measured.
- What are the benchmarks to measure success?
- Such processes need to be made more effective, less burdensome, and more meaningful.
- There is a concern that the real stories across the country will be missed if they don't cast their net wide enough.

Do you think the partial Equality Impact Assessment has identified where the strategy might impact on people differently depending on characteristics such as age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender identity? What would you add or change?

No comment

CEMVO Scotland – Strengthening Communities Tackling Inequalities

Do you think the partial Children's Rights and Welfare Impact Assessment sets out how the proposals presented in the strategy might impact on the rights and welfare of children? What would you add or change?

No Comment

CEMVO Scotland – Strengthening Communities Tackling Inequalities

How do you think this strategy might impact upon people on low incomes, people living in deprived areas, people in material deprivation, people with no/low wealth and people from different socio-economic backgrounds?

This strategy has the potential to have enormous impact, but unless there is a clear action plan with resource it may be difficult to deliver and to show.

Do you think the partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment identifies how the proposals presented in the strategy might impact on businesses, the third (voluntary) sector or have any regulatory impact? What would you add or change?

No Comment

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