



MINUTES OF THE EDAS AGM HELD WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2020 BY ZOOM

Attendees and Apologies are noted in Appendix 1.

Liz McEntee, Chair of EDAS, welcomed all present to the virtual AGM, a first for EDAS this year and the first year for Liz as Chair of EDAS.

Liz was delighted to welcome such a good turnout, highlighting that one benefit we are clearly enjoying is greater connectivity to all parts of Scotland; being online removes the time commitment and cost of travel. As a national organisation, that ability to engage across the country is important – so whatever EDAS does going forward, it will aim to ensure it does not lose that level of connectivity with its community.

So to begin the AGM, the Chair started with a few reflections.

“2020 has been a year like no other. When I began as Chair in April this year, the world was in shock at the sudden arrival of the Covid-19 virus and the speed and scale at which it was taking hold across the globe.

I don't think any of us could have realised at our last AGM a year ago could have imagined what 2020 would bring. The virus created a crisis in health of unprecedented proportions. Never before have entire nations had to “lock down” for public health reasons, creating in consequence, a massive and sudden shock to global and national economies and to key industries.

The full, long term impact of the virus has still to be felt but here in Scotland, we know our travel, tourism, retail, leisure and hospitality sectors have been among the hardest hit and each day seems to bring more devastating news for these parts of our economy and the people whose lives are affected by these seismic changes.

The virus has also exposed even further, the very real fault lines of inequality that exist here in Scotland and across the world.

We know the virus has had a disproportionate impact on the health of those who are the poorest and most vulnerable in our society and those who are unemployed or in insecure, part time and low wage jobs are being hit really hard by pandemics economic consequences too. Indeed, many in what would have been considered secure, well paid jobs a year ago or who were running successful small businesses have their livelihoods turned upside down and the true impact on unemployment and jobs has still to be felt. The human cost of this

year – on mental health, relationships and financial security – is not yet fully clear but it will be massive.

Any thinking and planning for economic recovery and rebuild must prioritise measures to acknowledge and address these issues and it will take the contributions of all stakeholders – public, private and third sectors along with local communities and those people most affected – to do so. We have a chance to re-imagine – post-virus – the kind of society and economy we want to build; one that places the wellbeing of people, communities and the environment at its heart and that reshapes and redefines our cities and towns in the aftermath for the better.

On this basis, there has never been a more important time for EDAS and its membership and community of economic development strategists and practitioners, to come together in response to this crisis. Those working to create economic recovery need the right tools, skills, knowledge and information to support their work. They also need a space to reflect and to think.

EDAS exists to ensure such spaces - for ideas, dialogue, learning and action. And going forward we want to hear from you about how we can best support the work you do so we can shape our future programme to meet your needs. I feel privileged to be leading EDAS at such a time, with the support of a very active and talented board and team – and we all look forward having those important conversations with you as we move into 2021.”

The AGM offers the opportunity to share progress and performance in 2019-20.

EDAS has retained the majority of our membership base and brought in new members. The bulk of members (96%) are from the public sector and over the next year EDAS will be looking at its member offer and how to strengthen and diversify its base further. Many are delivering economic development in Scotland but would not identify themselves in this way, so EDAS would like to recognise and include their contributions.

The Association has a growing social media following via our EDAS Twitter account which links followers to news and events.

Eleven events were held across the year for over 300 participants, including our free to members Community of Practice sessions on inclusive and sustainable growth.

Eight highly valued CPD courses were delivered to 91 practitioners, enabling those working in economic development to develop and/or update professional learning.

Valuable partnerships were maintained with key partners in COSLA, HIE, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government, SLAED and SDS.

The quarterly Parliamentary Briefings were shared with over 450 key contacts.

A website refresh was undertaken which has just gone live and content will be added on a regular basis to ensure members and stakeholders are able to access the information they need to be well informed of EDAS activities and policy and practice issues in economic development across Scotland.

During 2020, EDAS continued to build on this work and *have already delivered over 20 courses and events supporting almost 1000 people*. These have included a new series of Covid Conversations on wide ranging issues of the day - Fair Work, Procurement, the Wellbeing Economy - latterly with Scotland Europa as part of European Week of Regions and Cities where EDAS was honoured to hear from Club of Rome's Sandrine Dixson-Decleve.

An Inclusive and Sustainable Growth workstream continues with the Scottish Government; centring on a fundamental shift to a Community Wealth Building approach in economic development that can help deliver on Scotland's wellbeing economy and inclusive growth aspirations.

Other highlights for the months and year to come include a focus on the just published No-One Left Behind policy; practical sessions covering Brexit and Regional Economic Partnerships; and of course the lead in to COP26.

Linked to this, EDAS is well underway with planning for the annual conference which will focus on People-Planet and Prosperity; split across four high level summits from early Spring to Autumn 2021, shaping and informing green delivery outcomes to share at COP26.

So, despite significant challenges, the Chair was pleased to report that EDAS continues to thrive and has adapted its operations well to the new way of remote working.

In all of this, the Chair thanked a very talented and committed staff team and Board for all their hard work over the last year in making EDAS such a success and also to Robert Pollock, EDAS's previous Chair, for doing such a tremendous job in leading and strengthening the organisation over the previous 5 years. There is no doubt that Robert's excellent stewardship put us in a strong position to weather the storm of the last 9 months.

EDAS AGM Business

The Minutes of 2019 are available in the Publications area of the website.

1. To consider and approve Financial Accounts for Year to end 31 March 2020

As required by the Companies Act 2006, a copy of accounts has been made available on our website and offered to members on request.

Statement based on information from Accountants, Soroban:

Report for 2020:

The organisation had a surplus in year of £5,305 (2019: £14,468). The surplus arose on unrestricted reserves, there was no surplus or deficit on restricted reserves (2019:0).

In relation to reserves, the trustees have considered that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves would be sufficient to cover six months operating costs. EDAS has taken the opportunity during the year to further strengthen its reserves position and they now stand at £58,563 (2019: £53,258) and the trustees are of the opinion that this is sufficient for the organisation.

The charity does not hold any investments. Any surplus cash flow during the year is re-invested in pursuit of the charity's aims and objectives.

The trustees have considered the major strategic business operational risks which the company faces and have established systems to ensure that risks to the charity are minimised.

Suzanne Hamilton proposed the accounts, these were seconded by Chris Kelly.

2. To Consider and Appoint Accountants, Soroban, for the next year.

Members' approval was sought to consider and appoint accountants, Soroban for the next year. Suzanne Hamilton proposed the appointment, seconded by Chris Kelly.

3. Election of Directors

The Chair sought approval of the following:

Three new members appointed since last AGM:

- Chris Brodie, Skills Development Scotland
- Shona Glenn, Scottish Land Commission
- David McIntosh, Scottish Futures Trust

- Ishabel Bremner and Charlie Woods are both co-opted Directors and as such shall retire from office at the AGM but shall then be eligible for re-appointment under article 81, both have agreed to this.

- Elected Directors required to retire by rotation under articles 69 – 74 and agreed to stand again is Ewan Mearns.

These were proposed by Robert Pollock, seconded by Stuart Black.

Resigned as Directors during the year were Nicola Douglas and Taylor Stewart. Both were excellent contributors to the work of EDAS, in particular Taylor who was one of EDAS' longest-serving Board members and served as a director for 12 years. It was a pleasure to work together and the Board hopes that both will continue to support the work of EDAS in other ways in the years to come.

The Chair also thanked

- Board and staff for their direction and guidance;
- Strategic partners Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Government for their ongoing support;
- Delivery partners WEAll, Scotland Europa, University of Glasgow's Professor Alan McGregor, Fraser of Allander Institute's Professor Graeme Roy for their key contributions which have underpinned the work EDAS does.
- EDAS members, for engaging in and continuing to support EDAS over the last year.

The formal AGM business was closed.

4. Brexit: The Final Countdown (A multi-media session report can be found under Past Events on the EDAS website <https://edas.org.uk/2020/12/02/brexit-the-final-countdown/>)

Brexit – The Final Countdown

15:45 Professor Graeme Roy, Director, Fraser of Allander Institute

15:55 Panel Views (5 minutes each)

- Chris Brodie, Head of Skills Planning and Sector Development, Skills Development Scotland
- Lorna Gregson-MacLeod, Head of Planning and Partnerships, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Linda Murray, Head of Strategy Services, Scottish Enterprise

16:10 Audience Questions (Via Chatbox)

16:25 Summary and Closing Remarks (Liz McEntee)

APPENDIX 1

PARTICIPANTS (as accurate a reflection of attendees as possible is recorded below, given online nature of AGM)

George	Alexander	Moray Council
Dorothy	Balfour	North Lanarkshire Council
Graeme	Blackett	BiGGAR Economics
Ishabel	Bremner	Argyll and Bute Council
Matt	Broadbent	Scotland Europa
Alister	Brown	Orkney Islands Council
Shelly Ann	Brown	Economic Lead
James	Burns	Skills Development Scotland
Alison	Cairns	SDS
Ann	Camus	Fife Council
Allison	Carrington	SDS
Catherine	Cartmell	Historic Environment Scotland
Kristina	Cholakova	
Ayse	Cinar	To be the One Coaching
Morag	Clark	Scottish Enterprise
Juliette	Cooke	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Peter	Corbett	Fife Council
Thomas	Coutts	Shetland Islands Council
Joanne	Davidson	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Gareth	Dixon	City of Edinburgh Council
Graeme	Ferguson	Fife Council
Clare	Ferry	Clyde Gateway
Phil	Ford	SDS

Emma	Fyvie	Clackmannanshire Council
Danny	Gallagher	Business Gateway Highland
Shona	Glenn	Scottish Land Commission
David	Gourlay	Hall Aitken
Jim	Grant	Moray Council
Wendy	Grant	Shetland Island Council
Lorna	Gregson-MacLeod	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
B	Hall	Shetland UHI
Suzanne	Hamilton	Frontline Consultants
Michelle	Hardie	Highland Council
Nicola	Hill	Dumfries & Galloway LEADER Local Action Group
Barry	Honeyman	Ethicus Global Wealth
Derek	Horsburgh	Scottish Funding Council
Sandra	Inrig	Glasgow City Region
Chris	Kelly	EKOS Ltd
Neisha	Kirk	Glasgow City Council
Christina	Kopanou	Glasgow City Council
Amanda	Lach	Manpower UK
Davina	Lavery	West Dunbartonshire Council
Michael	Lawton	U3A Stewartry Branch
Greig	Liddell	Scottish Parliament
John	Lindsay	Skills Development Scotland
Susan	Love	FSB Scotland
Domhnall	MacDonald	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Eilidh	MacDonald	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Jenny	MacDonald	Skills Development Scotland
Alana	MacLeod	University of the Highlands and Islands
Angus	MacLeod	Highland Council
Nicola	McCallum	Skills Development Scotland
David	McCubbin	Aberdeenshire Council
Debbie	McCutcheon	Skills Development Scotland
Claire	McElevay	SDS
Emily	McGowan	Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce
Alana	McGuire	Skills Development Scotland
David	McIntosh	Scottish Futures Trust
Miriam	McKenna	Improvement Service
Brian	McLeish	Scottish Enterprise
Audrey	Mcneil	SDS
Alastair	McPherson	Additional Research
Craig	McQueen	Skills Development Scotland
Ewan	Mearns	Scottish Enterprise
Serge	Merone	Perth and Kinross Council
Laura	Moir	East Renfrewshire Council
Elaine	Morrison	Scottish Enterprise
Stuart	Munro	North Ayrshire Council
Lorna	Murphy	Scotland Europa
Alison	O Connor	SPICE, Scottish Parliament
James	Paterson	Argyll and Bute Council

Sheila	Perry	Scottish Enterprise
Robert	Pollock	Regional Development Solutions
Karl	Reilly	Scottish Government
Fiona	Sarjeant	HIE
David	Scrimgeour MBE	DS Consulting
John	Semple	East Renfrewshire Council
Anita Jane	Smith	Glasgow Region PMO
Rowan	Smith	Scottish Government
Linda	Stewart	University of the Highlands and Islands
Omotolani	Sulu	Skill4Work
Richard	Sweetnam	Aberdeen City Council
James	Trolland	Sustainable Drumchapel
Susan	Vass	Scottish Government
Steve	Westbrook	Steve Westbrook, Economist
Lawrie	Willcox	Scottish Government
Lorna	Young	