

Message from the Chair

The changing landscape of Local Economic Development has been a game-changer for local authorities and for SLAED. Since the 2007 review of the Enterprise Network, Local Economic Development has been, and remains, a key priority for councils throughout Scotland. Over the last five years, there has been a transfer of resource (including Business Gateway) and an increase in councils' local economic development activity, from an estimated £200 million in 2007/08 to an estimated £263 million in 2012/13; and from 1100 to 1300 staff employed over the same period.



During the economic downturn, councils have worked together to maximise resources and introduce measures that support economic resilience and growth. For example, ERDF funding secured for Business Gateway Plus has allowed for additional services to support SME sustainability, diversification and growth. SLAED has encouraged partnership working across boundaries and regions. For example, we have supported member councils and partners in establishing initiatives such as the East of Scotland Investment Fund, Youth Employment Scotland, East Coast Renewables and the Supplier Development Programme review.

SLAED has shown leadership in identifying a need for councils to improve the delivery of economic development. We have worked with The Scottish Government and the Improvement Service to publish the Economic Development Improvement Guide. We have participated and influenced a wide range of groupings from operational to Government levels. We continue to work with COSLA, SOLACE and others to advise/consult on policy and strategy; for example agreeing the Local Authority Employability Policy Statement. SLAED has also established national indicators for local economic development. The programme has, for the first time, allowed us to report collective output data across Scotland.

There are, of course, continuing challenges ahead. Whilst signs point to economic recovery, the situation remains fragile. It is important that we continue to support and progress the local economic development agenda. If we are to do this, SLAED needs to raise the profile of local economic development and strengthen its position within the Enterprise Network. Recognising this, SLAED has produced a strategic development plan which will revise and refresh our core purpose and help secure the confidence and buy-in of our customers, stakeholders and partners.

Productive and meaningful engagement with SLAED by all local authorities at the highest level can only strengthen our network. I therefore call on Directors and Senior Practitioners to become more actively involved in SLAED and to support us in taking the development plan forward.

I would like to thank the SLAED Executive and our members for their continued support. I take this opportunity also to thank The Scottish Government and COSLA for recognising the contribution SLAED and Local Authority Economic Development Services make to the economy of Scotland.

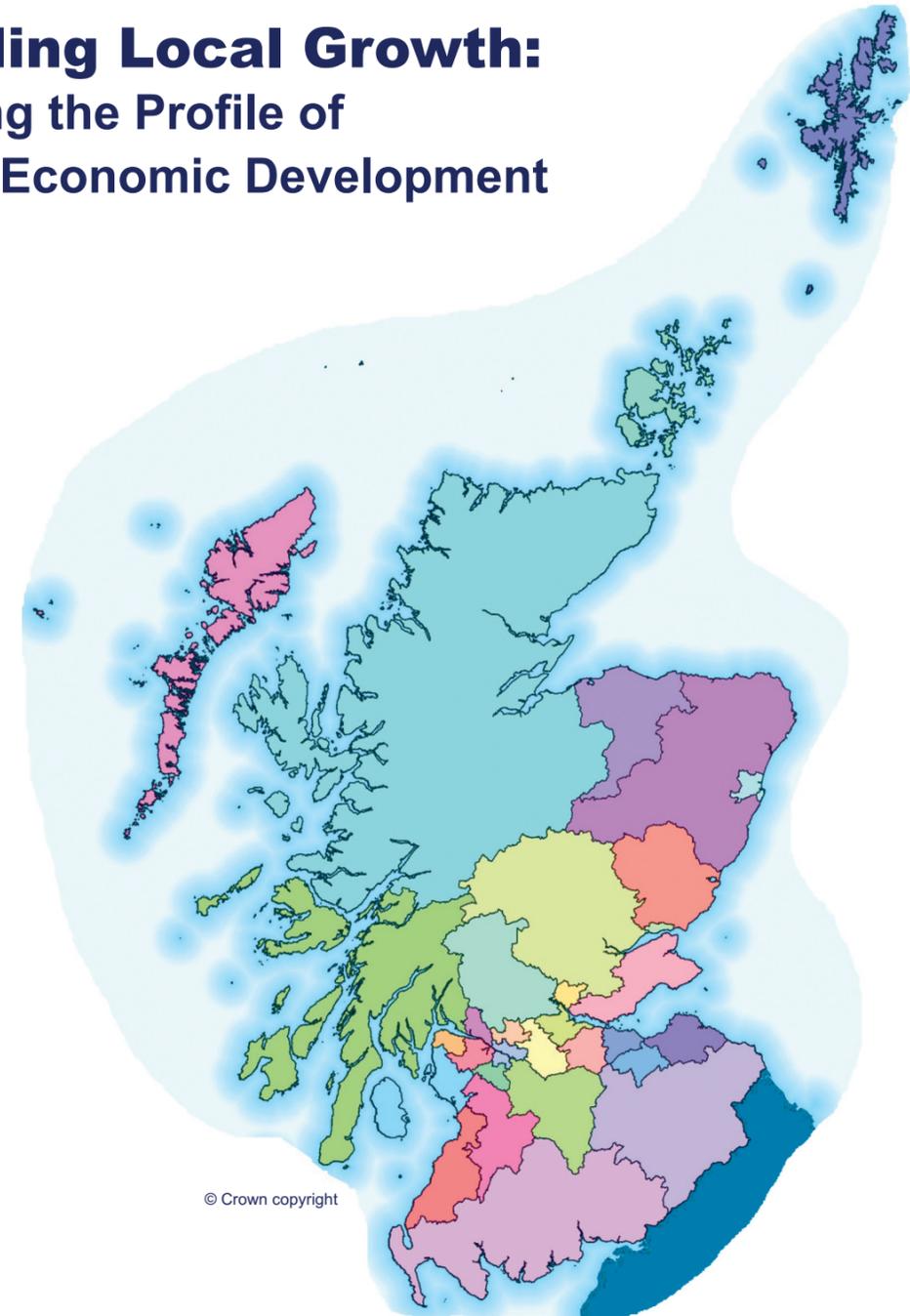
Jim Galloway

Chair
SLAED

www.slaed.org.uk



Leading Local Growth: Raising the Profile of Local Economic Development



Foreword



During my time as Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism, I have seen how local authorities ensure that businesses receive services to support them to grow and to meet the needs of their local economies. These services make a significant contribution to delivering the Government Economic Strategy, complementing national and regional work.

I welcome SLAED's work in improving the impact of economic development services across local authorities. Practical initiatives like SLAED's Improvement Guide, the Economic Outcomes Programme and standard indicators help us recognise local authorities' contribution to supporting growth.

I welcome SLAED's first Annual Report and look forward to working closely with SLAED to build a strong and sustainable economy for the people of Scotland.

Fergus Ewing MSP

*Minister for Energy, Enterprise & Tourism
The Scottish Government*

Local economic development plays a vital role in improving outcomes for our local communities and I'm heartened to see the variety of work and initiatives being taken forward across all councils to raise the profile of economic development.

Economic development also forms a cross-cutting aspect of my role as COSLA Spokesperson for Development, Economy and Sustainability. I value SLAED's input and advice on issues across my vast portfolio to date, and welcome their further input and advice as I continue in this role.

I welcome the SLAED Indicators Framework as an excellent start in outlining the diverse contribution which local authorities make to economic development. The data is encouraging and highlights local authorities' contribution to economic development at the local level.

I look forward to continuing engagement with SLAED through my role as COSLA Spokesperson.

Councillor Stephen Hagan

*Spokesperson for Development, Economy & Sustainability
COSLA*



Local Economic Development 2012-2013

As part of their Single Outcome Agreements, local authorities and local partners provide a wide range of Economic Development services which contribute to Scotland's economic priorities, helping to create and sustain the conditions for economic growth and jobs. SLAED has recently concluded its work on the Local Authority Indicators Framework for 2012/13. The aim has been to provide a consistent set of measures of what councils deliver in Economic Development.

With the support of the Improvement Service and the Scottish Government joint-funded Economic Outcome Programme, data has been collected from all 32 Local Authorities resulting in the first Local Authority Indicators Framework Report. The report highlights the scope and scale of activities delivered by Councils, and reports on the outputs achieved in the 2012/13 financial year. The full report is available on the SLAED website www.slaed.org.uk

SLAED recognises the challenges of reporting on a diverse range of activities across different administrative areas. Activities and programmes operate in a complex environment of local needs, priorities, resources and differing eligibility criteria (for example, RSA tier levels). Data is not always directly comparable between areas.

This is the first of a new series of annual Conference Reports. SLAED will continue to work with The Scottish Government and national partners to further develop and improve data collection and the reporting process.

Headline Inputs



£263 million* total budget
(estimate), including £82 million leverage from external sources



1,300 staff employed
in delivery of Local Economic Development

Headline Outputs

661 co-funded projects

Project funding totalling £163 million:
£81 million invested by councils;
£82 million achieved in leverage



67,000 people participated in employability programmes supported or delivered by councils



An estimated 19,000 unemployed people were supported into work from directly delivered or supported employability programmes



1,700 new jobs supported by inward investment



22,700 businesses supported

12,500 supported by economic development activities (grants, land & property, skills, other services)

9,600 start up businesses supported directly by Business Gateway

600 supported to trade outwith Scotland.