

South of Scotland Enterprise

Newsletter- April 2019

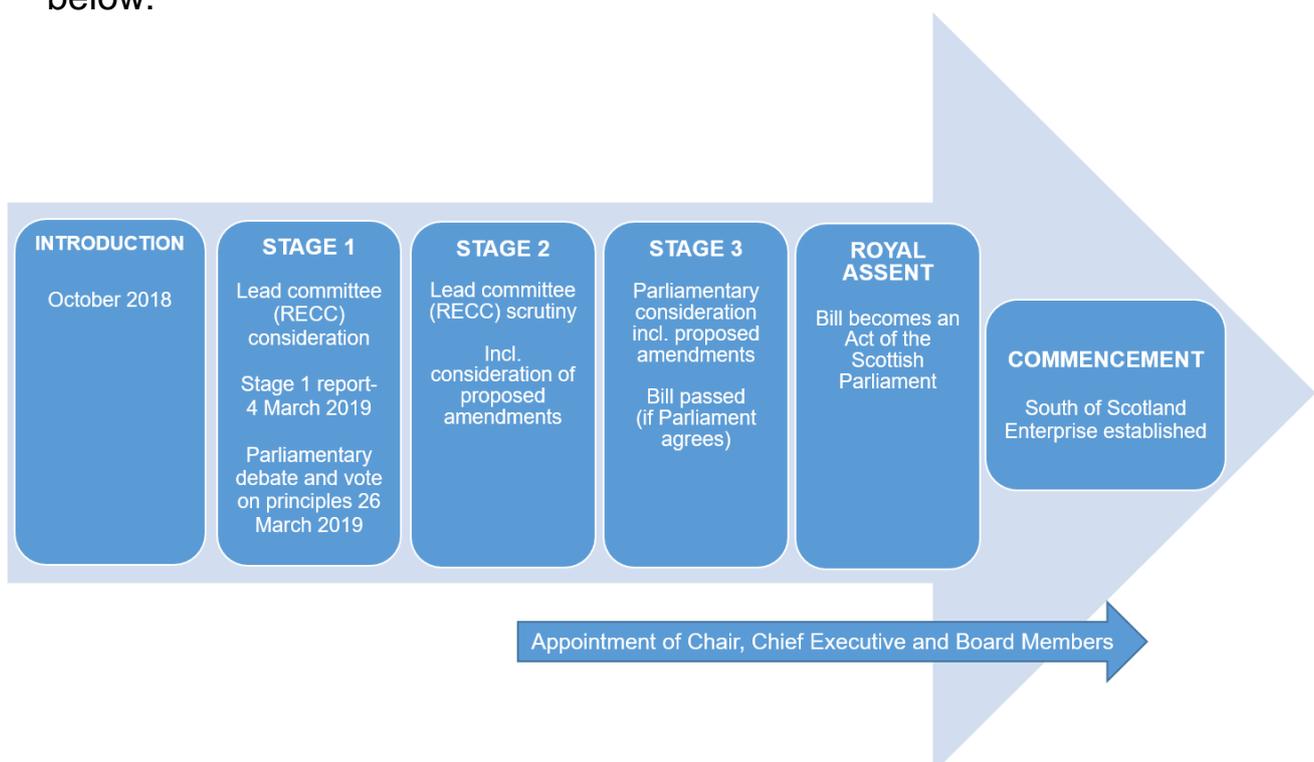
With 12 months until South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) is established and the Bill making significant progress through Parliament, this is a good time to provide you with some updates on the key activities within the Scottish Government Bill team and what's happening over the next few months.

Legislation

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (RECC) published its [Stage 1 report](#) on the SOSE Bill on 4 March 2019 recognising the unique circumstances of the south of Scotland and the need for a new body to support the enterprise and skills needs of the area.



Stage 1 concluded with a debate which took place on Tuesday 26 March 2019. Parliament unanimously agreed to the general principles of the SOSE Bill. The debate demonstrated clear cross party consensus for the establishment of, and need for, SOSE. The official report of the debate can be found [here](#). The next steps in the legislative process are outlined below:



Engagement Events

We recently worked alongside the Southern Uplands Partnership and South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SOSEP) to deliver two community engagement events to discuss the challenges and opportunities for community enterprise in the South. Events were held in Galashiels and Kirkcudbright on 18 and 19 March. There was a wealth of



community enterprise experience at both events. These discussions will feed into the design of SOSE community support activities. There will be further opportunities to participate at the forthcoming South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SOSEP) community engagement events, which will take place throughout the spring and summer.

Project Delivery

The Scottish Government project team is taking forward the delivery programme, in collaboration with key stakeholders, to ensure SOSE is operational by 1 April 2020. This includes taking forward work to establish a wide geographical presence for the new agency, so that it is accessible to businesses and communities across the South. Now that Parliament has approved the principle of the Bill the appointments process for the Chair of the SOSE board can also begin.

We will provide you with further updates in the coming months as things progress. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the work in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch with James Pattison, by email at: james.pattison@gov.scot

Scottish Government
South of Scotland Economic Development Team