

MEETING BETWEEN FIRST MINISTER AND MARK LOGAN – HELD IN PARLIAMENT ON 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Attendees

Humza Yousaf, First Minister
Mark Logan, Chief Entrepreneur
Mairi McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy
Ewan Crawford, Special Adviser
Emily Mackintosh, Special Adviser
Colin Cook, Director for Economic Development
Stephen O'Neill, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship
Brian Dornan, Deputy Director, Constitutional Futures

Discussion

Mark Logan (ML) noted the First Minister's recent speech on Industrial Policy at the University of Glasgow and welcomed the First Minister's engagement on economic development issues. ML then gave a presentation on how Scotland is becoming a leading European start-up nation (attached).

The First Minister indicated that he was keen to support this work and use his convening power with leading tech entrepreneurs and others as useful; to include a speech on entrepreneurialism show-casing Scotland's journey in the BANS economy speeches; and that he was keen to maintain the conversation with ML.

Actions

- SO to provide a draft of a speech on entrepreneurialism and independence, for the First Minister's consideration and possible inclusion in the BANS speech series.
- ML/SO to provide advice on a possible FM meeting with leading tech entrepreneurs.

[REDACTED]

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR ECONOMY AND GAELIC – MEETING WITH MARK LOGAN, CHIEF ENTREPRENEUR

HELD ONLINE, 5 SEPTEMBER

Attendees

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic
Mark Logan, Chief Entrepreneur
Stephen O'Neill, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship and Economic Reform

Discussion

- The Deputy First Minister (DFM) explained that she was keen to hear Mark Logan's (ML) reflections on his work with health, with a particular focus on how rapid improvements could be made to service delivery.
- ML stated that, in his view, there are three types of innovation that the NHS must embrace at scale: process, technology and industry collaboration. **[REDACTED]**
- He explained that while many individual actors recognise this, the key factor that constrains change **[REDACTED]**
- ML described how health boards, for example, **[REDACTED]**
- There was discussion over the challenging, long-term nature of structural reform. ML expressed the view that, **[REDACTED]**
- ML explained that this could, for example, involve using the convening power of Ministers to **[REDACTED]** and to collaborate with the private sector. Such an approach could potentially be piloted on particular regions, clinical domains or service areas where there are acute pressures.
- DFM thanked ML for his advice and invited him to share more detailed thoughts in writing; to which ML agreed.

Entrepreneurship Workshop with Mark Logan

14:00-16:00, 17 July 2024

4.ER, St Andrews House

Attendees

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic

Mark Logan, Chief Entrepreneur, Scottish Government

Meryl Levington, Director of Innovation and Industry Engagement, University of Strathclyde

Siobhan Campbell, Chief Strategy & Commercial Officer, National Manufacturing Institute Scotland

Jane Martin, Managing Director, Innovation and Investment, Scottish Enterprise

Stewart Miller, Chief Executive, The National Robotarium

Officials

Anna Kynaston, PPS to Permanent Secretary

Stephen O'Neill, Deputy Director of Entrepreneurship and Economic Reform

Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director, Industrial Transformation and CSA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meeting Note

- ML suggested this workshop should be the first in a three-part series focused on SG's priorities for entrepreneurship. This first session is about the proposal for a 'DeepTech SuperCluster', the other two would focus on the broader role of universities in creating high growth companies and the implementation of Ana Stewart's Pathways report.
- DFM indicated that she was in favour of this proposal and that these sessions should ideally take place prior to the publication of PfG. **(Action)**
- ML gave a presentation providing DFM with a proposal on how to create new support for early stage deep tech businesses. 'Deep tech' can here be defined as a business engaged in the development of a product rooted in new technologies that require a high degree of specialist or scientific expertise. Examples include AI, robotics, quantum, space, green technologies and biotech. Risk capital is increasingly flowing to such businesses which represents an opportunity for Scotland – per capita, we lead the UK in deep tech research and expertise.
- ML described how many of these companies, unlike software based start-ups, need to build physical products. Yet many lack the business acumen to access new markets, build supply chains and to access the manufacturing infrastructure and capability necessary to build prototypes and proceed to medium scale manufacturing in Scotland.
- As a result, there is evidence that many such companies, and associated manufacturing opportunities, are being lost to the south of England's 'golden triangle'.
- The proposal is to reverse these trends by leveraging existing assets such as NMIS and Techscaler to build new services and pathways for these businesses. Over time, this work can evolve into the development of a Scottish 'DeepTech Supercluster', utilising investment by Scottish Enterprise and leveraging additional funding from other sources including UKG. SE has confirmed its intent to provide financial support.

- ML highlighted the proposal's linkage to existing supports such as the TechScaler network which focuses on software company growth, and Tech Terrace which provides small scale support for startups to prototype products.
- ML introduced key stakeholders in the room, who have contributed to the development of the proposal and will act as delivery partners.
- DFM was concerned that existing infrastructure can sometimes appear disconnected, perhaps delivering less than the sum of its parts and stated that she would welcome clarity on where each asset adds value.
- DFM made clear that she supports any proposal which increases the coherence and impact of existing assets and highlighted the potential of this proposal to form the basis of a plan to boost the industrial capability of Scotland, particularly in light of the forthcoming Green Industrial Strategy.
- DFM asked who else does this well. Stewart Millar (SM) referenced Harwell Space Cluster in England which involves investment from the UKG and Brookwell private investors which has proved successful.
- Suresh Kumar (SK) noted that SMEs elsewhere in Europe don't tend to do end-to-end processing, and so there needs to be a balance with cost-effectiveness for businesses and the level of Scotland's export ambitions. SK linked to the housing demand and innovation within the construction industry, which could act as an example of success in this area. ML added that this could also be an opportunity for Scotland to become a consumer of its own net zero technologies.
- DFM asked whether this is pitched at international companies or just domestic SMEs. ML noted that we will attract investment as we go, as the environment will change and become a draw of international interest much like the Golden Triangle in England.
- SM noted that this proposal will mitigate issues with investors not seeing Scotland as a place for businesses to manufacture new products, and that currently no companies incubated in the National Robotarium intend to develop a bespoke manufacturing capability due to a lack of the correct skills, space or options to do so. Shared resource and expertise could help root high growth DeepTech companies in Scotland. This is a significant opportunity.
- Siobhan Campbell (SC) noted that NMIS would like to support more SMEs and go after bigger projects, working closer with the University of Strathclyde in this regard.
- Meryl Levington (ML) agreed, noting the University of Strathclyde's desire to support the progression of spinouts and new products from the university lab to the marketplace, with the desire to create more local jobs.
- Jane Martin (JM) proposed this idea be tested with industry quickly in order to bring private sector engagement into the process, noting that there might be a small risk in displacing a number of manufacturing consultancy services (for example Plexus) if we do not involve them early (**Action**).
- SO asked about the affordability of the proposal and whether generalised manufacturing demonstrators could easily be pivoted to presumably specialist production lines in the manner suggested. SM assured SO that while this was certainly a challenge to be worked through, it could be overcome with relatively small scale investment and the right expertise.
- JM noted that seeing through a manufacturing process end to end is less attractive for investors but there is a need for businesses to design, develop, manufacture and run a business. She noted that SE's property team struggle to support spinouts in finding the right space to grow and scale, as they need a blend of different physical infrastructure, demand is not a problem. The super cluster concept can respond to these challenges.

- DFM noted that the financial model needs more thought and asked for a few costing options to be submitted, from a low-cost mapping and pathway development piece to the optimal maximum-cost scenario (**Action**).
- DFM asked how to incorporate the work of the Energy Transition Zone in the North East can play into this proposal. JM noted that SM and NMIS are already working with ETZ on this aspect which would be brought in to amplify any future announcement.
- DFM asked policy officials to work to the timescales of the Programme for Government and refine the proposal to include tangible steps for implementation, in time for the first Cabinet review of the PfG on 5 August (**Action**).
- DFM concluded that she was on board with the vision of the proposal and the idea of aligning a number of parallel pieces of work.

Actions

- **Further workshops to be arranged on research commercialisation and Pathways.**
- **Jane Martin (JM) proposed this idea be tested with industry quickly in order to bring private sector engagement into the process**, noting that there might be a small risk in displacing a number of manufacturing consultancy services (for example Plexus) if we do not involve them early (**Action**).
- **DFM noted that the financial model needs more thought and asked for a few costing options to be submitted**, from a low-cost mapping and pathway development piece to the dream maximum-cost scenario (**Action**).
- **DFM asked policy officials to work to the timescales of the Programme for Government and refine the proposal to include tangible steps for implementation, in time for the first Cabinet review of the PfG on 5 August (Action).**

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Meeting between Kate Forbes MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic and Ana Stewart, Mark Logan, Hannah Bernard and David Martin – Invest in Women Taskforce

10 October 2024

Attendees:

Kate Forbes MSP, Deputy First Minister and cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic

Ana Stewart, author of *Pathways: A new approach for women in entrepreneurship*

Mark Logan, Scottish Government, Chief Entrepreneur

Hannah Bernard, Head of Business Banking at Barclays and co-chair of Invest in Women Taskforce

David Martin, Director, Head of Parliamentary Engagement and Public Affairs

[REDACTED], Scottish Government, Entrepreneurship: Widening Participation

[REDACTED], Scottish Government, Entrepreneurship: Widening Participation

Introductory Remarks

1. Ms Forbes welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Ana Stewart noted the purpose of the meeting was to introduce Hannah Bernard and to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by the Invest in Women Taskforce.

Invest in Women Taskforce

3. Hannah Bernard outlined this is an industry led, UK Government backed Taskforce, which was initiated in March 2024, to build on the work of the Rose Review. The primary focus is on changing the investment landscape:
 - Raise the world's largest funding pot for female entrepreneurs: Initial target is £250 million as an anchor for the fund to be announced mid-November **[REDACTED]**

- The fund's will not only benefit female founders, but also boost levels of investment by female investors from UK and overseas.
 - An additional aim to encourage more angel investment in female-led businesses, and to co-invest alongside public sector investment (e.g. through matched funding 1:4 ratio public to private investment.)
4. Ms Forbes noted her strong support of the recommendations of Pathways and offered her support where it can be best utilised to meet the aligned ambitions of both Pathways and the Taskforce, whether it is attending roundtables, 1:1 meetings or as was suggested contribute to a proposed Taskforce video outlining the need for change.
 5. Ms Forbes indicated desire to see wider benefits to Scottish female founders and support in creating the pipeline of high growth companies that would benefit from establishment of the investment fund, with Mark Logan noting the strong contingent of female founders supported through Techscaler and other programmes as potential beneficiaries.
 6. There were discussions over the timing of a roundtable of key investors. The argument for pre-fund launch was to generate momentum e.g. stimulate interest prior to fund announcement. The counter argument is it may not generate sufficient commitment until the funding is in place.
 7. **[REDACTED]**. Work will be required to identify additional potential organisations who may be willing to get involved.

Actions

8. **[REDACTED]**
9. Officials to work with Ana Stewart and Hannah Bernard to identify suitable events or channels for Ms Forbes to raise the profile of the Taskforce and Pathways alignment to support Scottish female-led businesses.

[REDACTED], Entrepreneurship Division

11 October 2024

**Meeting to discuss recruitment and retention of computing science teachers
21 June 2024 09:30-10:15**

Attendees:

SG Officials:

Graeme Logan, Director of Learning

Laura Murdoch, Deputy Director, Curriculum and Qualifications

Orlando Heijmer-Mason, Deputy Director, Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Business Support Unit to note actions)

Mark Logan, Professor in Practice -Technology Entrepreneurship – University of Glasgow

Computing Science and Chief Entrepreneurial Adviser to the Scottish Government

Carrie Lindsay, ADES President

Sheena Devlin, Director of Education for Perth and Kinross

David Burgess, Education Scotland (standing in for Ollie Bray)

Apologies

Clare Hicks, Director of Education Reform

Stephen O’Neill, Deputy Director Entrepreneurship

Stuart Robb

Ollie Bray, Strategic Director Education Scotland

Actions

Colleagues discussed practical steps to encourage more students to become computing science teachers. In discussion it was agreed that the following actions would be progressed:

- Graeme Logan to meet with SG colleagues from workforce and economy and special advisor for education (21 June 2pm) to discuss Aberdeen pilot scheme to create a number of additional posts to train student teachers remotely and progress this as a pathfinder scheme.
- SG officials from Education Workforce, Start-Up Infrastructure and Community and Curriculum and Qualifications to meet with ADES and STAC representatives to explore opportunities and discuss practicalities for teachers to engage directly with university students studying computer science. This could potentially be wrapped up into the ongoing work of the Strategic Board for Teacher Education (SBTE) on teacher recruitment and retention – SG Education Workforce to consider.
- Further exploration of a combined four year computing science and secondary teaching qualification – Stirling has developed similar programmes for other subjects. SG officials from Education Workforce, Start-Up Infrastructure and

Community and Curriculum and Qualifications to link in the Strategic Board for Teacher Education and the Council of Deans to discuss this further.

- Group to reconvene by end August to discuss progress on the above (Learning BSU to arrange).

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q4 2023)

10 – 12:30, 25 January 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

Minutes

Attendees:

[REDACTED] Stephen Coleman (SC), Steven Drost (SD), [REDACTED], Jon Hope (JH)[REDACTED] Mark Logan (ML), [REDACTED] Stephen O'Neill (SO), [REDACTED]Yasmin Sulaiman (YS), [REDACTED]

1. Welcome and intro

[REDACTED] welcomed everyone to the Quarterly Review.

2. Governance

An overview was provided on the [REDACTED] governance structure [REDACTED] Governance and delivery plans for 2024/25 are being developed collaboratively. [REDACTED]

3. Exec summary + short updates

a. KPIs/Service delivery

The group discussed the latest member trends and discussed proposals to create events that act as bridges between the various educational programmes. [REDACTED] There was discussion about the methods that founders ambitions to grow and scale their businesses [REDACTED]

Regional Engagement

The group discussed the regional hubs performance[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Partnerships

It was noted that there has been good intelligence and lessons learned gathered from undertaking events in year one of the contract. It was raised that Codebase expect to see some more sectoral activity[REDACTED] [REDACTED]due to recent partnerships.

Edge is now an official partner of Techscaler, discussions centred around promoting this partnership. [REDACTED]

Action 6 – Codebase to work with Edge to announce the partnership

Other future partnership plans and activity were shared which including the Fintech Scotland announcement [REDACTED]

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q4 2023)

10 – 12:30, 25 January 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

b. Risk

It was agreed there was nothing to note [REDACTED]

c. Finance/Contract variations

SG welcomed all the work that is being done on finance such as aligning budgets to SG financial year and monitoring process. The current budgetary challenges and pressures experienced across Scottish Government were highlighted.

An update on spend versus forecast to date was presented [REDACTED]

4. DEI

There was discussion on gender diversity and the steps that are being implemented to mitigate.

Looking ahead – priorities for 2024

5. Strategic Priorities Change Mgmt Process

The group discuss future plans for TS which includes activities such as Silicon Valley trip [REDACTED]

6. Annual report

The group provided feedback on the annual report draft which included the following suggested changes

- a. Figures on impact should be up front. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7. Projects

[REDACTED]

The group was updated about ongoing work with universities [REDACTED] to assist them with entrepreneurial programmes [REDACTED]

- e. [REDACTED]

- f. TSV + international trips / expansion/The later APAC Scaler – covered previously can be picked up more offline.

[REDACTED]

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q4 2023)

10 – 12:30, 25 January 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

Codeclan Phase I coming to an end. 76 students are receiving career support.
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] thanked everyone for their contributions and looks forward to seeing them again soon. The date of the next Quarterly Review is 25 April.

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q1 2024)

10 – 12:30, 25 April 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

Minutes

Attendees:

[REDACTED] Stephen Coleman, Steven Drost, [REDACTED] Jon Hope, [REDACTED], Mark Logan, [REDACTED] Yasmin Sulaiman [REDACTED]

1. Welcome and introduction

[REDACTED] welcomed everyone to the Quarterly Review.

2. Review of quarterly progress

An overview of key actions completed following the previous quarterly meeting were discussed.

All actions from January were signed off with follow up discussions on [REDACTED]

The group commented on progress made towards [REDACTED] engagement scores. [REDACTED] It was noted that engagement should not be measured based solely on total number, it should consider trends [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

The group noted [REDACTED] how different regions require different support and that there should not be a one size fits all approach [REDACTED]

Strategic Discussion Points

3. TSV

An overview of the pilot programme was provided as well as an update on what has happened since the group returned. The founders remain in contact and are organising events themselves. Two follow-up events for participants to share their experience have been set up.

The group discussed further proposed international TS pop-ups [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. Education

An overview of the feedback from year 1 and how this learning will inform educational programmes going forward [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q1 2024)

10 – 12:30, 25 April 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

[REDACTED]

5. Engagement score

As this was discussed at the start of the meeting, it was agreed that there would be a follow up discussion on this topic before the May workshop.

6. Governance

KPIs/ Service delivery

[REDACTED]

A new KPI reporting structure has been implemented **[REDACTED]**

Finance

There will be further discussions on forecasting returns **[REDACTED]**

Risk

A few risks were highlighted from the monthly discussions for awareness.

7. AOB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] thanked everyone for their contributions, looking forward to seeing them again soon. The date of the next Quarterly Review is 25 July.

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q2 2024)

10 – 12:30, 25 July 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

Attendees: [REDACTED] Mark Logan (ML), Stephen O’Neill (SON)[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Steven Drost (SD), Jon Hope (JH), [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [REDACTED]Yasmin Sulaiman (YS)[REDACTED]

1. Welcome, Minutes & previous actions

Chair welcomed everyone to the Quarterly Review.

No topics were added to the AOB agenda item and no changes to the previous minutes were requested. It was noted that the 2 actions from the previous meeting had now been completed.

[REDACTED]

An update was provided to the governance meeting structure [REDACTED]

Future Products

[REDACTED]

DW presented progress made since the last quarterly on developing a series of logic models that were developed collaboratively between SG & CB. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It was noted that following DFM’s appearance at the Energy and Fair Work Committee on 29 May she had committed in writing to a detailed update on the specific evaluations of the Techscaler programme (excerpt text Annex A)

Action 5 – SG: OCEA to update at next TS quarterly on early evaluation exercise commissioning plan for this year on learn lessons, and as far as feasible to identify any emerging findings.

[REDACTED] highlighted that the bespoke evaluation framework was commissioned by SG [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was noted that many of the impacts will have longer timescales however the framework will help ensure our delivery is aligned.

[REDACTED]

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q2 2024)

10 – 12:30, 25 July 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

3. Product demo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Governance

4. Risk

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. AI and Deeptech Developments

The global trend was noted that AI is accelerating the move away from traditional SAAS models. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Finance

All invoicing reporting is up to date.[REDACTED]

7. International Strategy

Updates on the upcoming trips to Silicon Valley (TSV) and Singapore were provided and noted that Singapore's launch and TSV second cohort were due to be announced the following week. [REDACTED]

8. AOB

There were no AOB items added to the agenda.

9. Close

Chair thanked everyone for their contributions. The date of the next Quarterly Review is 24 October.

Techscaler Quarterly Review meeting (Q2 2024)

10 – 12:30, 25 July 2024

Codebase, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL

ANNEX A

Energy and Fair Work Committee on 29 May: A detailed update on the specific evaluations of the Techscaler programme

Techscaler is the Scottish Government's programme for creating, developing, and scaling tech startups through education programmes, expert mentoring, and a growing network of physical hubs.

We have developed a suite of key performance indicators (KPIs) in collaboration with Techscaler management to track aspects of delivery against key milestones. We are also monitoring progress of outcomes and benefits realisation, for example, number of members, companies supported, investment attracted by supported start-ups, as well as the characteristics of participants to help assess equalities impacts.

According to the first Techscaler Annual Report (2023), independently produced by Business Database company Beauhurst, and published in March 2024:

- Startup companies supported by the Scottish Government's Techscaler programme attracted investment of more than £52 million in 2023.
- The Techscaler programme supported more than five hundred companies in its first year, and now has nearly 2,500 members.
- More than a third of those enrolling in one of the programme's education courses were women, compared to the startup industry average of 20%.

This is a multi-year programme with key outcomes requiring time before the data becomes available to evidence them. We are scoping an early evaluation exercise for next year to learn lessons from the Techscaler delivery experience to support continuous improvement. We are also planning an impact evaluation in year three of the programme.

NSET Programme 1 Board Meeting Note

22 February 2024

14:00

Microsoft Teams

Attendee list

Jane Morrison-Ross (Chair) – South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE)

Mark Logan – Chief Entrepreneur

Rachel Hunter – Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)

Helen Cross – Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

Jane Martin – Scottish Enterprise (SE)

Bayile Adeoti - Dechomai

Andrew Burnett (deputy) – Elevator UK

Stephen O'Neill – Scottish Government (SG)

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

Apologies

Colin Cook – Scottish Government (SG)

Rachel Ross – Elevator UK

Meeting Notes

- Welcome from the Chair, an introduction to the agenda emphasising that this was a look across the board rather than a complete focus on NSET.
- The first agenda item focused on the upcoming NSET Refresh with an update from SG followed by a roundtable discussion. Key points:
 - SG officials leading the work on the Refresh are working directly with DG Economy.
 - The refresh is mainly driven to focus NSET's commitments within the existing funding background and to reflect the change in the landscape **[REDACTED]** since NSET was originally published.
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - We expect that the Refresh will make NSET more focused on delivery. The main change for this Board is that innovation will now fall under Programme 1.
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - A paper is to be published in May outlining the Refresh and next steps.
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - **[REDACTED]**
- This update was followed by an update on the Programme Budget. Key points were as followed:
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - Stakeholder conversations are ongoing with Ministers on budgets for all programmes. Mark Logan will be meeting with the First Minister on 29 February where we expect to highlight the Enterprise Package.
 - The UK Government budget will be announced in early March. **[REDACTED]**

- **[REDACTED]**
- The Board agreed to hold a workshop and discuss where money is being spent and how budgets are used. Use the platform as a safe space to discuss what is ringfenced and where else money can be used.
- The final agenda item focused on an update on Pathways. Key takeaways were:
 - There have been some difficulties to get activity off the ground, however we are now in a tolerable position.
 - Funds have been ringfenced for this year. We need to look at the most strategic way to use it. There are 35 priorities of Pathways with a focus on the thread running through STER to prestart centres seeming like a fruitful place to start.
 - We would like to avoid creating hierarchical/geographically defined prestart centres and instead see what organisations are currently operating and understand constituencies and extend support to them to ensure they get what they need. Where there are gaps, we will look to fill them or invite others to do so. We would like to reach those currently not in the system and open doors to them.
[REDACTED]. A pilot may be tested with current funding.
 - It is important that any future steps ensure that we unlock benefits for deprived communities and aligns with community wealth building.
 - **[REDACTED]** Through the Pathways exercise we hope to bring forward those who should be at the forefront.

Actions to take forward

- Reflection on how Board is working as an agenda point at the next meeting.
- Consider any additions we would like to make to the Board in light of the Refresh.
- Organise a working session/workshop before the next meeting to discuss strategic priorities and budgets.
- Invite DG Economy to attend a future Board meeting.

NSET Programme 1 Board Meeting Note

04 September 2024

13:30

Microsoft Teams

Attendee List

Jane Morrison-Ross (Chair) – South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE)

Mark Logan – Chief Entrepreneur

Rachel Hunter – Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)

Helen Cross – Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

Leah Pape (deputy) – Scottish Enterprise (SE)

Bayile Adeoti - Dechomai

Rachel Ross – Elevator UK

Stephen O’Neill – Scottish Government (SG)

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

[REDACTED] – Scottish Government

Apologies

Colin Cook – Scottish Government

Jane Martin – Scottish Enterprise

Meeting Notes

- Welcome and introduction to the agenda from the Chair.
- The first agenda item focused on a programme update from SG. Key points:
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - Techscaler continues to progress well. The international programme is expanding, and they have partnered with SE on the Singapore hub, also collaborating on the second Silicon Valley one, which is currently ongoing.
 - **[REDACTED]**
 - The next iteration of the Pathways Fund has launched, and applications have closed – around 140 were received and winners will be communicated when selected.
 - Ana Stewart and the Pathways Forward organisation are running a Summit for women entrepreneurs and investors. **[REDACTED]**
- This update was followed by an update on the South of Scotland Pre-Start Pilot. Key points were as followed:
 - SG and SoSE are collaborating to a deliver a pilot of Pre-Start centres in the South of Scotland.
 - Procurement has been completed for 10 place-based enterprise coaches and training has been agreed. **[REDACTED]** whilst a Pathways Coordinator is currently being recruited.
 - Partnerships are being built with local colleges, Converge, WES, and councils to ensure successful rollout.
 - **[REDACTED]** is leading the neurodivergent network and tapping into the potential of underrepresented groups.
 - Comms plan should be operational by mid-September.
 - **[REDACTED]**

- The final agenda focused on the ‘deep-tech supercluster’ as referenced in the PfG. Key takeaways were:
 - Scotland has the highest numbers of world class universities per capita. However, despite this, there is not an impressive conversion of spinouts to scaleups. Once companies get past prototype phases, they are forced to leave the country to expand.
 - There are a number of places such as universities and the National Robotarium who are good at curating and stimulating the prototyping stage but we need to look at creating the next stage in Scotland.
 - We are looking at a phased approach to create shared resources such as an assembly line, supply chains, expertise and parallel investment that startups in Scotland can access.
 - SE is leading on this, leveraging external funding, we expect to launch phase one within the next 12 months.
- It was agreed that at the next meeting the Board will discuss working more closely aligned and focused to achieve common goals.
- In addition, updates from other Board members will be welcomed at next meeting to create a more balanced agenda and give voice to different initiatives.

Actions to take forward

- SE to meet with Ana Stewart in regard to the SoS Pre-Start Pilot. SG will help facilitate this meeting.
- SoSE to meet with Mark Logan to discuss opportunities and work within South of Scotland for deep tech cluster.
- HIE to meet with Mark Logan to discuss opportunities and work within Highlands for deep tech cluster.
- SFC to assist in facilitating Mark Logan to speak at Innovate UK roundtables in September/October.
- SG to invite other Board members to lead on agenda items at next Board meeting.
- SE to provide update on international partnerships following planned October workshop at next Board Meeting.