



MINUTES OF THE EDAS AGM HELD THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2025 BY TEAMS

Neil McInroy, Chair of EDAS, welcomed all present to the AGM of EDAS.

EDAS AGM Business

The Minutes of 2024 business (held 12th December 2024) are available in the EDAS Company Information area of our website.

WELCOME BY CHAIR, NEIL MCINROY

EDAS Chair Neil McInroy, opened the meeting, welcomed members, and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. He introduced himself as Chair of EDAS and outlined the structure of the session, noting that the AGM business would be followed by a themed event on the changing global economy.

The Chair provided an overview of EDAS activity over the past year, highlighting:

- Strong membership retention (96%) and growth to approximately 3,000 members
- Increased engagement through the EDAS website, LinkedIn, and social media
- Delivery of events, CPD courses, and the *Talking EDAS* podcast series
- Development of partnerships and policy outputs aligned to EDAS's strategy
- Continued delivery despite limited staff capacity, supported by Brightstar

The Chair thanked members, partners, and board colleagues for their continued support.

AGM Business

David Oxley, EDAS Treasurer conducted AGM business points below:

1. To consider and approve Financial Accounts for Year to end 31 March 2025

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

Report for 2025:

“The organisation reported a surplus of £10,503 for the year (2024: surplus £30,838). At the year end, the charity held total funds of £115,903 (2024: £105,400), of which £354 (2024: £nil) was restricted, leaving free reserves of £115,549 (2024: £105,400).

In relation to reserves, the trustees have considered that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves would be sufficient to cover three months of the operating cost, which amounts to £33,561. Currently, the unrestricted free reserves stand at £115,549 (2024: £105,400) and the trustees are of the opinion that this is sufficient for the organisation as it exceeds the target level necessary 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.”

Ishabel Bremner proposed the accounts, seconded by Paul Zealey

2. To consider and appoint accountants - Aster Accountancy Services - and Independent Examiners - Wyllie & Bisset - for the next year.

Members' approval was sought to consider and appoint accountants Aster Accountancy Services - and Independent Examiners - Wyllie & Bisset - for the next year.

Charlie Woods proposed the re-appointment of both Aster Accountancy Services and Wyllie & Bisset, seconded by Paul Zealey.

3. Election of Directors

Re-election of co-opted directors:

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;

Director reelection of Ishabel Bremner was proposed by Paul Zealey and seconded by Alice Masson; reelection of Charlie Woods was proposed by Ishabel Bremner and seconded by Neil McInroy.

Election of Directors appointed since last AGM:

- Clare Stoddart (co-opted via Future Leaders Network) – proposed Charlie Woods, seconded Ishabel Bremner
- Dinker Bhardwaj – proposed Ewan Mearns, seconded Charlie Woods.
- Esther Black – proposed Ishabel Bremner, seconded by Elaine Jamieson
- Pauline Smith – proposed Neil McInroy, seconded by Elaine Jamieson
- Lauren Pascu – proposed Ishabel Bremner, seconded by Ewan Mearns
- Lynne Ward - proposed Alice Masson, seconded by Ewan Mearns

There are no elected Directors required to retire by rotation and stand again for re-election.

The following were formally noted as directors who stepped down at this Annual General Meeting from the Board:

- Suzanne Hamilton
- Susan Love
- Ewan Mearns

The Chair and Treasurer recorded particular thanks for their support and leadership.

There was no further AGM business.

4. Guest Speakers

Prof. Mairi Spowage, Director, Fraser of Allander Institute spoke to “Scotland and the Global Economic Reset: Navigating the Shift” followed by a “Policy into Practice panel” - Insights and approaches from frontline practitioners from Scotland's economic and business development ecosystem who are actively shaping Scotland's response to global economic turbulence.

Guest Panel:

- David McPhee, Director of Global Trade, Scottish Enterprise
- Rachel Hunter, Director of Enterprise and Community Support, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Ewan Rabey, Senior Procurement Manager, SSEN Transmission

APPENDIX 1

APOLOGIES

Lauren Pascu, Scottish Cities Alliance

PARTICIPANTS

Gemma Barrett, Business Gateway Renfrewshire
Dinker Bhardwaj, Scottish Enterprise
Esther Black, SSE
Elaine Bone, EDAS
Ishabel Bremner, Argyll & Bute Council
Olivia Brown, Argyll & Bute Council
Isabel Conway, South of Scotland Enterprise
Thomas Coutts, Shetland Islands Council
Jamie Coventry, Aberdeen City Council
Zalina Dzhatieva, Argyll & Bute Council
Grainne Filan, University of Glasgow
Katie Fox, Skills Development Scotland
Danny Gallagher, Business Gateway - Highland Council
Linda Gillespie, The Development Trusts Association Scotland
Rachel Hunter, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Laura Hutton, Orkney Islands Council
Sarah Hyndman, InvestFife
Elaine Jamieson, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Martin Johnson, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Alison Laughlin, Fife Council
Susan Love, ACCA
Alison Luke-Jones, EDAS
Amy Mack, Crown Estate Scotland
Lesley Martin, The Cockburn Association
Alice Masson, Glic
Neil McInroy, EDAS
David McIntosh, Scottish Government
Brian McLeish, Scottish Enterprise
David McPhee, Scottish Enterprise
Margaret McSparran, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Ewan Mearns, Scottish Enterprise
Lynsey Miller, Scottish Enterprise
Gillian Morrison, Crown Estate Scotland
David Oxley, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
James Paterson, Argyll & Bute Council
Ewan Rabey, SSE
Lewis Rankin, Glasgow City Council
Greig Robson, Skills Development Scotland
Pauline Smith, DTAS
Tom Sneddon, DTAS
Mairi Spowage, Fraser of Allander Institute
Clare Stoddart, Scottish Enterprise
Caroline Tocher, SSE
Liam Turbett, Scottish Enterprise
Lynne Ward, Scottish Futures Trust
Charlie Woods, EDAS
Geraldine Wooley, Social Investment Scotland
Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland