

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)

Scotland



DATE: TUESDAY 31 MAY

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INSTITUTION: HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE)

Highlands and Islands (H and I), Scotland

- 50% of Scotland's land mass
- 10% of Scotland's population
- 11 people per square km (compared to 257 for UK)
- 100 inhabited islands
- Administrative centre is the city of Inverness
- Lerwick is as far away from London as Milan
- The majority of the working population in the Highlands and Islands are employed by small and micro enterprises.
- Average earnings are lower than the rest of Scotland.

 Highlands and Islands Area



Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Our Purpose - to generate sustainable and inclusive economic growth across the Highlands and Islands

Our Vision - for the Highlands and Islands to be a highly successful and competitive region in which increasing numbers of people choose to live, work, study and invest.

Our Priorities

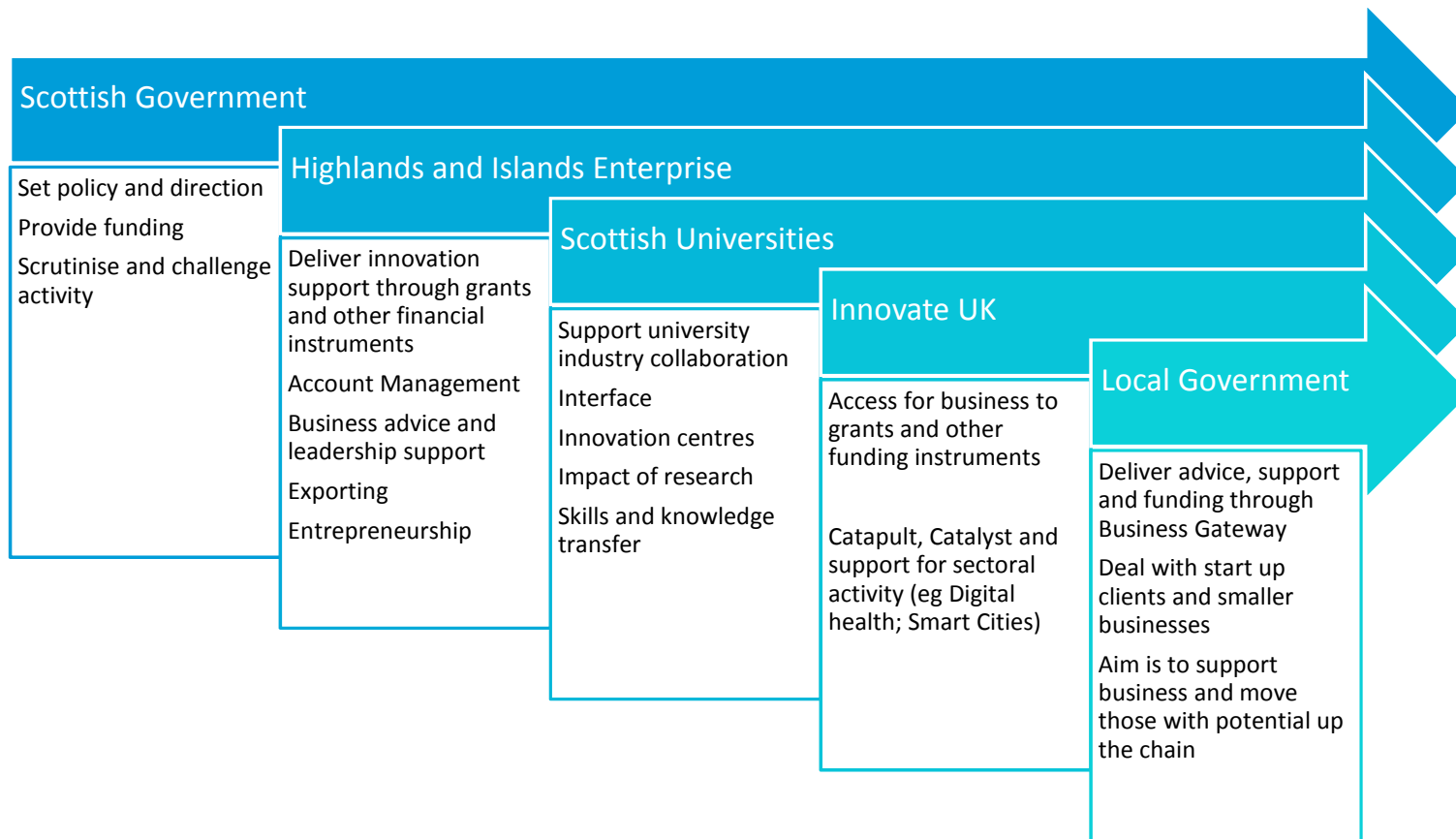
- Supporting businesses and social enterprises to shape and realise their growth aspirations
- Strengthening communities and fragile areas
- Creating the conditions for a competitive and low-carbon region
- Developing growth sectors, particularly distinctive regional opportunities



Cluster Policy Context



Scotland's Innovation Landscape



Highlands and Islands S3 approach

Main Priorities

- Our work focuses on the following sectors: **Energy, Life Sciences, Food & Drink, Creative Industries, Tourism, Business Services, Universities**
- Within these sectors we have identified opportunities for:
 - Experience industries
 - Blue Growth Industries

Our Challenges

- Scotland does not have a smart specialisation strategy
- Dispersed business base
- Low productivity
- Distance from market
- Skills



Universities in the H and I

In terms of the number of different universities in the area, H and I is unique in comparison to the rest of Scotland:

- University of the Highlands and Islands – spread across 13 campuses
- Aberdeen University
- Stirling University
- Robert Gordon University
- Glasgow School of Art
- Heriot Watt University
- Scottish Rural University College



Marine Renewables

- H and I has a unique mix of natural assets, expertise and infrastructure to capitalise on renewable energy opportunities – built on over six decades of development
- European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) based in Orkney
- University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)
- International Technology and Renewable Energy Zone
- Wave Energy Scotland



HIEs Contribution & Expectations

HIE has expertise in economic development through a sector level approach. Examples of areas of strength are:

- Adventure Tourism
- Marine Renewables
- Marine Bioscience
- Digital health
- Food and drink (aquaculture, distilling)
- Textiles



From this project HIE are looking to:

- a) Increase our understanding of what is required to develop a cluster policy
- b) See examples of clusters in actions and gain an insight into how these were developed
- c) Better define the cluster opportunities for the Highlands and Islands
- d) Understand whether cluster policy should be developed at a Scottish level or a local level in the H and I.

Thank you

