

**MEP**  
**25 February 2016**  
**The Moray College, Breakout Space Alexander Graham bell Centre,**

John Cowe(JC)	Chair	The Moray Council
James Johnston (JJ)	Vice Chair	The Moray Strategic Business Forum
Jane Cumming (JACU)		Platform PR
Dawn McNiven (DMcN)		DMdotPR
Margery McLennan (MM)		Chamber of Commerce
Gordon Sutherland (GS)		The Moray Council
Dave McCallum (DMcC)		Skills Development Scotland
Seonag Campbell (SC)		Skills Development Scotland
David Oxley (DO)		HIE
Rhona Gunn (RG)		The Moray Council
Jim Grant (JG)		The Moray Council
Ranald Robertson (RR)		Hitrans
Fraser Grieve (FG)		SCDI
Tom McGarry (TG)		Moray College UHI
Joanne Chisholm (JMC)	Secretary	The Moray Council

	Item	Action
<b>Welcome and Intro</b>	<p>JC opened the meeting and welcomed Fraser Grieve and Seonag to the meeting and advised that Margery and Tom will arrive later.</p> <p>It was noted with sadness the sudden passing of Iain Widdowson. JC commented on his great work at Piping @ Forres and Beaver Travel and was highly respected and popular which was shown by the turnout at his funeral. Thoughts are with Iain's wife and family.</p>	
<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies received from Murray Ferguson (CNPA) and Malcolm McNeil (tsiMoray).	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Meeting Note and Actions from – 10 December 2015 (Chair)</b></p> <p><b>Elgin Car Parking Strategy</b> – Parking Strategy will still go ahead after Moray Council budget meeting.</p> <p><b>A95 Study</b> – JC sent letter to Derek MacKay this week in relation to A95 study.</p> <p><b>Snow Road Scenic Route Project</b> - DM spoke with Fiona Murdoch and has added in as a 2016 article.</p> <p><b>SDSR – The Strategic Defence Review</b> – GS confirmed that communications have taken place with 39 Regiment the plan is to arrange a meeting with Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO).after new commanding officer in post in May</p> <p>JC added that there will also be a meeting with Heldon and Laich ward members with RAF Lossiemouth but will report back at a later date.</p>	

	Meeting note approved as an accurate record.	
2.	<p><b>Communications Report</b></p> <p>Public Relations Activities 10 December 2015 to 25 February 2016</p> <p><b>Campaigns and initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative sector story for Scotsman</li> <li>• Castle2Cathedral2Cashmere events news released (5 in total)</li> <li>• C2C2C writing competition news release</li> <li>• World Host PR support</li> <li>• A95 strategy news release</li> <li>• Christmas advert social media campaign</li> <li>• Apprenticeships Week – case studies for print media and film</li> <li>• School Videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Future Stories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family films story for Scotsman and wider circulation</li> <li>• Ongoing stories following Macbeth familiarisation trips</li> <li>• Further articles in Business Scotland magazine</li> <li>• Tourism summit</li> <li>• World Host</li> </ul> <p><b>10 December 2015 to 25 Feb 2016 Coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood defence success story in Scotsman</li> <li>• Creativity story in Scotsman this week</li> <li>• Castle2Cathedral2Cashmere Victorian Christmas</li> <li>• Castle2Cathedral2Cashmere January events</li> <li>• Monthly columns on successful events and Year of Architecture and Design</li> </ul> <p>JACU suggested a news story on City Deals. It was also suggested to improve the way MEP work on releases and to try and raise the profile of Business Forum. JACU will look into this.</p>	JACU
3.	<p><b>Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) – Request to Join MEP</b></p> <p>FG suggested that SCDI join MEP as they already work with Local Authorities and thought it would be helpful to provide this knowledge to MEP. FG also referred to the SCDI Blueprint for Scotland with vision for next 5 – 10 years (link below).</p> <p><a href="http://www.scdi.org.uk/policy/211-blueprint-for-scotland-action-plan-for-growth">http://www.scdi.org.uk/policy/211-blueprint-for-scotland-action-plan-for-growth</a></p> <p>JC thanked FG and advised that he will be a good addition with his knowledge and JJ pointed out that it will be helpful to MEP to have access to the SCDI Forum.</p> <p>GS suggested to chair that they carry out the same steps as TSIMoray to confirm membership to MEP.</p>	GS

	<p>A brief discussion ensued about the recently announced Aberdeen City and Shire Regional Deal and the proposed Inverness City Region Deal and the desire to engage with those neighbours to see how Moray might benefit from these investments</p>	
	<p><b>Skills Development Scotland – Presentation (Seonag Campbell)</b></p> <p>SC spoke through presentation explaining what Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) are and why changes have been made, how Skills Development Scotland use them to inform skills investment and what does the refreshed data say about Moray.</p> <p>The presentation included statistics which relate more to Highland and Moray and include Economic Performance, Profile of the Workforce, People and Skills supply, Deprivation and Education and Training.</p> <p>SC confirmed that SDS is working closely with David Reid Youth and Skills Manager with HIE to develop intelligence about business needs for skills development</p> <p>MM informed the meeting that Sarah Medcraf met with Scottish Government regarding Developing Young Workforce and has funding for the next 3 years and will need to look at changing the mind sets of people and parents. In respect of data capture for Moray if SDS, DYW and the Chamber all use the same data can this be shared between groups so that everyone is using the same up to date information.</p> <p>TM advised there was a review in December from Education Scotland and they are pulling together the findings presently. DM echoed and will look at local business demands and join up with private sector.</p> <p>RG added that in regard to Employability MEP need to be kept informed of the ongoing work and partners who sit on the new Employability Board should update MEP. It was agreed that the key link to provide MEP with an update will be DM from Skills Development Scotland.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Moray 2026: Updated Performance Indicators</b></p> <p>Targets were revised in November for 10 year plan priorities and Moray 2026 is now a rolling plan. The new 10 year plan should be printed in June with adjusted targets.</p> <p>RG advised that further consideration of the appropriateness of the indicators would take place. The new Employability Partnership will need to devise a set of performance indicators.</p>	
5.	<p><b><a href="#">Public Wireless Programme</a> for consideration</b></p> <p>The link above explains Public Wireless Programme. GS advised the purpose is for all public sector agencies to facilitate public WiFi such as for Local Authorities to facilitate WiFi provision in public buildings for example in libraries.</p> <p>The Scottish Futures Trust are leading on this for the Scottish Government and given its wider implications GS suggested this was a matter for the</p>	RG

	<p>Community Planning Partnership and suggested the opportunity should be referred to the Community Planning Officers Group</p> <p>It was mentioned that school networks are locked at schools and projects can't be done at school because of limited access.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Programme Report and Discussion Transportation Programme Group</b></p> <p><u>Update from Stephen Cooper via Ranald Robertson</u></p> <p>A96 – There are ongoing frustrations with the progress. The programme is looking to dual the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen by 2030.</p> <p>Cllr Cowe has signed off letters in support of A95 study.</p> <p>Railways – Forres is due to have a new platform by the end 2018.</p> <p>With regard to Buckie, the latest update is that O&amp;M for BOWL confirmed to go to Wick. Commission &amp; Construction while no formal design has been indicated to go to Wick. SSE are keen to have a presence in Buckie for contingency. They will submit requirements to the Council to be costed, involves -</p> <p>Mast Office Storage Loading berth Davit (crane)</p> <p>While limited compared with O&amp;M and C&amp;C there is a recognition that Wick will not be able to cope with volume of Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) particularly during construction and weather constraints.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p> <p><b>Council Budget</b></p> <p>The Council need to save 14.3m for 17/18 savings in the next year, reserves have been used to balance the budget which means it can't be use for the following year. The Council will hold engagements with the community later this year,</p> <p>The highest priority for the Council is Economic Development and there is a range of priorities for capital investment. Priorities will be reviewed on 30<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>MM added that she was disappointed o at the decision to close of the only visitor centre in Elgin.</p> <p>RG also mentioned that the Schools in Moray are in poor condition compared to others in Scotland.</p> <p><b>Scottish Apprentice Week – Feb 29 – March 4 2016</b></p> <p>DM advised that on March 2 there will be a series of events with</p>	

	<p>employers, students and parents about the benefits of Modern Apprenticeships.</p> <p><b>Tourism Summit, 24 March 2016</b>  Tickets have nearly sold out. Max Johnston/Tour Operator t, Scottish Tourism Alliance to speak at summit.</p> <p>MM added that Blue Guides (Tourist Guide publisher) had visited Moray recently with a group of people and visited various companies, distilleries, Cooperage, Station Hotel and met with Jim Royan. The feedback was that we have a very interesting area with a plethora of places to visit but they highlighted that, in particular mini buses/small coaches need to have parking/permission to park adjacent to the site of the visit. In most cases with smaller vehicles the guides act as guide and driver and therefore, due to time constraints, cannot drop off visitors and then go and park coach and walk back to visit site vice versa when the visit is complete. For larger coaches the parking can be a bit further from site but within reasonable distance.</p> <p>He other VERY important facility was toilets. The guides have map of where these are and I think visit them to ensure they are of an acceptable standard. They obviously use those of the places they visit – e.g. Johnstons – but need public toilets available.</p> <p>These comments were addressed in respect of the whole area, not just Elgin.</p> <p>Elgin/Moray was thought of as just a ‘pit stop’ to use the facilities, get something to eat and perhaps go to Johnstons or the Cathedral, and very seldom did they stop over for a night of even a full days visit. However, having been shown around by the people who know the region best, they were certainly enthused to make more of the area and ultimately, stay longer.</p> <p>The issues that were fed back regarded access to coach parking was parking up near Hill Street in Elgin and limited public toilets.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CNPA – Update note attached.</p> <p>JC advised Michael Urquhart had been appointed as a Board member for the food drink and agriculture group of Opportunity North East (ONE) which is being supported with Funds from then Wood Foundation.</p> <p>JC mentioned that Mark Tennant at Innes Estate would like to thank Outfit Moray who have worked with more than 14,000 children and young people. Mark Tennant have offered Outfit Moray a 30 year lease of land and buildings at Milltown Airfield at just £1 per year to help realise their ambitions to create a new centre for outdoor learning, adventure and nature exploration.</p> <p>Janet Hood from Forsyth’s thanked staff at Moray Council for the dedicated time to open The Station Hotel on time.</p> <p>Tom advised a new principal has been appointed – David Patterson.</p>	

9.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2016, 10am – Venue to be confirmed.	



## **The Cairngorms National Park in Moray**

### **Update for Moray Economic Partnership 10 December 2015**

#### **Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT)**

TGDT go from strength to strength with a new Development Officer, strong Board of Directors, private income streams, public sector support, and managing key assets and events for the community. They are still at a critical stage in their early development, however, and continued support from HIE as an account managed community, and from wider partners will be vital to their ongoing success. Key highlights include:

- A successful AGM – two new Directors nominated and actively working to fill the other three places. There were two Expressions of Interest for Cairngorms LEADER programme from the community
- Funding secured to support a Development Officer post until March 2018 (HIE, CNPA and Moray Council)
- Asset Transfers for Smuggler’s Hostel and VIC / Heritage Centre being progressed, hoping for decision in early 2016
- Hostel - bed nights up over 50% on last year
- VIC/Heritage Centre now being managed by TGDT and run by volunteers, approximately 1200 hours of volunteering over the year (not including Directors) on VIC, Hostel and other projects
- Enduro (and Rock n Road) bike event taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, a big attraction, drawing in national participation
- Motorcycle event in early June being organised by external volunteers

#### **Tomintoul & Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Bid**

Great progress to date with the community and partners, key highlights include:

- On schedule to submit Stage 2 application in May
- Project Plans and Costs being finalised over the next three months
- Key capital projects are VIC / Heritage Centre; Scalan; Blairfindy Castle; and Speyside Way
- Ongoing engagement with community to inspire volunteering and raise awareness
- TGLP chosen as a “Climate Change Pilot” by HLF, to project long-term implications of the project for the local environment
- 15 separate projects, with a total budget of £3.5m
- Some additional projects could be added, depending on the Project Planning and Costing, one option being considered is possible “Dark Sky” status for Tomintoul and Glenlivet

## **Other National Park issues**

- A proposal for a Cairngorms Community Broadband project targeting the hardest to reach areas of the Park, with funding of £1.2M from Community Broadband Scotland, is being considered for approval in principle at the CNPA Board meeting on Friday. Papers at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/boardpapers/11122015/151211CNPABdPaper5BroadbandV0.3.pdf>
- New information from the Park visitor survey (undertaken every five years) was presented at the Business Partnership Conference and has been sent to all businesses in the Park. 63% of overseas visitors said National Park status was important in terms of influencing their decision to visit. The Visitor Satisfaction Score has risen to 8.8 (out of 10) and people rate their experience of visiting the destination even higher than their expectations at 93% positive. Summary available at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/150831CairngormsVisitorSurveySummary1.0.pdf>

**Murray Ferguson**

**Director of Planning and Rural Development, Cairngorms National Park Authority**