

Moray Economic Partnership – Meeting Note
29th February 2012, Capita, Forres

Attendees	Jim Royan (JR) – Chair; Lynn Forsyth (LF) – Scottish Government; Anthony Standing (ASt) – Skills Development Scotland; Mike Devenney (MD) – Moray College; Steven Hutcheon (SH) & Lesley Gallagher (LG) - Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Roddy Burns (RB), George McIntyre (GMcl), & Gordon Sutherland (GS) - Moray Council; (GMcN), Margery McLennan (MMcL) & Audrey Sheal (AS) – Moray Chamber of Commerce;
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(i) Apologies

Apologies were received from Carroll Buxton, Danny Logue, Andrew Fowlie (observer), Shane Rankin, George McNeil.

(ii) Meeting Note 12th January 2012 – Approved

(iii) Chairman’s update

- JR reported on a number of visits and meetings in the last month, highlighting the following:
- JR has had a couple of meetings with Group Captain Ian Gale, Station Commander RAF Lossiemouth, would like to offer partners who have VIP potential inward investors visiting Moray the opportunity of some insight of the role and economic importance of RAF Lossiemouth.
- JR visited Caithness to present on food and drink tourism.
- JR and Richard Hartland met with Angus Gordon Lennox, Gordon Castle, Fochabers to learn about the redevelopment of walled garden.
- As Hubnorth Chair JR took the new Hubnorth Chief Executive to Moray to a series of visits.
- Series of 1 to 1s with MEP board members.

(iv) Communications Update

ASt highlighted a BBC Scotland “Skills in Scotland” programme scheduled for broadcast on 19th March at 10:35, which will feature Moray.

Moray Economic Partnership website space has been created and it is now just waiting for url <http://www.morayeconomicpartnership.co.uk> This will be able to be used as a resource for news and materials related to the MEP. The pages will include:

- Home
- About MEP
- Latest news (to include the downloadable bulletins)
- Board meeting minutes
- Delivery Team (description and minutes)
- Events.

The news coverage achieved since the last meeting includes:

- Community Covenant.
- Delegation to Cambridgeshire.
- Johnstons of Elgin supporting a Smart Exporter event about Russia.
- Planning approved for Moray Life Science Centre.

The MEP press release for today's meeting will be around the investment proposition for Moray.

The bulletin will be prepared post Board.

(v) Inward Investment Proposition

Steven Hutcheon presented on how the inward investment proposition had been developed. Presentation attached.

It was highlighted that partners are already working together on inward investment opportunities, and the materials are available for all to use.

Moray Council put forward a Comms proposal for Spring activity, to work up three or four video clips to highlight key target sectors for diversifying the economy or growing the existing economy, these targets are likely to be, tourism, food and drink, energy, life sciences. Each clip would be fronted by a dynamic speaker from that sector. SDS would like to be involved in this, as they consider it an opportunity to use local case studies to highlight skills/opportunities on www.myworldofwork.co.uk.

The clips could be linked to inward investment site www.locations4business.com

Action: ASt to contact SH to define next steps. GS to discuss using local case studies with Peter Jones.

(vi) Update from Development Workshop

It was noted that Councillor Russell had attended.

Action: AS to amend the note to reflect this and reissue.

It was agreed that it was appropriate that any changes to the composition of the MEP are endorsed by Community Planning Partnership. RB to take the following changes to the CPP (provisionally March 29):

- Delivery group - representative required from Chamber. **Action: GS to write to GMcN to ask for nominee.**
- Board membership. - NHS Grampian to join Board.
- Suggestion that elected member representation be Chair of Economic Development Committee.
- Corporate Director (Environmental Services)TMC should sit on Board.

GS presented the Strategic Business Forum proposal (attached).

Action: Partners asked to think about how they can best support the cascade of information from Board meetings to their organisations and how MEP can support this to happen, for discussion at the April meeting.

(vii) Community Confidence and Capacity Building

ASt described the work that has been done thus far defining “influencers programme” and “natural helpers programme”. Key questions are how big does this need to be, and how would this be funded? MSEN seen as strong role for social enterprise to take this work forward also there are opportunities to involve business through Corporate Social Responsibility. Possible delivery vehicles include Community Development Trusts

Action: ASt to issue paper on this to MEP.

Action: RB to ask John Ferguson to put together proposition on community confidence and capacity building. Interim report for April meeting.

(viii) Skills & Training Plan for Moray (The Moray Offer)

MD talked through paper previously circulated.

AS talked through Moray Skills Pipeline.

Action: JR suggested that down the line the pipeline summary could be on the agenda for the strategic business forum, as MEP could act as a conduit into business.

Action: MD to go to lifelong-learning forum on 7th with suggestion that MEP to develop skills investment plans, looking at harmonisation of existing offerings.

(ix) Hot Topics

Update on Business Engagement

Two dinners have taken place and the key themes have been captured and circulated.

It was suggested that the issues being raised are broader than just the Council remit, and the “wrap up” dinner should be hosted by other partners as well as the Council.

Construction services dinner proposed. Action: JR and AS to identify date, host and guests.

Moray Council Capital Plan

RB presented the (attached) paper on the Capital Plan.

Moray Economic Strategy (MES) review process for prioritisation

A qualitative analysis of the consultation responses received is underway and will include recommendations for prioritisation of actions. These will be sent to the

individual partner agencies for consideration and then collated and reported back to the Community Planning Board towards the end of May.

Action: An Agenda item for the April Board meeting will be to review the recommendations for prioritisation.

Agenda for meeting with ACSEF

Joint meeting with ACSEF is scheduled for 15th May and is likely to be held in Huntly. Areas for the agenda are rural broadband (digital infrastructure action plan); skills and life sciences. The meeting will open with a short presentation from MEP to ACSEF.

Action: GS to suggest that a presentation from ACSEF to MEP would be useful for ACSEF to present to MEP also. GS to send link to ACSEF website to MEP. <http://www.acsef.co.uk/> Meeting attendees to be identified.

GS has also initiated conversations with Highland. Highland has established a fledgling Business Forum

Follow up on actions from Colonel Thorp's visit

1. Engage with families of 39 Regiment on the Scottish Education system: responsible officer Sandy Riddle TMC – Successful visit by Head teachers to Waterbeach Jan 23-24 **Ongoing**
2. Raise awareness of employment opportunities for spouses of service personnel of 39 Regiment: **SDS and work club have pulled together all information and issued information and registration form to spouses. Working relationship with WorkClub has been established. Initial Task Completed.**
Action: Include CAPITA in information. Completed – Capita invited to supply electronic info pack to work club
3. Produce 'Welcome to Moray' pack/promote retail and leisure activities: responsible officer Peter Jones TMC– **Due for production and distribution June.**
4. Produce a Community Covenant: responsible officer Bridget Mustard TMC– **Very successful task completed when Covenant Signed last week. Senior Officers Group re-established to meet on-going needs.**
5. Monitoring housing needs: responsible officer Jill Stewart TMC– **Ongoing.**
6. Assist in holding 'Armed Forces' Day: **Planning is in motion for 3rd week in June.**

Moray Tourism Development (MTD) update

Ongoing communication is taking place and MEP to be as supportive as possible.

(x) AOCB

Gordon Sutherland reported that it was likely that as a result of decommissioning Covesea Lighthouse (Lossiemouth) will come on the property market.

(xi) Future meetings

Friday 27th April – 9:30am to 12:00pm – RAF Lossiemouth

Tuesday 15th May – 9:30am to 12:30pm (MEP/ACSEF) Huntly location to be confirmed

Friday 15th June – 9:30am to 12:00pm