

## MINUTE OF MORAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

ACCUNOSTICS, ARGO HOUSE, ENTERPRISE PARK FORRES

### Attendees

Councillor John Cowe	Chair	The Moray Council
Giles Hamilton		Accunostics
Fabio Villani		tsiMoray
Frances Webster		Skills Development Scotland
Margery McLennan		Moray Chamber of Commerce
Dawn McNiven		Platform PR
Jim Grant		The Moray Council
Jane Cumming		Platform PR
Peter Jones		The Moray Council
Frank Hughes		Moray College UHI
David Oxley		HIE
Stephen Cooper		The Moray Council
Ranald Robertson		Hitrans
Gordon Sutherland		The Moray Council
Joanne Chisholm		The Moray Council

### **1. Welcome & intro from Accunostics – Host**

Giles Hamilton welcomed the Moray Economic Partnership (MEP) to Accunostics and acknowledged the help/support of everyone in Moray in their £6 million investment. Giles went on to explain that Accunostics is a medical device company who focus on delivering high performance products and wireless technology to measure blood glucose for those who have Diabetes.

Accunostics run a series of seminars here and abroad and are involved in programmes with Forres Academy to show where new opportunities are available and want to play a part in developing the ambitions of young people coming out of school in Moray. They also look to bring youngsters back to Moray and at the moment employ 6 members of staff working with them who are former Moray school pupils.

John Cowe thanked Giles Hamilton.

### **2. Apologies – Chair**

Apologies were received from Allan Wright (The Moray Council), James Johnston (Moray Strategic Business Forum) and Murray Ferguson (Cairngorm Nation Park Authority) who provided the update below.

- Economic Strategy for the National Park (including the bit in Moray): This has now been approved by Cairngorms Business Partnership and by CNPA. Letter is due to go out soon from chair of Cairngorms Economic Forum about implementation.
- Planning Performance – you can see most recent update at Paper 10 a and Annex at link <http://cairngorms.co.uk//park-authority/about-us/meeting-papers/committee-papers/?meetingID=954&typeID=2>
- LDP for the Park – we expect report back from DPEA on LDP by end of September and are planning to adopt by end of this calendar year.
- We are planning a seminar on natural heritage and planning on 13 November and will invite appropriate planning staff very soon.
- HLF bid for Glenlivet landscape partnership project – recent site visit by assessors went well and we expect decision by end of Sept.

### **3. Meeting Note & Actions from - 20 May 2014**

It was mentioned by Margery McLennan that Jacqui Taylor is not from Skills Development Scotland and is from Moray College UHI. Margery stated that the website is now up and running for Moray Tourism Development function of Moray Chamber of Commerce.

In reference to item 7, Gordon Sutherland advised the Economic Development Outcome Measures discussed at the work session May 20 have been posted and are available for viewing on the MEP page of the Community Planning Board website.

The Minutes for the previous Meeting were approved.

### **4. Skills & Training Programme Group – Report & Discussion (FW)**

A paper was circulated to the MEP with key priority actions from the Skills and Training Group. Frances Webster thanked the Board for her slot to do this presentation. Frances explained that Jacqui Taylor (Moray College UHI) had carried out most of the work, DWP joined the group earlier in the year and Frances has chaired this group for just under a year.

A powerpoint presentation was delivered by Frances Webster who went into more detail about the Skills and Training Group (STG) 4 priorities Moray Skills Pipeline, Business into Education, Modern Apprenticeship (MA) and Skills Development.

Following discussions, Frances went on to say that they want to support school leavers onto positive paths and the use the Modern Apprenticeship programme and work together with businesses and young people to create more opportunities in Moray. SDS is working with Moray Council Schools to engage with business including the promotion of MA. An article is being prepared for the Northern Scot to encourage businesses to take on a MA.

Marjory McLennan welcomed the opportunity for young people to build their skills in a working environment. Careers Fayres are scheduled to be held in November for east and west Moray and will be part of Moray Business Week.

John Cowe had seen an article which indicated there was a disconnect between the amount of young people being trained for vocations such as Health and Beauty, and the amount of jobs available in this field, whereas there was a large shortfall in the numbers of young people being trained for engineering when there is a huge demand for skilled workers. The board agreed partners should monitor the number of MAs by sector and encourage the take up of MAs in the key sectors which support the growth and diversification of the local economy. For example figures show a low number of MAs in the hospitality sector. The Moray Council and partners need to engage with young people to develop career management skills and maximise Modern Apprenticeships.

An update sheet from Skills Development Scotland for Summer 2014 was handed out.

## **5. Spaceport – Proposed Consultation Response (JJ)**

John Cowe provided some background to the consultation. On July 15 2014, the UK Government opened a consultation on criteria to determine the location of a UK spaceport. Two of the eight locations initially identified are located in Moray at Kinloss Barracks and RAF Lossiemouth. Consultation responses are invited from organisations and individuals by 6 October 2014.

On August 5, the Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee agreed to support the submission of a consultation response to be provided by the Moray Economic Partnership.

The Inward Investment and Business Growth Programme Group of the partnership has established a small team to prepare the response. The project team includes business representation. The support of the wider business community is being sought through the Moray Strategic Business Forum and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry. A fundamental factor is the agreement of the landowner and therefore conversations are being brokered with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have identified the key operational, safety, meteorological, environmental and economic criteria for selecting a suitable spaceport. These include:

- An existing civil or military aerodrome which is, or is capable of being extended to, over 3,000m in length;
- Could accommodate segregated areas of airspace to manage spaceflights safely; and
- Is located away from densely populated areas in order to protect the uninvolved general public.

The consultation seeks views on the criteria identified by the CAA as key and whether there are any other factors or criteria that should be considered in supporting a site for a spaceport in the UK. It is also seeking views on the eight potential feasible locations in particular whether any of these locations should be disregarded and why? and also whether other locations should be considered further.

John Cowe passed over to David Oxley (HIE) who confirmed there are 8 identified locations 2 of which are in Moray (Kinloss Barracks and RAF Lossiemouth) but each location during consultation will look at runway length, weather conditions, etc being considered. Stakeholders, UK Space Agency and business partners are the key influences who can take this forward.

David Oxley informed MEP that there is a quick timescale for this selection process which is around 6 months. Consultation responses need to be done by 6 October 2014 followed by a bid process in November with submission mid January which will be decided on around Easter 2015. HIE has commissioned consultants including James Johnston to make the best possible case for the sites located in the Highlands and Islands Region. The research and analysis will looking at all aspects being consulted on and is to report back around 20 September 2014. James Johnston will report back to MEP before December. A meeting is to be arranged early October for James Johnston to give an update.

Following discussions on the locations David Oxley mentioned that there is a huge amount of research to be done to make a bid. The Space sector is estimated to be worth port is anticipated to be worth £400billion globally per annum. The UK government's ambition is that the UK's space economy should account for 10% of the global economy by 2030- worth some £40billion per annum. Even if Moray can get 1% of this business it would be worth having in the area.

Comments were made on how good this would be for Moray and the need for investors to recognise this and come to Moray which will open up many opportunities. David Oxley stated as well as the income generated from the space flights and the supply chain opportunities for business there would likely be income from visitors coming to watch.

John Cowe thanked everyone and said how exciting this is for Moray.

#### **ACTION**

**The Inward Investment and Business Growth Group spaceport project team will prepare the consultation response informed by the work commission by HIE and circulate to the MEP for comment before the consultation response is submitted.**

#### **6. Communications Report (Jane Cumming)**

Papers were circulated to the MEP giving all the latest public relations activities and a table showing media evaluation. In relation to the Macbeth film opportunity Dawn McNiven explained that Visit Scotland are to communicate with the film company to work with them and promote Moray as this would be a huge opportunity.

Peter Jones circulated papers in connection with Have a very Moray Christmas and explained that this is a draft and they are looking at potentially putting up seasonal road signs. Company letterheads will be encouraged to use a banner leading up to Christmas as well as a joint campaign with Hunted Cow for Christmas cards. Peter welcomed any feedback as soon as possible.

The Findhorn Bay Art Festival – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014 includes performances and workshops on the subject of Macbeth and tours on the real Macbeth.

## **7. Updates**

John Cowe gave MEP an update on various subjects –

- Broadband roll out is well underway. Digital Highlands and Islands (HIE) has begun publishing a progress bulletin. The latest bulletin advises around 35% of premises can now access the new services.

The most recent area where roll-out has started is in Cullen and those with services already live include parts of Elgin, Forres, Buckie, Lhanbryde, Findhorn, Kinloss and Lossiemouth. In some of these areas we still have more to come.

Buckie was our first live cabinet back in February and there are now 15 cabinets providing broadband speeds of up to 80mbps. Every three months Digital HI give an idea of the next areas we will be working in over the coming six months.

- June 21-22 HIE and the Council promoted investment opportunities in Moray including Enterprise Park Forres and Buckie Harbour at the All Energy Exhibition in Aberdeen.
- June 27 was the official opening by the Princess Royal of the Alexander Graham Bell Life Science Centre.
- June saw publication by the National Registers of Scotland of the 2012-13 Mid Year Population estimates. That showed in that period Moray population had grown to 94,350 increased 1.6% from 92, 910 (highest growth in H&I). This was publicised by the partnership and sees us well on the way to a target of 97,000 by 2023. Articles about this were published in the Herald, P&J and Northern Scot during July

- August 5 was a landmark day for the partnership which combined the approval of planning permission for the £100m investment by the Edrington Group for a new architecturally iconic distillery at Macallan. The go ahead for the distillery also provides the main energy customer for the biomass plant at Craigellachie which involves another multi million pound investment with supply chain benefits.
- On the same day the partnership put a marker down for the community that it will make the best possible case to the UK Space Agency, Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport for the location in Moray of a UK spaceport.( topic is on the agenda).
- On 11th August the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust showcased its application plans (with its partners) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership.

- **Piping Hot Forres**

Jim Grant advised that the success of the event is good for Moray. Further bidding is required for the next 3 years to hold the championships. A request for funding report is to go to the Moray Council Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee for £35,000. Margery Mclennan advised that Tourism wise this event is a fantastic and positive event and something different for Moray. John Cowe said the Council will also be asked to consider underwriting the event for example there was a bad year for income or a wash out like the Keith Show.

- **Elgin City Centre Masterplan**

A Mini Charrette was held and focussed on the future vision for Lossie Green, Cooper Park and their relationship with other parts of the city centre. A report went to the Moray Council Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on 5 August 2014. The Council requested that the proposal be proofed against the 10 year plan. The board received a report proofing the master plan process and endorsed it.

## **8. AOCB**

Margery Mclennan advised the Grant lodge working group have had a good response to exhibition and Moray Business Week will be held W/C 10 November 2014.

Ranald Robertson advised that Jacobs and Transportation staff have been progressing work on a study to identify improvements to the A95 on the A96.

Stephen Cooper advised that early indications are that rather than a new offline route for the A96 a series of bypasses is more likely. SC sought views from the Board about preferences to phasing of dualling of the A96. The overall programme

is scheduled to start around 2017/18 (at Nairn) and to be completed by 2030. There is an opportunity to influence the phasing of which settlement is bypassed first.

SC suggested there would be a tendency to start improvements at each end of the route and therefore Moray should make its case to make improvements sooner rather than later in the programme. That as the objective is to shorten journey times between Aberdeen and Inverness logic indicates that travelling through Elgin causes the most delay and then possibly Keith. It was agreed by all that Elgin was the main priority followed by Keith then Forres.

Frank Hughes updated MEP on the unique nature of Moray College UHI where students can enter further education courses and go all the way through to degree level courses in the one place. He also updated on proposals for a phased redevelopment of the main campus at Moray Street which would go to the College Board soon for approval. At a proposed cost of some £40m there was unlikely to be funding currently to support this but that he explained that he would work with SFC officials to move to a shovel ready state should funding become available.

SC advised that an application was submitted last year for the Bus Investment Bid and it was felt that this would not be successful a second time around, especially as it was not supported by a bus operator. The bid is now based on linking bus routes with cycling.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 11 December 2014 at 10am – venue still to be confirmed.