

**THE MORAY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**MES TRANSPORTATION GROUP**

**Date:** Thursday 8 August 2013

**Location:** The Moray Council HQ, Committee Room

**ATTENDEES:**

S Cooper, Head of Direct Services (SC)  
G Holland, Transportation Manager (GH)  
G Scott, Diageo (GS)  
L Davidson, PA to HODS (LD)

Cllr G Leadbitter (GL)  
R Robertson, Director Hitrans (RR)  
F Roach, Partnership Manager, Hitrans (FR)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

D Duncan, Principal Planning Officer (DD)  
D Norris, Lifting the Spirit Project Manager (DN)

R Milburn, Principal Officer (RM)

**APOLOGIES:**

D Wood, Northern Oils (DW)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.0	<b>Introduction and Apologies</b>	
1.1	SC Introduced the meeting and introductions were made for the additional attendees. Apologies from David Wood were noted.	
2.0	<b>European Regional Directive Funding (ERDF)</b>	
2.1	Reni Milburn (RM) in attendance to talk about European funding.  See attached briefing note and 2014 to 2020 programme.	
2.2	RM attended the Moray Economic Partnership meeting on 6 August 2013 and was asked to attend each of the theme groups to discuss European funding.	
2.3	RM will pull together a list of all projects that could benefit from funding (from all the theme groups) by the end of August. It was agreed that SC and GH would have a 'first go' at this before sending it out to other members of the group for comment.	<b>SC/GH</b>
2.4	RM has asked all to complete the attached questionnaire.	<b>ALL</b>
2.5	RM will provide SC with details of the amount of funding that is available.	<b>RM</b>

<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p><b>Minute of last meeting: 10 April 2013</b></p> <p>Scotrail/Network Rail – update from FR- Trying to get the timetable between Aberdeen and Inverness from Transport Scotland. Infrastructure works will be required. Platforms to be brought into Elgin so that trains can come into the station from both directions. FR to do business case for station at Dalcross. 2019 is the target date for additional services, likely that some will be in before that date. Franchise starts April 2015. There is no opportunity for consultation – FR awaiting shortlist of potential bidders.</p> <p>See attached Hitrans update (Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Improvements / Dalcross Station).</p> <p>There are issues with pricing. RR is raising issues with Scotrail as they arise/are reported. FR will arrange for a letter to be sent to them outlining the issue.</p> <p>A9/A96 Stakeholder meeting – Transport Scotland will attend the next ED&amp;I Committee meeting on 3 Sept 13 to do a briefing on the A9/A96. SC will arrange for a briefing note to go to all Members, along with an invite to attend the beginning of the meeting for the presentation.</p> <p>GS said that they had not had official discussions on the dualling of A9/A96 but they are always interested in better transport links.</p> <p>Emerging Local Plan – DD said that there is no time left to put reference to a new site for the lorry park. GH said it was not essential at this stage to identify a particular site and that this could be identified nearer the time.</p>	<p><b>RR</b> <b>FR</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>David Duncan, The Moray Council Principal Planning Officer in attendance.</p> <p>DD has been tasked with driving forward projects and maintaining an overview of all of the MES groups which will include attending some of the theme group meetings.</p> <p>Lossie Green project – will include looking at the Town Hall. Procurement of external advice for finances will be required. This project will also require private sector support. Need to look at short and long term projects. Master plan scoping to take place first and will be shared with partners. Re-location of the bus station is relevant to this project. GH says that the Alexander Road junction improvements are essential and have to be done before the Lossie Green project.</p> <p>DD has been tasked with factoring in a timeline.</p>	

<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><b>Business Project Appraisal</b></p> <p>GH handed out copies of a business case spreadsheet (copy attached).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Review of Public Transport Links – the vast majority of subsidised bus services will be removed (Council Committee decision). By the end of September 2013 there will be less services. More funding has been given to extend the dial-a-bus network from 3 routes to 4.</li> <li>2. Improvements to traffic distribution outside Elgin centre.</li> <li>3. Barmuckity – developer has planning consent for the network. Developer is progressing and currently in discussion with Transport Scotland.</li> <li>4. Bid from Council/Deveron Coaches/Hitrans has been unsuccessful (to provide bus link between Elgin and Central belt). It is thought that they think this route is not commercially viable. RR discusses using stagecoach instead of Deveron coaches and the bid may then be successful due to their customer base etc. Deveron’s costs were high because they had a lot of start up costs.</li> </ol> <p>GL asks if it would be of benefit to talk to Cairngorms National Park. RR says that they have funded transport projects in the past but due to budget cuts funding has been cut and an employee specific to this was lost. DD says that they are in the process of putting together a strategy so there may be an opportunity even just for a one off financial contribution. GL asks about trying to find sponsorship or funding from other companies such as distilleries etc to enable tourists to get to places more easily. GL asks if we should provide them with several different options and if we can do that. GH will speak to PF and RR and put a proposal to the next meeting of the group.</p> <p>There was no time left in the meeting to discuss the other points. All to review the document for the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>GH</b></p>
<p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p><b>Lifting the Spirit Project</b></p> <p>FR in attendance with Douglas Norris who is the Lifting the Spirit Project Manager.</p> <p>Rail Freight company and Logistics Management Company have been identified. Network Rail and Scottish Whisky Association are also involved in the project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement on rail yard in Elgin will be carried out during August (heavy freight trains will be able to use the yard).</li> <li>2. Type of railway wagons that can carry the different sized containers are being identified. 33,000 litre whisky tank is being proposed for use. Diageo (Roseisle) is interested in this size of tank. GS said that trials were taking place today. DN will be arranging meetings in the near future.</li> <li>3. DN said that shipping by train rather than road will not cost distillers</li> </ol>	

	<p>any more. The extra cost will be met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Trains to leave Elgin from 4 September 2013. Trains will run on Wednesday's and Saturday's.</li> <li>5. Discussions are taking place with companies dealing in food to see if would be interested in moving goods by train.</li> <li>6. 9ft x 6ft containers are an industry standard and they would like to be able to offer a service for this size of container.</li> <li>7. GS suggests trying to fill the trains on both directions, i.e. come in with one type of goods such as whisky barrels and leave with bagged whisky.</li> <li>8. Terminal at Elgin will need to be thought about for longer term.</li> <li>9. They are also looking at using trains that can accept tankers.</li> <li>10. Also looking at supermarket trade (Asda).</li> <li>11. Security will be provided for overnight storage of the products going by train whilst they are located in the yard.</li> <li>12. Event – Friday 13 September for stakeholders and members. Visit to Longmorn distillery and Elgin Yard.</li> </ol> <p>FR asks who from the Council should attend: Chair and Vice Chair of ED&amp;I, 6 Local Elgin Members, Angus Robertson, Richard Lochhead, Convener and Leader of the Council, Stephen Cooper, Gordon Holland, Chair of Elgin Community Council (Alastair Kennedy), Chair of Elgin Community South Forum (Aileen Marshall).</p>	
7.0	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
7.1	LD to arrange the next meeting for October 2013.	<b>LD</b>