

2017 Consultation Response Sheet

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| Document title / ref | Consultation: (CPP / EconDevBSupport/ SHB ref) |
| Key | Black - Q1 – priority; Orange - Q2 – do different; Red - Q3 – stop doing; Q4 – start doing; Q5&6 – community; Staff |
| Heads of Service / Partner / Rep | Rhona Gunn Corporate Director: EDP&I |
| Categories | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We like & will investigate it 2. We are & this is an update 3. We can't take this forward & this is the reason why 4. We like & will explore more with the public 5. We acknowledge & can explain 6. We have reflected on our priorities & your comments will inform our future direction |

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| Feedback/Comments Received: |
| Partnerships: Economic Development: Business Support |
| Refer to: |
| CPP 230-18863 / Page 10-11 / Bullets 75-112 |
| <p>75. a local shop</p> <p>76. businesses to encourage regeneration</p> <p>77. charging extortionate high street rates causing business to fold</p> <p>78. decrease high street store rates</p> <p>79. Encourage big retailers to settle in Elgin. Increased travel to the area will cause knock on increased trade in the high street and improve Revenues. A full IKEA store would be Ideal bringing people into the area from outside Moray and increasing the spending footprint in the area. This would increase employment, occupancy, carpark usage and indirectly raise council revenue.</p> <p>80. Encourage local / small businesses</p> <p>81. Encouraging more retailers into the area to give more choice and less travelling</p> <p>82. encouraging more retail into the area</p> <p>83. Encouraging new businesses to start up to fill the High Street</p> <p>84. Encouraging small businesses.</p> <p>85. encouraging small start-up businesses</p> <p>86. get a genuine farmers market in the high street every weekend</p> <p>87. Give small business more support</p> <p>88. Growing my small business</p> <p>89. High Streets offer a 3 year 50% (or Lower) business rate to new Businesses in the high street empty shops raise less revenue and don't employ.</p> <p>90. How about encouraging retailers to occupy the empty lots on Edgar road retail park</p> <p>91. Improve support for new businesses to encourage a wider diversity as we do not need any more coffee shops or pubs.</p> <p>92. looking at encouraging businesses to open in the area,</p> <p>93. Making sufficient money from my small business to make it worthwhile</p> <p>94. More businesses attracted to area.</p> <p>95. Much more focus on attracting and retaining high quality retail outlets which complement the bigger stores. More integrated approach to promotion of Moray. Moray is a fantastic "product" with its beauty, whisky, golf, history etc. but no-one south of about Pitlochry has ever heard of it. Surely with a</p> |

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- concerted partnership between community and council we could up our game here.
96. Much more weekly markets in the way they have in the rest of Europe! Where everyone can bring something to sell, at small stalls, too, and indoors! More education on healthy eating & drinking! Classify private rental properties into price categories related to their different qualities! No insulation? £200/month, for example.
 97. Prioritising plans that are good for people rather than plans that are good for corporations
 98. Prioritising plans that protect small local businesses on high streets
 99. pursuing these landlords and doing my best to provide the community with a thriving retail environment. If economic development is going to stimulate foot fall in Elgin, promote employment, add to public services
 100. put rents way up for large retailers
 101. Reduce business rates on High Streets.
 102. reduce business rates to enable more small shops to open
 103. reduce business rates to encourage new companies
 104. regenerating brownfield sites i.e. Grant Lodge, old Linkwood sawmill...
 105. rents and rates of the high street shops should be more affordable.
Councils and big high street names should work together and fill empty shops
 106. stop the spread of huge retailers
 107. Stop trying to price these organisations out of business by ever increasing fees, rates etc.
 108. support for innovative business ideas
 109. support for innovative business ideas
 110. These weekend fairs have done nothing and will do nothing to attract business to the centre.
 111. Working alongside local businesses to help them expand. Seek funding to keep public services running.
 112. Working with Europe to provide more employment with European companies in Scotland

Partner Response:

- There is a variety of suggestions in this category with 37 of the 177 comments received relating to the need for business support. On that issue, the response is category 2: the Economic Partnership already helps to provide active business support through Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and various loan and development programmes, with advice also available from the Federation of Small Business and the Chamber of Commerce for local retailers and small business to innovate and grow.
- Business requires a viable market and customer base with disposable income to operate and thrive. The Economic Partnership is encouraging existing business to grow in high value sectors of the economy and inward investment of companies that pay higher wages. Both big and small businesses are required to effectively drive an economy.
- On the issue of investment in the historic fabric of our towns, the response is category 2: through support of the Elgin BID scheme and also the Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes in Elgin and Keith town centres much has been done over the last 5 years to maintain these towns as attractive locations.
- On the issue of helping to -bring back into use vacant premises and first floor

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accommodation in town centre, the response is category 1, we agree that more needs to be done -and are looking into this. During 2016 in Elgin the Council funded an officer to work with property owners to identify opportunities for reuse.

- As regards Business Rates, the response is category 3: Business Rates are based on property values and set by the Scottish Government. Many small businesses benefit from reduced rates from the small business bonus scheme provided by the Scottish Government. Provision of a local subsidy has been investigated in Moray but is not financially viable for Moray Council at this time. Only one local authority currently offers a subsidy on business rates.
- As regards encouraging and attracting more small business and retail to the area together with the redevelopment or regeneration of brownfield sites and buildings, the response is category 4: The Economic partnership is currently developing a growth bid for governmental funding and support and City Deals in other areas have addressed these issues so these will be investigated and form part of the future public engagement on the growth bid. We agree that Moray's attractions should be promoted more and this has been identified as an area for consideration in the growth bid, so the response here is category 6.
- As regards local markets, it is clear from responses that views differ on these, but the response is category 2: Planning permissions exist to hold markets in Buckie Elgin, Forres, Keith and Lossiemouth.
- As regards the comments on control of local rents, the response is category 3: Public Agencies have no power to set rents or intervene in matters of competition. The vitality and viability of existing High Street is helped by the National Planning Policy that dictates that a town centre site must be considered first and ruled out before allowing any large scale retail developments outwith the town centre.

More information about [Economic Development](#)

The local government's role in Economic Development is guided by the Scottish Government's priorities and strategies. In partnership with organisations across all sectors, the Council is working on a [strategic plan](#) and operational level to maximise economic benefits through its strategies, decision making, investment and services. [Economic Development Annual Review 2015-16](#)

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