

MEP

Thursday 15 September, 10am
Ballindalloch Distillery, Lagmore, Ballindalloch, Banffshire, AB37 9AA

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| Guy Macpherson-Grant(GMG) | Host | Ballindalloch Trust |
| John Cowe(JC) | Chair | The Moray Council |
| James Johnston (JJ) | Vice Chair | The Moray Strategic Business Forum |
| Dawn McNiven (DMcN) | | Platform PR |
| Laurie Piper (LP) | | Chamber of Commerce |
| Gordon Sutherland (GS) | | The Moray Council |
| Rhona Gunn (RG) | | The Moray Council |
| Steven Hutcheon (SH) | | HIE |
| Jim Grant (JG) | | The Moray Council |
| Stephen Cooper (SC) | | The Moray Council |
| Fraser Grieve (FG) | | SCDI |
| Jane Cumming (JACU) | | Platform PR |
| Seonag Campbell (SECA) | | Skills Development Scotland |
| Jackie McLaren (JM) | | tsiMORAY |
| Stuart Black (SB) | | Highland Council |
| Ewan Mackintosh (EM) | | The Moray Strategic Business Forum |
| Murray Ferguson (MF) | | Cairngorms National Park |
| David Paterson (DP) | | Moray College UHI |
| Joanne Chisholm (JMC) | Secretary | The Moray Council |

| | Item | Action |
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| | <p>Welcome – Guy Macpherson-Grant Ballindalloch Trust</p> <p>GMG welcomed Moray Economic Partnership to Ballindalloch Distillery and the Heart of Speyside. Ballindalloch Distillery was set up 5 years ago by GMG and his father as a Single Estate Distillery which enabled them to produce and sell abroad. There are 4 full time and 2 part time staff but also employ around 30-35 seasonal workers. The golf course and club house was an addition to the area around 13/14 years ago and also the castle and gardens in a good season do very well and attract a lot of visitors. They have 2 rented houses which have also secured places at Inveraven School. GMG added that Speyside way and North Coast 500 has also been a good success bringing more visitors to the area.</p> | |
| Apologies | Malcolm McNeil and Fabio Villani (TSIMoray) | |
| Absent | Ranald Robertson (Hitrans), Dave McCallum (SDS), Margery McLennan (Chamber of Commerce), Pamela Gowans (NHS), Steve Westbrook (UHI). | |
| 1. | <p>Inverness City Deal</p> <p>SB from Highland Council introduced his presentation by pointing out that Inverness Castle shown on the front page of his presentation is the start and finish of North Coast 500. SB went on to explain there are 32 deals 3 of which are in Scotland. Inverness City Deal started around 18 months ago in January/February 2015 with 3 aims to increase economic growth, increase productivity and target spending/policies. It is a transformative opportunity to position the area as a regional of digital opportunity enabling</p> | |

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| | <p>the Highlands to be the best digitally connected rural region in Europe.</p> <p>The deal is made up of funding from Scottish Government (£135m), UK Government (£53m) and from the Council and public partners (£127m).</p> <p>Next steps include 5 stage business cases to be submitted by early Autumn 2016, prioritisation on projects with 16/17 spend, deal document to be signed late Autumn 2016 and work with Scottish and UK Governments to develop an evaluation framework.</p> <p>Presentation will be circulated showing projects with funding and project lead.</p> <p>Moray is sandwiched between Inverness and Aberdeen City Deals but DP is keen to develop Digital Health, which links into Moray, with expertise at UHI. There are gaps in mobile coverage and how to use and support is required for small businesses. JG confirmed communications will continue with Andrew Johnston (HIE) and Highland.</p> <p>It was noted that a menu of projects was presented to Westminster and Scottish Government for funding and a selection was made. There is funding from UK and Scottish Government for Oil and Gas in Aberdeen but JJ is not confident that the decision made is what the region actually needs.</p> <p>JJ added that sustaining environment, greater legislation for sustainable future and having long term plans is key.</p> | <p>JMC</p> <p>DP/HIE</p> |
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Meeting Note and Actions from – 12 May 2016</p> <p>Item 2 – JC met with Captain Godfrey and Heldon and Laich Councillors (not Elgin).</p> <p>Item 3 – Dawn McNiven provided Communications report as Jane Cumming did not attend meeting.</p> <p>Item 5 – Margery McLennan not McLellan.</p> <p>JMC to amend the above.</p> <p>Item 6 – Piping in Forres - 120,000 rural organisations attended and event was very successful.</p> <p>Barmuckity – moving ahead – planning application for 4,000 new housing in the next 20-25 and 2 new schools.</p> | <p>JMC</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>Communications Report</p> <p>Campaigns and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle2Cathedral2Cashmere news releases (6 in total) • World Host ongoing • A95 strategy • Schools video launch • Support for Moray Business Week • Kinloss Group Support • Have a Moray Christmas Advert | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray recognition research <p>Future Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family firms story for Scotsman and wider circulation • Moray Towns Herald Supplement • Moray history – Macbeth and Buke of Howlat • Moray recognition <p>12 May to 14 September 2016 Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism story Scotsman • Elgin BID achieve World Host recognition • Northern Scot columns – Developing Young Workforce and Moray in Numbers • Kinloss Barracks coverage • C2C2C stories – High Voltage, Medieval Day, Writing Story, Sculpture | |
| 4. | <p>Basing Review (Kinloss)</p> <p>RG explained the background and that a confidential meeting had been held on 26 April 2016 with Moray Council Planning department to discuss masterplan and assess the use of the site and opportunities for the base.</p> <p>These discussions were kept confidential and were reported to Moray Council Committee in August 2016 who asked MEP to take on.</p> <p>Meeting was held with Dave Mandel last Friday and MEP Kinloss Group set up with next meeting taking place on Friday 23 September 2016. The main message is to protect the use of the base and HIE are looking at economic impact.</p> <p>Letters have been sent to State for Defence and State for Scotland. There is a media campaign ongoing and final announcement should be Oct/Nov on overview.</p> <p>JC added that the story that was printed in the Press and Journal is exactly what Dave Mandel disclosed to The Moray Council on Friday 9 Sept.</p> <p>JJ advised we need to keep good engagement with DIO and how to move forward and engage well with process for consultation.</p> <p>JG confirmed that an evaluation will need to be made on the site before a decision is made. The reality of what they are looking to be achieved is limited and the owner of the land will require deciding the use. There is no current need for housing in Kinloss.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Brexit (partners thoughts)</p> <p>JC commented that the weaker pound would help exports to capitalise and is a great opportunity to develop the export market. Whisky is more desirable and a great benefit.</p> <p>JJ's views on private sector are on construction, agriculture and food and drink. With food and drink it is far too early to know the outcomes but they rely a lot on immigrant workers and minimum wage, the cost of business and regulation in the future. Agriculture is a disaster with European</p> | |

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| | <p>funding and fall of payments. Businesses will diversify with new regulation and require Holyrood to support agricultural payments. Construction is more skilled and relies on UHI graduates.</p> <p>FG added that Tourism and Hospitality depend on cheap labour and is a challenging picture and all depends on the size of businesses. The North Coast 500 has picked up.</p> <p>SECA advised support for employability is required, funding in universities and research grants and UHI keeping young and foreign students. DP echoed this.</p> <p>SH mentioned that European Funding is still there and should be business as normal.</p> <p>JG acknowledged and explained that there is difficulty with projects only being funded until March 2018 and as there is a risk it will overrun which puts people off applying. If funding is not signed already there is still this risk.</p> | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Moray 2026 outcomes</p> <p>Paper already circulated with Action plan for 2016/17. JG advised this is an annual review and need to look at targets and how to progress for Corporate Plan.</p> <p>JG spoke about weekly wage on page 3 and confirmed the statistics don't include MOD, more thought is required on how to control. On page 5 police and fire are no longer included so there will be a drop there. Planning applications on page 6, Moray have the top and best in Scotland so this can possibly be removed from document and replaced with similar for improvements.</p> <p>A96 moves up agenda. Business start-ups are mainly from oil workers and look to maintain 240 per year but can vary each year. JJ added that greater than 50% have been made redundant and started up themselves.</p> <p>Broadband – Roll out between HIE and BT looking to have 93% coverage by 2019. 4G will be available in major towns and mobile coverage available on every road. It was asked if we have figures of who is using superfast broadband. SH to check as HIE will have figures. SH confirmed that the last 4 business set ups have fibre broadband.</p> <p>Once further meetings have been held on city deal a review will be done on areas of focus for MES and new targets.</p> | <p>SH</p> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>City Deal/Growth Bid</p> <p>RG advised there has been background on this from SB at the start of the meeting and is an exciting prospect for Moray. A group has been set up with stakeholders and Scottish Future Trust will facilitate the initial session on 28 September 2016 but will still look at additional stakeholders. SCDI are strong supporters.</p> <p>Initial work is comprehensive dataset and hard data used to inform key drivers. An info pack will be sent out next week and there will be workshops/engagements with members of the public, forums and community councils.</p> | <p>RG</p> |

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| | <p>JACU to organise publicising initial session on 28 September 2016.</p> <p>JG is involved in Digital Place Board where universities, college, police and local authorities look at pulling together a vision and partnership working. Moray to use UHI as a lever but need to confirm what it is Moray needs.</p> <p>It was noted that there have been knock backs from Highland as suggestions will not add value to the wider area.</p> | JACU |
| 8. | <p>Cairngorm National Park Partnership Plan</p> <p>There are 9 key issues and all data showing targets/preferred direction, key questions and mechanisms for delivery is shown on consultation link below. http://cairngorms.co.uk/working-partnership/consultations/thebig9/</p> <p>Key Conservation Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape scale conservation 2. Deer and moorland management 3. Flood Management <p>Key Visitor Experience Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Visitor Infrastructure and Information 5. Active Cairngorms 6. Learning and inclusion <p>Key Rural Development Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Housing 8. Community Capacity and empowerment 9. Economic Development <p>MF advised you don't need to be in the park to benefit and want to involve Moray.</p> <p>Consultation closes on 30th September 2016 and MF welcomes any comments.</p> | ALL |
| 9. | <p>Prevention (new standing item)</p> <p>Item 9 will be added onto the next agenda as no one at meeting to cover.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Programme Report & Discussion Employability Partnership</p> <p>Skills Assessments have now been published again and is now regional. It is used to build future investment in skills and business start-up. SDS work closely with Highland and Islands and are supported by Highlands and Island Skills Investment Plan where key themes are still valid. Gordon Sutherland is contact for Moray Council and working with UHI and HIE.</p> | |

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| | <p>Foundation Apprenticeships are now part of the school curriculum to prepare young people and enhance skills for qualifications. UHI also have a work-based learning hub and works with the college to develop.</p> <p>Modern Apprenticeships – from April 2017 all employers will have a wage bill of £3 million from HRMC</p> <p>Expansion plan from Scottish Government is to provide work for 30,000 young people by 2020 through Modern Apprenticeship programme.</p> <p>Enterprise review is still ongoing with HIE, SDS, Scottish Enterprise and should have an announcement next week.</p> <p>The challenge is to look at the issues known and how to solve them and developing raw talent. Working with Local Authorities and identifying where the gaps are.</p> | |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>Partner Updates</p> <p>A96 – Meeting outlining the process with 2 years for final option. £50m contract to get to design stage. Looking at different options and what may be preferred through TMC and MEP. This would create hundreds of job opportunities within Buckie and an announcement will be made next year.</p> <p>GS added that there has been 6,000 shares of Buckie Harbour brochure on Facebook.</p> <p>Murray advised if HLF bid announced next week for landscape partnership and will be x4 jobs.</p> <p>Moray Business Week is from 14th – 18th November 2016 and programme will be circulated in September.</p> <p>SH advised new electronics company will be at Forres Enterprise Park by the end of this month.</p> <p>Barmuckity – Discussions ongoing.</p> <p>Future forestry consultation – HIE doing response- should this come from MEP?</p> | |
| <p>12.</p> | <p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 8th September 2016, 10am – The Glasgow School of Art - Altyre Estate, Forres</p> | |