

Moray Economic Partnership

HIE Boardroom, Enterprise Park, Forres, IV36 2AB

Thursday 22nd February – 10am

In attendance

John Cowe (Chair)	Moray Council
James Johnston (Vice Chair)	The Moray Strategic Business Forum
Rhona Gunn	Moray Council
Jim Grant	Moray Council
Gordon Sutherland	Moray Council
Ranald Robertson	Hitrans
Dave McCallum	SDS
David Patterson	Moray College
Fraser Grieve	SCDI
Donna Chisholm	HIE
Steven Hutcheon	HIE
Sarah Medcraf	Moray Chamber of Commerce
Helen Ross	Muckle Media
Seonag Campbell	SDS
Andrew Anderson	Tsi Moray
Laurie Piper	Moray Speyside Tourism
Nicola Moss	Moray Council
Joanne Chisholm (mins)	Moray Council

Apologies

Pam Gowans	Moray Council
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1.	Meeting note Update from previous minute from Stephen Sheridan at SDS:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDS have awarded UHI network with a contract to support a UHI recruitment target of 414 for 18/19. Moray college were successful in bidding for up to 66 places across a number of frameworks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountancy,• Business Services,• Creative and digital media,• Food & Drink,• Children and Young people,• Healthcare• and Scientific Tech.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last meeting the draft Scottish budget was due to be published. This included details of the Governments Skills and Training Priorities which stated: <p>Scotland’s skills system is strong and makes a crucial contribution to our labour market and economy. We continue to enhance and diversify the routes through which we provide skills support. Our successes include fulfilling our commitment to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent, four years ahead of schedule. Our focus will be on enhancing the skills development opportunities required to meet Scotland’s future economic needs and opportunities.</p> <p>In 2018-19 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ further expand Modern Apprenticeship starts to 30,000 a year by 2020; including new graduate level opportunities; ○ continue to support the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) strategy and to fund growth in Foundation Apprenticeships for school pupils and the network of regional industry-led DYW Regional Groups; ○ continue to invest £10 million in the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF), to provide inform future skills support for our existing workforce; ○ begin to use £12 million of European Structural Funds to address regional skills inequality, in line with emerging industries and markets, and to encourage inward investment in our communities; ○ enhance skills alignment across the Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland to ensure that employer demand is systematically built into investment in skills; ○ deliver more work-relevant learning to young people in school, giving them appropriate skills for the current and future jobs market, including creating new vocational learning options in our colleges; enabling young people to learn in a range of settings in their senior phase of school; and embedding employer engagement in education; and ○ continue to deliver Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to young people aged 16-19 from low income households. EMA is available to young people in post-compulsory education at school, non-advanced college course and on Activity Agreements. <p>Also of interest to the group would be the awards of contracts to a number of Universities throughout Scotland, Including UHI. Attached is a list of awards and contact details is members / employers are interested.</p>	
2.	<p>Moray Growth Bid - Progress</p> <p>The Moray Growth Bid Project Manager, David Moreton, and Rhona created a summary and circulated at meeting showing 8 of 13 projects at a static position. It was stressed that the detail still remained confidential and was not to be shared further.</p> <p>Business engagement has taken place with 12 businesses in Moray. The approach taken was a pitch from Rhona, Jim and other members of the growth deal board explaining and</p>	

	<p>asking if they would be willing to engage and to what extent. There are three levels of involvement from businesses - Bronze (business logo/engage informally), Silver (willingness to put forward a representative for business assembly sounding board) and Gold (provide a business figurehead). Details of individual projects were not yet in the public domain since, as the projects were dependent on government funding and it was not yet clear which projects were supported, full exposure risked raising expectations which could not be met.</p> <p>A briefing with Douglas Ross will take place on Friday, Richard Lochhead at the start of March and a members briefing will take place with a Q&A session.</p> <p>It had been suggested that the Moray and Ayrshire Bids are at a similar stage which hopefully meant that Moray would soon get an announcement opening negotiations. It was noted that there might be benefits in aligning ourselves with the Ayrshires in this case and it was agreed that Rhona would mention to the CE Moray Council to see if there is an option to work alongside Ayrshire but everyone is struggling to get clarity on timelines.</p> <p>It is important that we lobby and create a promotion piece for Moray and have the community behind us.</p> <p>Heads of terms – we are sticking with June date but will not get to discuss heads of terms until treasury approval has been formally announced.</p> <p>JC thanked everyone for all the work on Moray Growth Bid so far.</p>	
3.	<p>LOIP</p> <p>The final version of the LOIP has now been circulated showing the overarching vision with its four main priorities. The LOIP is about working together to improve the collective performance in dealing effectively with inequality.</p> <p>A series of workshops were held, one at Elgin Town Hall with representatives looking at issues and data from that and wider analyses.</p> <p>Two locality plans for New Elgin and Buckie will be targeted first and we need an idea of what needs to be done in Communities. There needs to be a new approach to get communities more involved asking what they want to be done, show them how data was gathered and ask how they feel about it rather than trying to tell them what we think they need.</p> <p>The governance around the LOIP is still evolving but some of the partnerships that drove implementation of the previous 10 year plan and reported to the Community Planning Board previously will no longer exist. Meantime the Employability Partnership is likely to become a programme group to report up to MEP. Again, the governance arrangements around MEP were under review however as part of the review of MES which underway.</p> <p>The next stage in the LOIP programme is to develop delivery plans targeting job market and young workforce.</p>	

	<p>Moray Economic Strategy – there has been limited and sporadic progress with this due to Moray Growth Deal. This year it will be 6 years old and nationally things have moved on and there is an emphases that didn't exist before. There needs to be a sharper focus.</p> <p>HIE will chair a small working group to reinvent the economic strategy which will be presented to MEP in May and completed over the summer. Donna will look at the role, future of sub groups, the core strategy and key stakeholders. Skills Investment Plan has its own recommendation which is also being reviewed. SDS would be keen to be involved so that they can contribute.</p>	
4.	<p>Employability Moray/ Moray Skills Investment Plan</p> <p>The group are meeting on 2nd March to discuss key actions for key members and there will be a further update at MEP in May.</p> <p>A meeting was held at Moray Council to discuss the future of Employability Moray and it was agreed that this group would not meet again in its current format, but some form of employability group was likely to be needed under MEP.</p>	
5.	<p>Transportation Programme Report</p> <p>Nicola advised on the progress from Transportation.</p> <p>New train station at Forres opened in 2017. The programme is on track and the next phase is to dual tracking into Aberdeen and there will be closures from Dyce to Aberdeen early April for around 14 weeks. Buses will be available from Dyce which will change travel times. There will be a lot of work done for an hourly service from Aberdeen to Inverness working towards September 2019. Scotrail are bringing up trains from England to refurbish and programme is on track and working well.</p> <p>Hitrans are working with local stakeholders to link the Keith – Dufftown train back to the main line.</p> <p>G-PaTRA is Green Passenger Transport in Rural Areas and will be running an electric bus and see if it can cope in Speyside. If it does work can expand to run Aberlour to Forres before 9am to enable travelling to work.</p> <p>Elgin Transport Strategy – funding is the biggest issue and signs are now up for work to be done at Comet roundabout in Elgin on 26th February to fit new traffic lights.</p> <p>Parking strategy – car park order is out for consultation and closes this week then will go to Committee. The proposal includes charging at Elgin train station.</p> <p>A95 – Moray Council have gone as far as they reasonably can in coordinating a 'lobby' for work to be undertaken on the A95. Despite very focussed efforts since late 2016 to corral private sector engagement, there has been little or no response from the private sector and particularly the transport industry. No further action would be taken on this topic until the private sector demonstrated a greater willingness to engage. The Vice-Chair would write out through the Moray Strategic Business Forum detailing the lack of progress</p>	

	<p>and the need for better industry engagement.</p> <p>Buckie Harbour – Buckie Harbour is part of the remit of Transport. In the last few years there has been changes on how it has been working as a port and work with transport groups for export. Growth in offshore means there is the potential for solid growth for Buckie harbour.</p> <p>Rail freight – SG and Westminster have provided targets and next funding period for rail. Work is being done in the background until rail can meet the challenges.</p> <p>Low carbon – Upgrading Speyside way and introducing electric vehicles in Speyside.</p> <p>Policy – Transport bill anticipated this year with bus regulation and parking agendas. No current business case for local authority to take away parking fines from police.</p> <p>Transport strategy – If there are any ideas in enabling economic growth Ranald is involved in working group and any comments can be emailed to Ranald.</p> <p>JC thanked Nicola and huge amount of support from Hitrans.</p> <p>Hitrans have an electric vehicle strategy and Nicola is working on transport group and strategy for the region and work requires to be done on the distribution network.</p>	
6.	<p>Media Report</p> <p>Muckle Media are supporting growth deal trying to get the local community behind the bid. They have been working on reviewing messages and how to package for any audience (business, school or young people).</p> <p>Press release has been done on Scottish Apprentice Week 5-9th March 2018.</p> <p>Promoting Moray as good place to live and work. Working with Peter Jones and Armed Forces liaison officer for Highland and Moray to promote Moray as a destination for service personnel and families.</p> <p>Promoting Moray NHS Recruitment Video - Link to NHS recruitment video</p> <p>International Woman’s day is in March and a pledge will go out seeking public support to address gender disparity through Moray Growth Deal.</p> <p>It was agreed that My Moray website requires modifications to provide constant news feed and be a platform to share information and show upcoming campaigns. Helen welcomes suggestions for activities coming up and they could also feature business leaders in blogs.</p> <p>Stat’s shown on Coverage Books.</p> <p>Coverage Book for 2017</p> <p>Coverage Book Jan 2018</p>	

	<p>There is limited resources and budget for media services; last year there were three contributors Moray College, HIE and Moray Council . A report will go to ED&I Committee in March to seek approval for funding 2018/19.</p>	
7.	<p>Partner updates</p> <p>David/SDS – Scottish Apprentice Week – March 6 there will be a business breakfast held at Moray college with 40+ employers attending, that evening there will be an open evening for trainer providers and employers for apprenticeship (4 – 7pm on 19th March 2018). In March SDS and Moray Council Education will attend a joint event at Horizon Centre, Forres, looking at key policies on data management and how to track young people for Education.</p> <p>Fraser/SCDI – on 6th March 2018 there will be an event outlining SCDI initiative to address challenges to business in rural areas.</p> <p>Seonag/SDS – Skills Development Scotland have recently contracted with Higher Education providers to deliver a range of new Graduate Apprenticeship (GA) Frameworks which will enable individuals to work, get paid and achieve a degree – even up to Masters Level. The current range of frameworks have been developed with industry and employers to deliver some of the key skills and qualifications that support the needs of the Scottish Economy. Currently there are approx. 500 contracted places to deliver 11 GA Frameworks (in Business, Construction, Engineering, Digital and Cyber Security), with further expansion in the number of places and new frameworks underway. The development of GAs is part of SDS activity to work with business and key stakeholders to enhance the Modern Apprenticeship family (including Foundation Apprenticeships in the school curriculum) so as to provide a wide range of innovative career pathways for young people to enter the workplace and for those already in the workplace to progress . For more information on the Apprenticeship family, please visit: https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/</p> <p>Andrew/TSIMoray – Andrew has now joined TSIMoray. A further 2 awards to be announced and 7 in the pipeline for LEADER. Local Development Strategy will be announced in March and will be recruiting a Development Manager to help out. Norman will carry out a presentation to MEP in the future.</p> <p>Laurie/Moray Speyside Tourism – There has now been a year long engagement with Travel Trade and met 40 travel trade companies. Laurie will provide numbers for the last year.</p> <p>It has been confirmed this week a promised visit by Japanese delegation on 17/18th May 2018 and Expo will be held in April.</p> <p>Donna/HIE – This year has been productive in Moray and achieved measures. Key highlights would be the investment into Barmuckity which is moving in a positive direction and investment in Buckie Shipyard creating 20-40 jobs. HIE are getting to grips with the new strategic board for Scotland focusing on Highlands and Islands and finding a way</p>	

	<p>through national environmental which everyone is having to get to grips with and may well change how HIE invest. Nationally becomes local very quickly and have 70 clients in Moray and investing will be updating to each MEP meeting.</p> <p>David/Moray College – Scottish Apprenticeship Week is in March. Training can be provided by Moray College UHI to Levy paying companies. Moray College will be hosting stem week for Primary and High Schools and Game Jam in March and 100 people making games/apps from scratch.</p>	
8.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 24th May 2018 – venue to be confirmed.</p>	