

Moray Economic Partnership

Teams Meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2022 @ 14:00

Graham Leadbitter (Chair)	Moray Council
Andrew Anderson	tsiMoray
David Reid	HIE
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Jamie Hogg	NHS Grampian - Dr Gray's Hospital
Jim Grant	Moray Council
John Cowe	Councillor, Moray Council
Laurie Piper	Visit Moray Speyside
Pearl Hamilton	FSB
Stephen Sheridan	SDS
Raj Singhal	White Label Creative
Natasha Cobley	White Label Creative
Kerry Williams (Minutes)	HIE

Apologies

Chris Muir	Moray Council
Katherine Mackintosh	Robertsons
Rhona Gunn	Moray Council
Sarah Medcraf	Moray Chamber of Commerce
Tim Eagle	Councillor, Moray Council

1.	Welcome by Chair Welcome from Chair and apologies given.	
2.	Minutes from last meeting and matters arising Minutes agreed. Actions from previous meeting: Item 4 - CPOG options for employment. Local employment paper has not yet gone up to CPOG. Item 6 - Gaelic plan actioned. Decision for MEP whether Gaelic Plan needs to be considered on the Economic Refresh Strategy and whether it fits with economic outcomes. Item 7 - White label to share report finding covered in item 9 of this agenda.	
3.	Economic Recovery Plan Update Ongoing SG £80M discretionary fund awaiting details to go to council to decide the criteria and distribute. MC to receive a proportion of the £80M.	

	<p>Pop-up shops operating successfully in Buckie and tenants wanting to continue with premises. Start-up grants will be available for pop-up shops to apply for funding. There has been slow progress with the fund. Town centre grants are also available to assist.</p> <p>JG reported that progression on individual projects slow for several reasons including negotiations with landowners.</p> <p>RTIF is now being delivered.</p> <p>The Local Outcome Improvement Plan was shared with members and JG highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years progressing well • Increase participation, skills and pay levels • Kickstart being delivered although DWP have no stats to back up the KPIs • Apprenticeship plan behind time scales due to shortage of manhours <p>Feedback on Kickstart scheme: there is a lack of information eg. CVs not passed on prior to interviews; Basic requirements not met eg. driving licence; Right calibre of candidates; Wasting people’s time and candidates poorly advised.</p> <p>ACTION: JG to feed back through local employment partnership.</p> <p>DR informed members that HIE has administered 8 additional funds and awarded 147 businesses a total of £197k in grants on top of 32 new investments approved to the value of £1.6M that shows we are no longer in recovery mode and growth is expected.</p> <p>VMS has commissioned a business barometer as at 1st of April across all sectors, not just tourism, and will feedback to MEP the findings.</p> <p>JC asked if there was an operating deficit for the Early Years Childcare programme but GL confirmed there are ongoing discussions with SG.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Regional Economic Partnership (REP)</p> <p>The REP is a constitutionally formed body to contribute to regional issues such as population/employment/broadband. The scale of the Highlands and Islands is vast with the same issues surrounding infrastructure and population but Moray does not have the same model as Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city. Moray has a distinctive economy and is self-sufficient (almost like the Islands).</p>	

	<p>With the growth deals and wider strategic funds such as UKSPF and other Levelling Up funds coming through it is useful to have regional partnerships to facilitate funding bids and stand up to the central belt especially with multi-partner deals. REP will be careful not to duplicate other agencies covering COHI (Convention of Highlands and Islands) where there is more restriction on talks. REP is planning an improvement framework and ongoing consultation with MPIF for focus on what is going on in Moray to bring to COHI, especially labour market and skills to be recognised with a huge focus on re-population and population as well as the unique challenges Moray has.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Just Transition Fund</p> <p>The MEP met with the MSP for Just Transition, Richard Lochhead, back in February. The MSP wanted to get a feel for the needs and a preference for how the Just Transition fund could benefit the region. MEP were asked to come up with a strategy, perhaps to tie in with the Economic Strategy and Moray Growth Deal to package together for best impact.</p> <p>Moray Council to tease out requirements and to be smart about the types of bids as there is a potential £100M available along with the MGD which is huge to deliver over 10 years.</p> <p>Areas to consider include skills, labour and infrastructure as well as tourism but so much more can be realised. There may be heightened activity but must be mindful to work out capacity and delivery of all projects successfully. The fund could be used to build capacity.</p> <p>JH commented that the process, time scales and leverage are a great advantage for the NHS who use a variety of engineering services that are currently not available in the north east of Scotland eg. clinical waste. DHI are not bringing big companies to Scotland but there is a need to monitor people from home and the innovation hub can bring together opportunities. The triple helix approach to innovation across academia, industry and NHS in Scotland is an opportunity to divert from oil and gas.</p> <p>There are too many opportunities for the Just Transition Fund and the challenge will be choosing the most appropriate to deliver successfully and bring about the most benefit. Capital (not revenue) and soft financial interventions will feature heavily in the first instance, being careful not to duplicate existing projects but fill the gaps.</p> <p>Current distribution routes through to communities to be confirmed but Scottish Government will deliver funds. Moray Council will bid for challenge funds to distribute.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Growth Deal Update</p>	

	<p>MAATIC project is now at RIBA stage 3, design of building. The costs are escalating so the project has been paused to reassess. The project and programme board are to meet later in March.</p> <p>MICM is at the same pace as MAATIC building. Internally, the services are already sourced and MICM will deliver bigger, better and sooner in Moray.</p> <p>Business Enterprise Hubs have been secured and are progressing.</p> <p>Digital Health project is now in delivery. Staff resourcing in place and currently in the tender procurement phase.</p> <p>Cultural Quarter and Housing Mix are resourcing project managers.</p> <p>Bus Revolution will have the full OBC out by June. Once it has been approved funds can be drawn down.</p> <p>STEM project officer to find.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Moray Economic Strategy Refresh Update</p> <p>Consultations are now complete and a draft of the strategy will go to MEP prior to a presentation from the consultant sooner than the next scheduled MEP meeting for comment (end April). See date of next meeting at item 11.</p> <p>Key Moray issues coming through are NSET (more details at item 8), Net Zero, MGD, Just Transition and economic context of COVID recovery and Brexit. All have been pulled in and cross referenced in alignment with the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy will also touch on increased digital automation and an understanding on microbusinesses. It will have a distinctive Moray voice and there will be an increased role of the third sector. The aim is to turn challenges into opportunities with key actions delivered short/medium term. MEP, MES and Resilience Forum will work together and a specialist team bought onboard to drive it forwards.</p> <p>There will also be a narrative around global insecurity and economic challenges eg. energy and whether this will lead to an increase in North Sea gas. Other external political factors to be referenced also as these will have an impact on transport, supply of goods and services for a long time to come.</p> <p>ACTION: Draft of MES Strategy Refresh to be sent to MEP prior to presentation from consultant in April</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET)</p> <p>SG have published Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) that consists of 6 pillars with actions under each one that will be</p>	

	summed up by a wellbeing economy. All agencies across Scotland will align their operating plans with NSET to deliver regional variances and interpretation.	
9.	<p>White Label Communications Update</p> <p>RJ gave an update of the work that White Label Creative have been carrying out on the refurbished website over the last three to four months. Members asked to take a look and comment. MyMoray.co.uk</p> <p>Growth deal communications not timeline led yet as discussions and approvals are still outstanding. Progression of MGD to be shared with White Label to update on media channels.</p> <p>White Label will continue momentum on social media to promote Moray as a region.</p> <p>A steer is required on MEP's priorities eg. women in STEM or Just transition Fund, what this looks like and the journey ahead.</p> <p>ACTION: Moray Council to update White Label on progress of MGD and MEP priorities to publicise on media channels.</p>	JG/White Label
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>PH asked if there was any data on the take up of the Moray Loves Local cards? Could there be an option to look at top up card rather than businesses paying £2.49 each time to purchase?</p> <p>Scotland Towns Partnership hosting webinar on the Town Centre Action Plan which includes details of Scotland Loves Local cards.</p> <p>Action: JG to report back on Moray Loves Local cards data and turnover to date.</p>	JG
11.	<p>Date and Time of next meeting(s)</p> <p>Tuesday 26th April 2022 Time 2:00pm – 3:30pm Single Item Agenda: Moray Economic Strategy Refresh Presentation</p> <p>Wednesday 8th June Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm Regular MEP</p>	