

Moray Economic Partnership

Tuesday 3 March 2026 (2.00pm - 4.30pm)

Venue: Moray Chamber of Commerce, Alexander Fleming House, 8 Southfield Drive, Elgin, Moray, IV30 6GR

Attendees:	
Sarah Medcraf (Chair)	Moray Chamber of Commerce (MCC)
Beverly Smith	The Moray Council (TMC)
Michael Kelly	TMC
Gary Templeton	TMC
Rod Lovie	TMC
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Business (FSB)
David Reid	Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
Claire Sim	Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
David Patterson	UHI Moray
David Jackson	Visit Scotland
Carol Wink (Minutes)	HIE

Apologies:	
Rhona Gunn	TMC
Marc Macrae	TMC
Sandy Keith	TMC
Sonya Warren	TMC
Jackie MacLaren	tsiMoray

1	Welcome and Apologies Sarah Medcraf (Chair) opened the meeting.
2	Matters arising not on the agenda Sarah Medcraf advised that confirmation has been received that the Chambers of Commerce as a whole will now be represented on HIREP. The Chamber representative(s) has still to be confirmed. No other matters arising.
3	Minute and actions from previous meeting <u>Update on actions</u> The MEP meeting date schedule will be adjusted to align with Community Planning Partnership (CPP) meetings.

	<p>Buckie Harbour Masterplan - Buckie Harbour Masterplan</p> <p>The minute from 9 December 2025 was agreed.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Just Transition Fund Prospectus</p> <p>Gary Templeton and Rod Lovie provided an update on the Just Transition Fund Prospectus, which sets out a coherent multi-year programme of six investable projects developed in partnership with community and industry stakeholders. The programme will build on projects and development activity previously supported through the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>Following Council approval of the shortlisted projects, officers will continue to work with stakeholders to develop the business cases and associated KPIs, with the aim of refining a cohesive regional bid to the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>Gary Templeton acknowledged the project management support provided by Moray Council in developing and coordinating the programme.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>UKSPF funding update</p> <p>Beverly Smith reported that MEP members agreed that the remaining UKSPF funding is split equally between the Town Centre Manager and Apprenticeship Engagement and Development Lead projects, and both organisations have been notified of this decision.</p> <p>If further underspend should arise, the same process for re-allocation will be followed through the MEP Chair, with proposals circulated to MEP members for a vote and feedback provided to Moray Council.</p> <p>The UKSPF will conclude at the end of September 2026 with no replacement allocation through the Local Growth Fund for the highlands and islands, including Moray.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Moray Growth Deal (MGD) – update</p> <p><u>Draft 2025 MGD Annual Report</u></p> <p>The draft annual report for the 2025 calendar year was shared with MEP members.</p> <p>Michael Kelly provided an update on progress, highlighting key achievements delivered during 2025 and outlining the key milestones currently being progressed for 2026/27.</p> <p><u>Structural Funds sub-group update</u></p> <p>Michael Kelly reported that the initial meeting of the MEP Structural Funds sub-group has taken place, establishing a shared focus on improving awareness and transparency of economic development activity supported by different government funding streams and other sources. The group will also act as a forum for shared learning and the exchange of good practice.</p>

	<p>A key theme highlighted during the meeting was the critical role of data in accurately capturing benefits and providing a robust evidence base for future funding applications.</p> <p>Sarah Medcraf advised that all sub-group reports have now been received and will be consolidated into a summary update for CPP.</p> <p>Action: Sarah Medcraf to prepare a brief summary of all sub-group reports to share with CPP.</p>
7	<p>Key Topic Focus</p> <p><u>Moray Tourism 2036</u></p> <p>Beverly Smith advised that a revised version of the Moray Tourism Strategy 2036, updating the previously circulated document, is now available and will be issued to MEP members. The document is scheduled for consideration by Council committee in March, ahead of wider consultation.</p> <p>MEP members provided feedback on the draft strategy during discussion.</p> <p><u>Maximising Net Socio-Economic Impact from Renewable Energy Developments</u></p> <p>Gary Templeton outlined the background to the Maximising Net Socio-Economic Impact from Renewable Energy Developments paper and updated members on current work to develop a policy and delivery model to maximise impact from renewable energy developments and associated grid infrastructure.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council, working with partners, intends to develop a Socio-Economic Plan for Moray to set out key future strategic priorities and inform discussions with developers.</p>
8	<p>Verbal discussion on private/public sector opportunities/challenges</p> <p>A general update and discussion took place on current opportunities and challenges.</p>
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>
10	<p>Close</p> <p>Sarah Medcraf thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>

Summary of actions	
Sarah Medcraf to prepare a summary of all sub-group reports to share with CPP.	MCC