

**Moray Economic Strategy
Inward Investment and Business Growth Group Meeting
Friday 8th of November 2013
Small Meeting Room, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Moray, Forres**

Meeting note

Attendees	David Oxley (DO), Steven Hutcheon (SH) and Nicole Green (NG) – HIE; Cllr Douglas Ross (DR) – Moray Council
Apologies	None

The meeting began with an overview of the group's meeting structure going forward. DO, SH and DR to meet every three months and Business Advocates to attend every six months. Involvement of Elgin BID and Moray Chamber of Commerce to be discussed with Gill Neill and Margery McLennan.

1) Review of previous meeting note.

Accepted as written.

2) Feedback on actions from previous meeting.

Discuss prioritisation and business cases with Gordon Sutherland (GS) – DO.

This has been completed and GS is happy with how these have been done.

Circulate information regarding Bridge to Employment – GN.

This has been completed. NG to recirculate.

3) Update on projects.

Elgin Business Park (Barmuckity)

Project approved by HIE Board.

Legals currently in discussion.

This is a project where reference to the Moray Economic Strategy could really be emphasised. DR to discuss with John Cowe.

Enterprise Park Forres (EPF)

Approval has been received for EFC Group to let Unit 7, who hope to be on site December/January. This could potentially attract more oil and gas related companies to the area. This will be publicised in the Press and Journal Energy Supplement. HIE will be looking to revise their oil and gas proposition for the area along with associated reporting materials.

The only unit on the park with no prospective tenant, currently, is Unit 10.

There are potential tenancies, currently in discussion for Units 7 and 8. Recently, there has been more interest than seen before and discussions are progressing further.

Action taken by SH to write a report on the EPF to update the MEP Board.

SH also to share masterplan for the EPF with DR.

This masterplan identifies required facilities which could be installed in the park eg crèche, café. It also looks at zoning and if there is an appropriate mix of buildings.

There is a need for discussions between HIE and Moray Council with regards to the planning process and how far it is safe to go in this process when letting from plans.

Buckie Quayside Provision

The final report from the consultants should be received on Monday (11th of November). Talks with regards to the Shipyard are moving forward.

Action taken by SH to write a report on this project for an update to MEP Board.

Faster Broadband

The contract with BT has been signed and the first communities to benefit announced. As EFC Group will be fitting fibreoptic broadband into Unit 11 and ATOS have in their building, there may be a need to fit this as standard to all future units.

The map for the Highlands and Islands rollout is located here:

<http://www.digitalscotland.org/media/16420/HIE-NGA-Deployment-2013-10-25.pdf>

The map for the rollout in the rest of Scotland is located here:

http://www.digitalscotland.org/media/16354/ros_171013.pdf

Exploit Assistive Technologies

HIE have recently appointed James Cameron as the Head of Life Sciences and are very active in pursuing life sciences.

The Alexander Graham Bell Centre is now open with the handover to Moray College happening in the near future.

Identification of Expansion Land

HIE have fed back to the Moray Council regarding the local plan. There is a need for the land to spread all across Moray.

Engineering Collaborative

This event was held in Horizon Scotland in April with an ongoing relationship being built up. HIE attended the Energy North launch in Aberdeen.

Assistance to Access, Grants, Loans, Financial Support

Project needs defined.

Tendering, PQQ Training

Moray Council hosted an event for this earlier this year.

Elgin West Research and Innovation Park

This project is not viable for HIE to take forward. Moray Council are currently looking again at this project.

East Moray Science and Business Campus

This is now covered in wider Buckie project.

Promote Opportunities – Central Office Provision

HIE have visited the Edinburgh BioQuarter and the North East Business and Innovation Centre in Sunderland. There is a potential opportunity in the area for business process outsourcing, but this opportunity is yet to be defined. Work with the core Inward Investment team within HIE will be undertaken regarding this.

4) Inward investment.

Mickledore Consulting have been reengaged to revise the proposition for Moray and this should be completed in the next few weeks. Enquiry handling is also being discussed and case studies of successful locations being produced. The main areas that HIE will be focusing on for the area are oil and gas, engineering, life sciences and business process outsourcing.

5) Property and planning.

Moray Council have recently finalised a policy which formalises the 'can-do' approach currently being taken with regards to property and planning. A team approach is being taken with issues being identified at early stages.

6) Unauthorised encampments.

Unauthorised encampments are a particular problem at the Enterprise Park Forres with a considerable amount of time being taken to tackle this issue. General consensus that taking legal action as soon as possible is the best approach.

7) AOB.

This group may be selected for presentation at one of the next MEP Board meetings.

8) Date of next meeting.

TBC – March 2014.

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Actions from meeting

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Apologies	None

Agenda item	Decision	Action by
	Talk to Gill Neill (Elgin BID) and Margery McLennan (Moray Chamber of Commerce) regarding involvement in group.	SH; NG
2	Recirculate Bridge to Employment information.	NG
3	Discuss with John Cowe – Moray Economic Strategy publicity regarding Elgin Business Park (Barmuckity).	DR
3	Write report on EPF to update MEP Board.	SH
3	Share masterplan document for the EPF with DR.	SH
3	Write report on Buckie Quayside Provision project to update MEP Board.	SH