

**Moray Economic Strategy  
Inward Investment and Business Growth Group meeting  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015, 10.00am  
Board Room, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Moray, Forres**

**Meeting note**

<b>Attendees</b>	Andrew Anderson (AA), Steven Hutcheon (SH) and Nicole Green (NG) – HIE; Gordon Sutherland (GS) and Jim Grant (JG) – Moray Council; Mike Ramsay (MR) – Scotland Electronics International Limited
<b>Apologies</b>	David Oxley (DO) – HIE; Douglas Ross (DR) – Moray Council; Giles Hamilton (GH) – Accunostics

1) Update on Spaceport Proposition

Again, there have been no further communications from the Civil Aviation Authority from date of last meeting. Despite the timetable for the bidding process to be confirmed, the group agreed that it would be advantageous to begin pushing Kinloss now and preparing as much as possible. The down selection is expected to be announced in May with a short timescale for bidding (approximately six weeks). The target operation date of 2018 has not changed.

There has been no formal position given from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to date.

HIE's Strategy & Research team are leading on an Economic Impact Assessment on all sites in the HIE area. This will be useful for use within the local proposition.

JG's team consider that unless Scottish Ministers were minded to call in any planning application, the Council is empowered to determine any planning application for related development.

Land owners have not been investigated and would require to be searched with the Register of Sasines.

It has been confirmed that the length of runway required is now 5 km, which will allow an easier extension at Kinloss. There is also a possibility of converting the taxiway into a second runway which would be another advantage to the site. All advantages and solutions must be stressed throughout the proposition document. MR to send a copy of the area map to AA. If a partnership with the MoD could be established it may be possible to investigate training their officers for Moray Inshore rescue service. Due to other commitments to other military bodies, they are obliged to keep the hangars empty. If they were to be leased it would be short term, for approximately 6 months maximum.

*PR & Communications*

Cavendish Government Relations & Communications are developing a two page briefing note for Kinloss.

AA has worked with Leigh Shanks (LS), HIE, to draft a presentation which is being reviewed by DO.

Kinloss Community Council has expressed their support and feels presentation at a meeting to be unnecessary. The importance of keeping the community informed as the process develops was stressed. Suggestion made to send the final presentation to them and keep offer of meeting open. A briefing has been scheduled with Forres Community Council on 19<sup>th</sup> of February, DO and GS to attend.

## *Photos and Videos*

There is a lot of existing raw video footage of the area which could be professionally edited into a clip to accompany the proposition document. Discussion around potential content eg footage of gliders, examples of noise levels etc and how to approach businesses to take on the project. It was decided that the best approach would be to task potential consultants with creating a proposal and storyboard, from the briefing note, allowing their own ideas and interpretation to come through. This also allows for choice rather than a pre-determined outcome. SH to discuss this with LS and feedback to the group.

Pop Up Banners – in progress.

Trade shows – important to attend these and gain visibility.

LS and SH to work with Platform PR to develop a brochure.

MR to circulate his previously used presentation.

A professional image will be vital and logo, name and description should be decided. A schedule of PR and Marketing activities should be developed. SH to lead on this using HIE proposition templates as a basis. Prestwick have developed the “Prestwick Space Company”, is this a route Moray should go down with Kinloss?

MR meeting with a potential private funder.

## *HIE Position*

No change to date.

## *Shaping the Future of the UK Space Economy (Inside Government Conference) 29.01.15*

AA, JG and GS gave feedback from the above conference which they attended in London. The event was seen to be very beneficial with connections made and actions to follow up. There will be an International Space Conference in July in Liverpool. Alex Paterson, Chief Executive, HIE will be speaking at the Westminster Business Forum in March.

The need for a firm skills base was stressed throughout the event.

Anu Ojha, Director of National Space Academy, delivered a keynote speech on Space Economy Skills and Workforce Development. He is keen to see space concepts embedded into the curriculum in the UK. The Space Internship Network will be providing placements within businesses. Currently, there is a big gap in these skills at the moment with an approximate ten year lag.

Importance of Government collaboration with universities was emphasised along with the ‘triple helix’ of local authority, skills and business.

A strategy for development of the sector is required and continuing funded research.

Discussion around Moray College UHI’s role in this, could they incorporate into local curriculum? GS to engage with UHI, this will be another positive for bid proposition.

David Livingston, Napier Meridian, is organising a trip to Harwell which is fast becoming an industry hub. He is also looking into potential commercial operators. Harwell are in an association with Oxford University and have around three or four research facilities and laboratories on site. Access

to these facilities has been key in attracting businesses. They are already having success in commercialisation of data from their satellites.

HIE will be engaging with Kinetic which will provide some useful information with regards to set up and running of the spaceport.

JG / GS to circulate presentations from conference.

2) AOB

N/A

3) Date of Next Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 10.00 AM, Board Room, HIE Moray

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**Actions from meeting**

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<b>Action number</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1	1	Send a copy of the area map to AA	MR
2	1	Discuss approach to video clip for proposition with LS and feedback to the group	SH
3	1	Engage with UHI	GS
4	1	Work with Platform PR to develop a brochure	LS & SH
5	1	Circulate previously used presentation	MR
6	1	Lead on PR and Marketing schedule, using basis of HIE proposition templates	SH