

**Moray Economic Strategy
Inward Investment and Business Growth Group Meeting
Thursday 28th March 2013, HIE Moray (Forres)**

MEETING NOTE

Attendees	Cllr Douglas Ross (DR) – Moray Council; Peter Nowell (PN) – AccuNostics; Steven Hutcheon (SH) & Nicole Green (NG) – Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
Apologies	Mike Ramsay (MR) – Scotland Electronics International Limited; Giles Hamilton (GH) – AccuNostics; David Oxley (DO) – Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

1) Introduction of Business Advocates.

- PN gave an overview of the work of AccuNostics, who are a research and development company working with developers in the life science sector, specialising in improving accuracy within blood glucose monitoring devices.
- This led to a discussion on the practicalities of the individuals within a company moving to the area which can be difficult with regards to finding accommodation etc.

2) Review of previous meeting note.

- Accepted as written.

3) Feedback on actions from previous meeting.

- Actions completed to date.
- **Make contact with Business Advocates and look over prioritisations with them – SH**

GH and MR have both been briefed with the work of the MES to date. MR's raised the point that there is great potential for branding of Moray and many benefits to come from this but was unsure of the methodology behind this. Scotland the Brand was mentioned as an example. PN made the point that you need to ask who it is going to affect, ie visitors to the area. This is a project that all groups will need to work on together.

- **Invite Gordon Sutherland to next Programme Managers meeting – NG**

The Programme Managers meeting went ahead on the 28th of February. These meetings are an opportunity for all Programme Managers to update each other on the work of each individual group. It also gives the opportunity to raise issues which may affect multiple groups and should help the coordination of the groups in relation to each other. As a result of this meeting SH is working on writing business cases for each project within the IIBG group. He also met with Jim Grant of the Development Group. They identified the need for a lead group on projects which may change as time goes on and the project develops.

- **Meet with Gordon Sutherland re communications and meetings of different levels – DO**

Work is ongoing with regards to the communications position for the Strategy.

4) Update on projects.

- SH gave an update on the main projects at the moment, all of which are moving on positively.
- Southside Road should be complete mid-May. As a result of this project, SH is working with the Moray Council on a seminar on planning applications and economic development. This will enable the numerous public bodies to understand the processes each other has to go through in relation to this and give some mutual understanding.
- The Broadband deal with BT was signed on Tuesday (26th), this will mean that around 84% of Highlands and Islands will have access to fibre-optic broadband by the end of the project.
- Buckie Harbour – consultants are currently investigating what existing opportunities are available for the area and potential for new opportunities.
- Units 10 & 11 at the Forres Enterprise Park are also progressing quickly.
- Industrial Estate remodel – the Property Demand Study has been issued.

5) AOB.

- No other business to discuss.

6) Date of next meeting.

- TBC – End of May/beginning of June, Thursday.

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ACTIONS FROM MEETING

Who	Action
PN	Look into examples of branding methodology and circulate.