

**Moray Economic Strategy  
Programme Managers Meeting  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, 9.00 am  
Board Room, HIE Moray, Forres**

**MEETING NOTE**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Steven Hutcheon (SH), Andrew Anderson (AA) & Nicole Green (NG) – Highlands & Islands Enterprise; Jacqui Taylor (JT) – Moray College UHI; Gordon Sutherland (GS) – Moray Council; Dawn McNiven (DM) – dmdotpr/Strategic Communications.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Stephen Cooper (SC) – Moray Council.
<b>CHAIR</b>	Jim Grant (JG) – Moray Council.

1) Review of Previous Meeting Note – 20.08.14

Accepted as written.

2) Feedback on Actions from Previous Meeting

All actions completed to date.

3) Communications/Engagement (DM)

*Activities & events supported since last meeting include –*

Moray Business Week.

Craigellachie Bridge 200 Year Anniversary Celebrations.

Wildbird Street Scene project.

Beechtree Restaurant Business Status article – Northern Scot this week.

*Future opportunities –*

‘The Buke of the Howlat’ republication by the Scottish Text Society.

World Host Customer Service training.

Macbeth 2015 movie release.

‘Moray Christmas’ campaign, including advent calendar.

Spaceport proposition.

This month’s Northern Scot column will feature the World Host Customer Service training. Next month’s column will feature Skills Development Scotland.

4) Update from Programme Groups

*JG – Development Group*

A Public Charette for the Masterplan and Development of Lossie Green will be held in March 2015. Two workshops will be held earlier in the year on Cooper Park and the vision for a cultural arts facility.

Work is being undertaken to develop a protocol around town centre regeneration and building standards etc to encourage future development.

Due to the recent rejection of the Western Link Road planning application, alternative options will now be reviewed by the Economic Development & Infrastructure committee.

The Local Development Plan has been accepted and is expected to be adopted in June.

Elgin Business Park – Moray Council are now undertaking a desktop exercise looking for serviced industrial land.

#### *SH – Inward Investment & Business Growth Group*

The final report of the Buckie Harbour Masterplan is expected to be completed in mid to late December 2014. From this a Benefits Realisation Strategy will be developed. A learning journey to Lowestoft was completed on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November and the Masterplanning workshop was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

There continues to be a high level of interest in the Enterprise Park Forres with interest in all vacant units. Horizon Scotland is currently at 94% occupancy.

Work with Energy North is underway to develop an oil and gas proposition for Keith and Forres.

#### *JT – Skills & Training Group*

The group met with HIE to update their action plan based on the Wood Commission report, Skills Investment Plan and the 10 Year Plan. The revised action plan has now been agreed with some new actions added.

David Reid, Head of Business Growth (Moray), Highlands & Islands Enterprise has joined the group.

Business Representatives will be invited onto the group as and when required, due to the wide remit of the group.

The group will be presenting at a future lunch and learn event.

Support was provided to Moray Business Week with a focus on Modern Apprenticeships at the Human Resource for Business event.

Learning Through Work Week (3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of November) also provided a focus on Modern Apprenticeships with schools across Moray holding events promoting the value of learning in employment.

Jobsfayre 2015 has been scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2015 and will be held in the Alexander Graham Bell Centre.

A food and drink manufacturing event is planned for March 2015.

The first shared apprenticeship will be between Bijou and Johnstons of Elgin, working towards SVQ Level 2 Food & Drink.

Bids are being prepared for the Modern Apprenticeship and Employability funds.

Moray Skills Pipeline – European funding – has been awarded to the Community Planning Partnership.

Discussion around need for engineering expansion within Moray College UHI.

#### *AA – Tourism & Culture Group*

Approval for the final draft of the Culture Strategy will be sought at the next meeting of the Moray Economic Partnership in December. A launch event for the Strategy is planned for early next year.

World Host – MoraySpeyside is now one of eleven regions in Scotland in the Destination project and a schedule of training dates has been approved. A Facebook page has been set up for MoraySpeyside (<https://www.facebook.com/MoraySpeysideWorldHost>). A Destination website for all regions in the project is currently being constructed, which will feature a MoraySpeyside page. People1st have now appointed a Project Coordinator and an Administration Assistant to support delivery of the project in Scotland.

The Tracks 2015 group has been formed by Forres and Dufftown communities in partnership with the Great Canadian Travel Company to celebrate the achievements of Lord Strathcona and Lord Mountsteven in Canada. A Tourism development company has been set up as a trading subsidiary of Moray Chamber of Commerce.

Findhorn Bay Arts Festival attracted over 7,000 visitors over the five days. The next will take place in two years' time.

Piping Hot Forres was an even greater success than previously and generated an economic impact of around £1.5 million.

Moray Chamber of Commerce Tourism Operations Manager, Cameron Taylor, has been providing advice and guidance to local tourism groups and business start-ups across the area.

Highlands & Islands Enterprise have contracted Global Tourism Solutions to provide the annual STEAM reports.

5) Spaceport Proposition Update – Gordon Sutherland (GS)

AA advised the group that now work is being undertaken to develop an engagement strategy for the proposition.

6) Discussion with Delegation from Argyll & Bute Council (10.00 am – 10.30 am)

7) AOB

8) Date and Chair of Next Meeting

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Chair</b>
19.02.15	9.00 am	Board Room, HIE Moray, Forres	TBC
21.05.15	9.00 am	Board Room, HIE Moray, Forres	TBC
20.08.15	9.00 am	Board Room, HIE Moray, Forres	TBC