

**Moray Economic Strategy  
 Programme Managers Meeting  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015, 9am  
 Board Room  
 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Moray Area Office, Forres**

**Meeting note**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Attendees</b> | Andrew Anderson (AA) and Nicole Green (NG) – HIE; Jim Grant (JG) and Gordon Sutherland (GS) – Moray Council; Dawn McNiven (DM) - dmdotpr |
| <b>Apologies</b> | Jacqui Taylor (JT) – Moray College UHI; Steven Hutcheon (SH) - HIE   |
| <b>Chair</b>     | Stephen Cooper (SC) – Moray Council  |

1) Review of previous meeting note – 21.05.15

Accepted as written.

JG to speak to SH regarding merging of Inward Investment and Business Growth Group / Development Group.

2) Feedback on actions from previous meeting

| Action number | Agenda item | Decision  | Action by |
|---------------|-------------|---|-----------|
| 1             | 1           | Discuss incorporating a poll/survey re the A95 project on the Moray Speyside Tourism website with CT. | AA        |

Action no longer required at present. SC and Lorna Davidson to arrange a meeting with DM and consultant to produce a publicity campaign/lobbying strategy. AA to liaise with DM regarding suggested representation from Moray Chamber of Commerce and other groups. Other organisations to approach for support may be Federation of Small Businesses, Moray Strategic Business Forum, Cairngorm National Park Authority and the Scottish Whisky Association among others. DM to attend meeting with draft strategy. The aim would be to have a strategy ready to present to the Moray Economic Partnership meeting in September.

|   |   |   |        |
|---|---|---|--------|
| 2 | 3 | Meet with Skills and Training Group to identify gaps and discuss resource requirements. | RG, JG |
|---|---|---|--------|

Future European funding opportunities will go through Moray Council's Corporate Management team who will decide the lead and how the projects should be resourced.

|   |   |   |          |
|---|---|---|----------|
| 3 | 4 | Update on MEP progress report to be completed and sent to GS by the 19 <sup>th</sup> of June. GS to recirculate document. | All / GS |
|---|---|---|----------|

The August report to Moray Economic Partnership (MEP) board was well received. GS to form a statistics sub group who will see if current statistics and measures are fit for purpose and if there are better statistics to follow. The group will include representation from Moray Council, HIE, UHI and SDS. Discussion around using a sectoral focus.

|   |   |  |          |
|---|---|--|----------|
| 4 | 6 | JG to circulate format for update. All groups to provide an update in this format by the 19 <sup>th</sup> of June to JG. | JG / All |
| 5 | 6 | Circulate list of projects currently within strategy.  | GS       |

GS to recirculate template and prioritised programme list. All to refresh their project lists removing obsolete projects and adding new for basis of refreshed Moray Economic Strategy. Timelines may need to be added at a later date.

3) Moray Economic Strategy refresh – GS

Discussed under item 2.

4) Annual report to CPB (13.08.15) of performance against targets – ([see link for reference](#)) – GS

Discussed under item 2.

5) Communications/engagement – DM

*Working on*

Moray Business Week 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6th November 2015

Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere project

Continue to support WorldHost training.

*Other projects*

Macbeth – movie being premiered in Edinburgh on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. VisitScotland will announce their partnership with Studio Canal this week and a quote has been supplied from Cllr John Cowe welcoming the partnership and the opportunity to promote the real Macbeth. A sub-committee is being convened to take forward opportunities such as an exhibition of movie costumes, a possible event at Eden Court, a possible opportunity to provide the food and drink at the premiere and to make the most of opportunities from visiting reporters.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September DM will be briefing Moray schools to enlist their 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year pupils to support a video project to promote Moray. This will involve a series of video snippets for a one off Youtube clip or for a longer film edited by a professional on the themes of 'This is Moray'; 'It's Moray!' and 'Have a Moray Christmas'. It is intended to work with a professional video company in Moray to support the pupils.

DM is also looking for ideas to take to EventScotland ahead of next year's theme – Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design. DM to discuss with Joe Lockwood, Glasgow School of Art.

*Other press releases*

Articles featured in the Scotsman and Northern Scot on the food and drink sector, DM noted a lack of local statistics.

October will see a feature on the flood alleviation works which should coincide with the opening in Elgin by John Swinney, Deputy First Minister.

6) Update from Programme Groups

*Development Group – JG*

Central Elgin Regeneration Public Design Charrette – A report on the Charrette will be going to committee next week. This will include an action plan for the next 12 months.

*Tourism and Culture Group – AA*

The Group will be reporting on progress to the MEP Board in September.

### Transportation Group – SC

The Council submitted a request for proposal to MORL and subsequent discussions have resulted in alternative options being developed. It is anticipated that there will be announcement on the preferred port by the end of 2015.

The government have delayed the announcement of the next round of CfD, but EDPR are still hopeful that an award on CfD can be issued by quarter 2016.

It has been proposed to extend the Tomintoul to Grantown public transport service throughout the winter months.

With regards to the dualling of the A96, there will be no decision on route within Moray for at least 18 months.

Scotrail have indicated consideration of upgrades to the Aberdeen to Inverness route including a new station at Forres and potentially a new platform and disabled access at Elgin.

#### 7) AOB

GS informed those present that the Skills and Training Group will require a new MEP Link as Frances Webster, SDS, steps down. The Community Champions will be reviewed after the next bi-election.

#### 8) Date and chair of next meeting

| Date     | Time | Venue                                      | Chair |
|----------|------|--|-------|
| 19.11.15 | 9am  | Board Room, HIE, Moray Area Office, Forres | JT    |
| 18.02.16 | 9am  | Board Room, HIE, Moray Area Office, Forres | TBC   |
| 19.05.16 | 9am  | Board Room, HIE, Moray Area Office, Forres | TBC   |

### **Summary of actions from meeting**

| Action number | Agenda item | Decision  | Action by                  |
|---------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1             | 1           | JG to speak to SH regarding merging of Inward Investment and Business Growth Group / Development Group.   | JG                         |
| 2             | 2           | SC and Lorna Davidson to arrange a meeting with DM and consultant to produce a publicity campaign/lobbying strategy. AA to liaise with DM regarding suggested representation from Moray Chamber of Commerce and other groups. DM to attend meeting with draft strategy. | SC, Lorna Davidson, AA, DM |
| 3             | 2           | GS to form statistics sub group.  | GS                         |
| 4             | 2           | GS to recirculate template and prioritised programme list.  | GS                         |
| 5             | 2           | All to refresh their project lists removing obsolete projects and adding new for basis of refreshed Moray Economic Strategy.  | All                        |
| 6             | 5           | DM to discuss with Joe Lockwood, Glasgow School of Art, ideas for Event Scotland's Year of Innovation Architecture and Design.  | DM                         |