

Moray Economic Partnership (MEP)

Thursday 8th December 2016, 10am

The Institute of Design Innovation, The Glasgow School of Art, Altyre Estate, Forres, IV36 2SH

Attendance

John Cowe (JC) (Chair)	The Moray Council
Jim Grant (JG)	The Moray Council
Rhona Gunn (RG)	The Moray Council
Andrew Anderson (AA)	HIE
Jane Cumming (JACU)	Platform PR
Gordon Sutherland (GS)	The Moray Council
Margery McLennan (MM)	Chamber of Commerce
Dawn McNiven (DM)	Platform PR
Ranald Robertson (RR)	Hitrans
Fabio Villani (FV)	tsiMoray
Dave McCallum (DM)	Skills Development Scotland
Joanne Chisholm (mins)	The Moray Council

Apologies

James Johnston	The Moray Strategic Business Forum
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Fraser Grieve	SCDI

Item	Action
<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>JC welcomed Moray Economic Partnership and thanked everyone for attending the meeting at The Glasgow School of Art, Altyre Estate.</p> <p>Marianne welcomed the MEP to the new campus for The Glasgow School of Art (GSA). GSA has been in Forres for around 6 years and has been located at Horizon Scotland until now. With funding from Historic Scotland and HIE the estate have renovated semi derelict listed buildings to create this campus at Altyre Estate.</p> <p>They currently have 4 students and others out on project work. GSA are due to accommodate around 100+ students in January 2017 who will also be staying within the region. They offer Master's programmes in design innovation such as transportation design, collaborative creativity and interaction design. GSA & HIE are working in partnership and over the next few years will be looking to develop the economic potential from GSA being located here. Laurie at Moray Speyside Tourism has been very helpful in working with local holiday accommodation providers to accommodate the influx of students.</p>	

	<p>Fabio advised that last year winter school was focused on communities in the Western Isles. Students were asked what projects they could be involved in as there is nothing for youths to do. HIE are also working with the Western Isles.</p> <p>Andrew Anderson added in one year the focus from Creative Futures Partnership (CFP) will be more on Moray and is a fantastic opportunity. GSA (Altyre) is an internationally recognised centre and have already engaged through winter school with universities in Japan and New York.</p> <p>Ranald commented that it is good for the Western Isles and helping children have the understanding and help with distance learning and education.</p>	
1.	<p>Meeting Note and Actions from September 2016</p> <p>Item 2 – “Group” Captain Godfrey to be added.</p> <p>Item 4 - Dave to be changed to David Mundell, add “Secretary of “ before “State” , amend penultimate sentence delete final 4 words and replace with “influence the end use”.</p> <p>Item 5 - remove the wording – “the pound is too strong” – replace with “a weaker pound would help exports”. Delete following sentence “Whisky....benefit.”</p> <p>Item 10 – Replace 3rd para with “ Apprentice Levy – from April 2017 all employers with a wage bill over £3million will be subject to a new levy collected by HMRC the equivalent to 0.5% of wage bill.</p> <p>Item 11 – second para – GS added there had been over 6,000 shares of the Buckie harbour promotional brochure of Facebook.</p> <p>Item 11 – replace “ landscaping” with “ the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape partnership”</p>	
2.	<p>Communications Report</p> <p>Campaigns and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinloss Barracks Group Support • Have a Moray Christmas advert • Castle2Cathedral2Cashmere news releases • WorldHost ongoing support • A95 Strategy • Support for Moray Business Week • Scottish Apprentice Week 2017 <p>Future Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sculpture unveiling • Family firms story for Scotsman and wider circulation • Friend of the Scotsman article on Lossiemouth and Kinloss investment • Executive Magazine – “ones to watch in Moray” featuring successful business start-ups – January • Moray history – Macbeth and Buke of the Howlat • Northern Scot Column <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec: Rail Improvements • Jan: Lossiemouth investment and Kinloss community event 	

	<p>12 Sept to 7 December 2016 Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Scot columns – • Sept: Labour Market Profile • Oct: Kinloss Barracks • Nov: Christmas • Kinloss Base Coverage: TB/Radio and Scottish print media • Moray Business week • Door Open Day • C2C2C stories • Time Travellers • Book Competition • Sculpture • Cashmere quiz • Game competition for Elgin <p>A communications report was circulated containing the above items along with media coverage report. JACU confirmed there is now a new way of evaluating media coverage and now contains a value and reach for each headline.</p> <p>All agreed they were happy with how this will now be recorded but if commas could be added to value to read more clearly.</p> <p>It was confirmed that MEP was not always be mentioned in coverage on the list of media coverage, for example the C2C2C project coverage promoted Elgin and Moray. It was advised the list of coverage includes duplicate stories printed in different regional versions of the publications.</p> <p>On 28 May for the Press and Journal the reach figures were calculated as the same for each version. JACU to check this.</p> <p>JACU added that headline on Kinloss Barracks has been added and Moray Christmas advert is now showing on television.</p> <p>DM mentioned that the christmas advert is also now on Facebook and extremely popular in Moray with people sharing with friends and family (Over 26,000 views). Last year’s advert was also uploaded to show the companies that were advertised last year compared to different companies this year. This year’s advert features Decora, The Station Hotel, Rothes, Gordon Castle and the Macallan.</p> <p>Gordon advised that the current media service contract ends in April and will going out to tender early 2017. The previous contributors were HIE and Moray College UHI. Partner contribution and budget approval from the Moray Council will be required to continue the service.</p>	<p>JACU</p> <p>JACU</p> <p>ALL</p>
3.	<p>Basing Review (Kinloss)</p> <p>JC advised that he received a letter from David Mundell. Kinloss has been saved</p>	

	<p>for now but still a question mark at what extent.</p> <p>Stuart Cree and RG participated in a meeting with Scottish Government. The feedback was that the decision to retain was down to the quality of information that was put forward by the community. We are not any closer to receiving long-term clarity on the future of Kinloss.</p> <p>The Highland Council will arrange a meeting with the DIO in the new year from which it should be able to share information with Moray Council.</p> <p>The Scottish Government advised another announcement is due. RG to speak to Scottish Government for further information but is confident the next announcement won't involve Kinloss. RG to get further clarity but announcement could be out before then.</p> <p>Update will be sent to MEP Kinloss Group. This group has stood down but is not abandoned.</p> <p>Andrew Anderson advised representatives of the 39 Regiment have expressed gratitude to the MEP for its work regarding the potential closure.</p>	
4.	<p>City Deal/Growth Bid</p> <p>JC advised report went to Full Council yesterday (link below)</p> <p>http://www.moray.gov.uk/minutes/data/MC20161207/Item%2011-Moray%20Growth%20Funding%20Proposal-R.pdf</p> <p>This report is to seek endorsement. There are 2 working groups and RG awaits a report from SFT from last workshop on what the intervention ideas would look like. JG and GS will set up working groups which are referred to in report but RG is open to suggestions on how to carry out further work. The initial contact has been made and will keep trying to get more information and the indications so far are positive.</p> <p>It could have a huge benefit to Moray and job creation and if we can get Cairngorm National Park involved that will be a plus. CNPA will be invited to next workshop.</p> <p>Alongside this is a review of the Economic Strategy. Currently the Economic Strategy is more complicated than it needs to be and can be simplified and updated. JG agreed that it revision needs to feed from the work from growth bid and requires to be simplified.</p> <p>Fabio will contribute to workshops from TSi Moray but will also give some thought and speak with Rhona direct.</p>	

5.	<p>Moray 2026 – Review targets/indicators (replace refine see note below)</p> <p>The Community Planning Partnership has delayed reviewing existing 2026 targets in light of the forthcoming work to develop a Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan(s).</p> <p>http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/PublicServiceReform/CP/HowCPWorks</p>	
6.	<p>Draft Employability Strategy</p> <p>Since being formed in April 2016, the Employability Partnership has met twice. During that time, the main focus has been on agreeing targets as there was some issues around 1) duplication 2) quality of data available and 3) percentages v actual figures. Final targets have now been agreed.</p> <p>Four groups feed into Employability Moray;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DYW Regional Group (funded by Scottish Government, chaired by private sector and aiming to increase education/industry partnership) 2. DYW Operations – focussing on the implementation of DYW within educational establishments in Moray 3. Lifelong Learning Forum – focussing on all aspects of adult and lifelong learning 4. Skills Investment Plan - a facilitating group where key statistical and anecdotal information is used to influence decision making with regards to skills <p>Each group provides an update to Employability Moray at each meeting.</p> <p>DM asked for all partners to look over the Draft Employability Strategy and provide feedback. RG urged MEP to provide feedback to Laurence as he is looking for wider comments.</p> <p>The skills group are still missing a link to Moray Economic Partnership. DM to speak with RG.</p> <p>DM reported seasonal work is slowing down at Baxters and Walkers and there have also been redundancies at Drummuir Castle. Phase 2 of support for workers made redundant from the Oil and Gas sector has finished and there are 40 places to support with the Transition Training Fund</p> <p>There is also help to get security certificates to work at the powerline at Blackhillock where there is continued work. DM confirmed that the Job Centre approached SDS for training in the last 6 months but there have only been small numbers funded by SIB.</p> <p>JG thought there should there be earlier engagement for training.</p> <p>DM advised the draft Moray action plan which is part of the Regional Skills Investment Plan is to benefit skills of young people in Moray and require a partnership approach for this. This has already been shared by the employability</p>	DM/RG

	<p>group and feedback to DM is appreciated.</p> <p>Seonag advised SDS had received funding to support Local Authorities develop the local skills action plan. The pot of money needs to be spent before the end of this financial year. Orkney have now finished and document will be circulated. There is only raw data for Moray and will commission as soon as possible before the financial year.</p>	
7.	<p>Prevention</p> <p>JG covered this item.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place if it should continue in the format it is in but prevention should be part of everyones strategy. JG presented the view that it is about economic growth is prevention and work will still requires to be done to find appropriate measures and targets.</p>	
8.	<p>Programme report and discussion Development and Inward investment Group</p> <p>The Development and Inward Investment Group met on 29 November 2016. JG provided an overview on each agenda items discussed.</p> <p>Oil and Gas</p> <p>Oil and gas companies are typically project driven and rely more on capital projects. In terms of Moray programmes for support working with businesses there are contracts with SDI, access global. Transition Training Fund for North of Scotland – to be circulated.</p> <p>Buckie Harbour maybe a potential location for enabling crew transfers to the Beatrice complex as well as supporting drilling operations.</p> <p>Barmuckity Business/Industrial Park</p> <p>HIE, TMC & landowner have readdressed the model that could allow this to progress.</p> <p>Capital Investment</p> <p>There are some significant work streams associated with Moray over the next 10 years that include RAF Lossiemouth, Offshore Renewables and A96. This presents opportunity but also challenge to meet the needs of the construction industry without damaging tourism for example through reduced accommodation availability.</p> <p>Growth bid</p> <p>This has already been covered at item 4.</p> <p>Forres Enterprise Park</p> <p>There are currently 11 buildings on the park, 8 of which are owned by HIE. The focus now is on letting the remaining units (7 & 9) which may be challenging as Unit 9 is a relatively large, specialised building. There is still 33 acres of the park to develop and some enquiries are being progressed.</p>	

	<p>The development of Barmuckity Business and Industrial Park is considered to be complementary to not competing with the continued development of the Forres Enterprise Park.</p> <p>March Road in Buckie land has been purchased for the development of Phase 1 on half the site with bespoke buildings for particular companies.</p>	
9.	<p>Partner updates</p> <p>Fabio – LEADER – TSI Moray has formally been appointed the accountable body and a team of 3 staff will be engaged. The closing date for job applications is 19 December and interviews should be held third week in January. The programme will start in March 2017 and progressing with bids in April.</p> <p>FLAG is now operational. The first meeting had happened at short notice.</p> <p>Andrew – HIE – Regarding the national review of enterprise and skills agencies there have been much concern of having one national board. HIE board members have met with Fergus Ewing and the message has gone across strongly but progression is going towards national board. HIE and SDS are on a national group which is the steering group closely involved in creation of the new board.</p> <p>Recruitment will start in January 2017 for permanent post of Chief Executive.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Scottish Apprenticeship Week March 6-10</p> <p>Trainee Careers Adviser post is now advertised on link below. Please circulate.</p> <p>https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/current-vacancies/</p> <p>MM – Tourism detail circulated by Andrew. Laurie has been working with Glasgow School of Art and with local companies for the winter festival.</p> <p>Laurie is working with Visit Scotland and had 12 visits round Moray last week. Delighted with more information than had before. Laurie also had arranged accommodation for 100 people in Moray over a weekend and done a fantastic job.</p> <p>There is a report on National 5 Tourism course and met with Visit Scotland and a teacher from Buckie. Laurence Findlay is involved and will start in Buckie. Training and case studies will take place over 2 days on Tourism with notes from Visit Scotland.</p> <p>A95 – Engagement held in October with stakeholders to form an industry lobby group, follow-up from participants which was very poor. Nicola Moss /Dave Prichard to call all stakeholders and find out how they would might become engaged and if there is commitment to taking a campaign forward.</p>	ALL

	Business Loan Scotland. The agreement with SG has now been signed off and other LA/staff are carrying on with actions to have the loan fund up and running Feb/March 2017. Business Gateway already has 3 companies lined up for loans.	
11.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 23 rd February 2017. Venue to be confirmed.	