

Moray Economic Partnership – Meeting Note

6th October 2011, Easter Elchies House, Macallan Distillery, Craigellachie

Attendees	Jim Royan (JR) – Chair; Shane Rankin (SR) – Scottish Government; Anthony Standing (AS) – Skills Development Scotland; Mike Devenney (MD)– Moray College; Carroll Buxton (CB) & Lesley Gallagher (LG) - Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Roddy Burns (RB), John Russell (JR) & Gordon Sutherland (GS) - Moray Council; George McNeil (GMcN) – Moray Chamber of Commerce;
Apologies	Audrey Sheal (AS) – Moray Chamber of Commerce; Danny Logue – Skills Development Scotland; George McIntyre (GMcI) Moray Council.

Graham McWilliam, General Manager, of the Edrington Group gave an overview of the Helius CoRDe bio energy project. This is a major partnership project involving six distilleries, developed to meet the growth needs of the local industry for the 21st century.

Graham presented the aims and objectives of creating the plant, the challenges the project has faced, and the plans for the future.

(i) Meeting Note 13th September 2011 – Approved

(ii) Chairman's update

JR had a meeting with SDI's Michael Koetsier. Jim offered on behalf of MEP to meet potential inward investors whenever appropriate.

JR had attended and commented that the KSP Job Fair was hugely successful. Good selection of employers attended - many energy related.

JR spoke at Moray Social Enterprise conference. Showcase of excellent Social Enterprise activities.

GMcI and JR met with Highland Council (HC) Convenor Sandy Park, to look into how best to collaborate with HC. Also met with Cairngorms National Park authority (CNPA). CNPA had expressed a desire to hear MEP feedback to their consultation on the Park plan.

JR informed the group about a development idea GS had suggested to CNPA's Sandra Middleton following the last meeting at Tomintoul.

GS will progress and feed back re this.

JR met with Jim Walker. Also met Victor West of Associated Seafoods. JR offered congratulations to Moray Chamber for their annual awards dinner.

JR to speak at Moray College's Graduation ceremonies on 7th October.

(iii) Community Confidence and Capacity Building (SDS)

AS reported on progress for the capacity building activity. There have been two meetings focused on what is the best action to take. They have identified that different communities have different needs. Proposed initiatives include support for grass roots of communities; build on experience of Social Enterprise; community taskforces; identifying community helpers. AS is drawing on experiences of a Canadian project, which instigated a rural helpers programme. **AS to report back on how to engage with them to develop a similar model here. Also to discuss with Lifescan their project which is being developed.**

(iv) The Moray offer

There was a discussion around encouraging the aspirations of young people in Moray. What action can be taken? How can the MEP link into work already being carried out – should there be a wider plan for all bodies involved? There is a desire to make better connections, with business, schools etc. There is a need to be creative about helping all ages.

Identify one person from MC, Moray College and SDS to develop a strategy. Evidence that strategy is an enabler.

(v) Diversification and Inward Investment update

CB informed the MEP members that HIE's Calum MacPherson was going to a private sector business with national focus. JR thanked him for his work in developing the economic future of Moray – and particularly for his efforts with the Moray Task Force.

A draft plan on diversification has been circulated to MEP sub group. Comments sought.

CB also reported on activity around progressing enterprise zone and tif, and Moray's inward investment proposition.

(vi) Business engagement

JR presented the Business Engagement paper, the dates for the sectoral dinners have yet to be confirmed.

Steven Hutcheon to progress for HIE with GMcN and JR. A briefing paper on sectors to be prepared in advance of events.

(vii) MES Consultation

RB recognised the support of all partners. Community responses are to be collated and the partners are keen to explore how ongoing relationships are built to allow communities to prioritise their ideas.

Consultation open until the end of the month and all responses still welcome.

Moray Council has also offered to host a final event after the Business Engagement events to explore with all the businesses involved how ideas can be prioritised and delivered.

(viii) MoD feedback

JR and GMcI had meeting with Brigadier General George Lowder. This was a positive meeting outlining current thinking and plans.

- Identified Kinloss is a quality asset.
- Army coming to Kinloss between March 31st 2013 and end March 2014.
- Open line on to MoD on strategic matters. Identified a contact in Aberdeen who is an operational connection.
- Offered to keep community informed. Wanted to set up communication challenge.
- Community Covenant £30m for introducing the army in communities.. Three dates for bidding. Opportunity to sign up for covenant and then provide a project. GS to progress.

Group discussed how to set up contact with the DIO.

GS to look at how MEP relationship is to be created with DIO.

GS reported he had written to David Olney of DIO requesting need for a working relationship. An initial message has been received and a meeting is to be set up.

MoD engagement to be made standing item on agenda

(ix) Comms

LG reported that stories from this month's agenda would be around meeting with Gen Lowder. Also follow up on MES consultation. MEP website presence being pursued. Bulletin to be released on day following Board – new electronic style adopted.

(x) 12. AOCB

GS reported that a letter was sent from Convener to a Scottish Government official to engage on Infrastructure. Meeting date tbc

JR to attend next CPP meeting.

Richard Hartland to be invited to the next Board meeting.

(xi) Future meetings

Friday 4 November – 9:30 - 12.00 (Forsyth's Buckie)

No meeting in December

January meeting to be confirmed but is likely to be a longer, development session.

Action Points

- (i) GS to report back on development idea with CNPA.
- (ii) AS to report back on how to engage with Canadian project on Capacity Building and Community Engagement.
- (iii) AS to discuss with Lifescan their project which is being developed.
- (iv) Identify one person from MC, Moray College and SDS to develop a "Moray Offer" strategy.
- (v) Comments are sought on the diversification paper circulated by CB.
- (vi) Steven Hutcheon to progress Business Engagement dinners for HIE with GMcN and JR. A briefing paper on sectors to be prepared in advance of events.
- (vii) GS to progress opportunity to sign up for Community Covenant and develop project.
- (viii) GS to look at how MEP relationship is to be created with DIO.
- (ix) MoD engagement to be made standing item on agenda
- (x) JR to attend next CPP meeting.
- (xi) Richard Hartland to be invited to the next Board meeting.