

Moray Economic Partnership – Meeting Note

9th August 2012, Moray College, Elgin

Attendees	Jim Royan (JR) – Chair; Shane Rankin (SR) – Scottish Government; Mike Devenney (MD) – Moray College; David Oxley (DO) & Lesley Gallagher (LG) - Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Cllr Wright (AW); Cllr Murdoch (FM); Cllr Creswell (LC); Richard Hartland (RH); Gordon Sutherland (GS) & Shelley Flett (SF) - Moray Council; George McNeil (GM) – Moray Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Fowlie (AF) – NHS Grampian; Colin Grant (CG) – Moray Tourism Development
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1. **Apologies:** Anthony Standing (ASt) – Skills Development Scotland

2. **Welcome From Chair**

The Chair extended a welcome to Councillor Fiona Murdoch who is a new member of the Moray Economic Partnership Board. He also extended his appreciation to Councillor Allan Wright, Councillor Lorna Creswell and Colin Grant of Moray Tourism Development for attending the meeting.

3. **Introduction from Host**

Mike Devenney, Principal of Moray College spoke to the Group about the College and UHI Status, the points he covered are attached as appendix 1. Redevelopment of the main campus – this is the `big prize` for the partnership to work toward.

4. **Meeting Note June 15 approved**

5. **Chairman's Update**

Since the last meeting the Chair had the following updates:

- Meeting with Big Lottery, a useful exercise
- Business Forum and MEP meeting with Brendan Dick CEO BT Scotland , useful opportunity to have a frank discussion on broadband
- MES Implementation- Next Steps facilitated workshop with stakeholders
- 1.5days awarding the contract for project management of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere heritage trail. Awarded to LDN Architects
- Various conversations with partners & stakeholders
- Attended the Kinloss handover which was an emotional and impressive event. The Chair has written to both JJ Johnson of RAF Kinloss & Andrew Anderson HIE thanking them at completion of the drawdown process
- Speaker at a seminar hosted by Skills Development Scotland. Outlined how the partnership has worked in Moray

6. **Communications Update**

- We have over 200 recipients of our MEP bulletin – good way of reaching people with info direct. Our last edition came out after the Board meeting and included the announcement of £10m as part of an economic stimulus package from the SG for the Enterprise Park Forres. Also the broadband funding package for the Highlands and Islands wide roll out project.

- The news since the last Board meeting has been dominated by the handover ceremony at Kinloss Barracks – and already there have been many significant links made between the partners and our new residents.
- MEP members have also been approached around a subsequent story about use of assets by the P&J. There is no change to the communications line which is that the community is open to the possibilities of reuse of the base but are awaiting the results of the basing review and capacity studies to know if there are any possibilities.
- There was some coverage for Glenlivet and Tomintoul development trust which is recruiting a new development officer to support the regeneration plan being supported by HIE, MC, CNPA and the Crown Estate.
- Other partner news is that Alastair Keddie has now retired from Moray Council
- The Olympic flame in Tomintoul was a successful event and the response was remarkable.
- Moray Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for this year's business awards to be held September 7th. The categories are available on their website.

Lesley is open to suggestions on the next issue of the bulletin and will send the link to all new Elected Members.

ACTION partners advise LG of items for bulletin

7. MEP/MES Governance & Progress to Launch

Richard Hartland updated the Group, outlining the proposed governance structure for implementation of the strategy. The strategy documents give a long term vision but we need to bring the business community into the partnership as they will be the ones to deliver the outcomes. Richard further updated that the workshop held in June 29th was a useful review of where we are and a start to looking at governance arrangements.

It is proposed that the Economic Strategy is officially launched at the Highlands & Islands Convention on 29th October.

Going forward it is proposed that project plans will be required to help identify how the projects will be delivered from within the programmes. Projects will need to be resourced by revenue expenditure including staff time

It was agreed that the structure needs to facilitate participation by the third sector, small business and the military, that there was scope to do this in particular through the business and community forum

It was identified that meetings would need to take place with programme groups to talk over the governance arrangements, identify programme priorities, and importantly quick wins.

There is a requirement for a communications strategy to support implementation of the strategy, this should include a number of tools and may include a website.

There is also a requirement to develop performance indicators to clarify whether success has been achieved and if not, what is the contingency plan.

AW commented that the operation of the programme groups would need to safeguard against a silo approach by providing lateral connections, further that prioritisation needs to reflect the SOA.

AF asked how the partnership builds capacity to support implementation from organisations across Moray. It was considered that the implementation needs to be mainstream activity for all partners/organisations and they will have to allocate resources accordingly.

ACTION: Between Aug 28 and Sept 27 call together programme group leaders to discuss roles and responsibilities, expectations and help establish resource needs

8. Business Forum

George McNeil updated the Group that a working breakfast meeting will be held on Monday 13th August at Johnstons where key business representatives have been invited to discuss how to move forward. He reiterated that the momentum must be kept up following this meeting.

Jim Royan explained that the business engagement follow-up event on 3rd September will allow all points raised from the series of engagements to be reported back to those people who were involved and to outline how the partners plan to address them through the programme groups.

The partnership discussed whether the 5 programmes proposed were the best way of going forward, there was some uncertainty. Following discussion it was felt that by going to the business forum with the proposal at this stage means they still have the ability to influence the proposals rather than being given a 'fait accompli'. Richard Hartland further added that we need to generate confidence from the business in the local government.

The next steps were identified as follows:

- All Councillors will be briefed on the proposals for implementation. On Aug 28th the Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee will consider the next steps for implementation
- The strategy will be submitted to the CP Board September 27th, which is a key point as this will be the 'green light' if approved
- A formal launch at COHI October 29th

ACTION It was further agreed that an annual report should be prepared to evidence what has been achieved to date by the partnership which would strengthen the formal launch of the Economic Strategy. LG will coordinate input from the partners

9. Moray Tourism

Colin Grant (Chair of Moray Tourism Development) outlined MTD's role and activities. He explained that:

- Moray tourism has the resources and budget to deliver tourism to support the MEP.
- The database of tourism businesses has increased to 300 due to promotion work including a presence at the Scottish Open and the associated "little book of offers"

- A nature tourism project has just been kicked off and they are in the final stages of appointing their new CEO.
- Project focus is to support existing projects
- Ian Jamieson “Outfit Moray” has been approached as a possible supplier to accommodation providers with outdoor recreation activities & equipment
- Funding has been applied for including funds from the Visit Scotland Growth Fund and LEADER to develop the MTD web site. An approach has been made to Capita associated with delivering an event. MTD is aware of need to reduce dependency on HIE funding.
- MTD looking to help develop the Moray Way as a charitable walk destination
- New membership programme has been devised which aims to raise membership from 37 to 300 by providing a menu of support to business

ACTION JR requested that MEP receive a copy of the MTD business plan

10. Hot Topics

i. **Homecoming Scotland 2014 Funded Events**

A short life task and finish group of tourism stakeholders was assembled to coordinate applications to the fund, which is aimed at extending the season by supporting events held in the shoulder months. David Oxley explained that the group looked at what events are on throughout the year and there are 6 or 7 projects in September – November. A proposal was outlined to Event Scotland (ES) to cover a ‘festival of festivals’ but this was not supported. ES is looking to support single events. Jill McNicoll of MTD and Andrew of HIE are now looking into this and an application will be submitted by the end of September this year.

JR reiterated that it was of critical importance that Moray Tourism Development get involved in this.

ii. **Forres Enterprise Area Status Update**

David Oxley updated the Group that the £10 million allocated to HIE by the Scottish Government will be used for the following 3 developments

- Construction of bespoke build for unit 6 (underway)
- Roads infrastructure (south side road completion)
- 2 more buildings to include a “growing on” facility for the Horizon Centre

iii. **Business Engagement Completion Phase 1**

Attendees from the series of business engagements held this year have been invited to a follow-up meeting at Moray College September 3rd. All partners to attend and outline how the CPP propose to take forward implementation of the economic strategy, seek the business community views on the proposals and seek continued involvement of the business community.

ACTION: RH to lead.

iv. **Business Engagement Phase 2 Creative Industries**

Meeting scheduled for August 9th hosted by Roberstons

11. AOB

Moray Chamber annual dinner is on Friday 7th September

ACSEF Economic Summit is also to be held in Aberdeen at the AEC on 7th September. p.s JR, FM, RH & AS attending

12. Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting is to be Thursday 4th October at 9.30am in the rear of the Moray Council Chamber.

MORAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP – Thursday 9th August 2012**Update on Moray College UHI****College Context**

- Fundamental to understand our `hybrid` status, i.e. FE college and University partner to be able to know the sophistication (and attendant challenges) of operating on that basis
- `Putting Learners at the Centre` (Scottish Government September 2011) provides for the most radical changes to further education in Scotland since 1993
- Structural change now well underway
- Sector to be split into 14 regions
- Moray College will form part of the Highlands and Islands region with 8 other further education colleges – Regional Board will be set up soon
- No apparent pressure for mergers (unlike elsewhere in Scotland with the existing 41 colleges likely to be reduced to no more than 25 or so soon)

Funding Context

- Moray College in different place from many other colleges because of our University status
- Funding for further education in Scotland has been and will continue to be cut (down by 13.59% in the period 2012-15, following an 8% reduction last session)
- Funding for higher education in Scotland will grow over the same period by 14.63% but much higher than this for the University of the Highlands and Islands (but some of this is tied to growth in student activity)

Student Activity Levels

- 5,283 enrolments last session (full-time and part-time)
- 1,460 full-time students (862 further education and 598 higher education which is to be taken as Higher National Certificate and above) – down on recent years
- Significant increase in Adult Learning enrolments which is under pressure elsewhere in Scotland as it becomes less of a priority
- Challenges for us are to maintain further education levels (at best) but to grow higher education given additional 1,000 funded places awarded to UHI for session 2012 -13 (with more to follow)
- Achieving this will not be easy and will necessitate `buy in` from the Community Planning Partnership more generally, i.e. to create an attractive proposition for Elgin in particular as a place to study for 3-4 years.

Curriculum

- Remains very broad and `deep` (we offer courses at all level of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), i.e. Levels 1 to 12)
- Now offer 15 undergraduate degrees and 7 postgraduate
- Development of the higher education curriculum implies significant investment in educational technology given the dispersed nature of the student population
- New provision for 2012-13 includes:
 - BEng in Energy Engineering
 - BA (Hons) in Applied Music
 - BA (Hons) in Fine Art Textiles
 - Higher National Certificate in Applied Sciences
 - Higher National Certificate in Events
 - Higher National Certificate in Tourism
- Suite of “Steps to Work” courses – SCQF Level 4 (to provide more entry level provision)
- National Certificate in Events Co-ordination
- National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance
- National Certificate in Engineering Practice Modern Apprenticeship framework) – will require investment in facilities for fabrication and welding
- College Certificate – Amenity Horticulture – involvement with Altyre Estate

Moray Life Sciences Centre (Alexander Graham Bell Building)

- On target for completion in June 2013
- Local contractors now increasingly evident on site
- Parallel challenge is to ensure that the Centre is as fully occupied as we can make it on opening (taken to be August 2013)
- Other capital projects in prospect:
 - Renewables Training Facility - Buckie Harbour
 - Co-location with Library Service in Buckie, Forres and Fochabers
 - Significant `summer works` under way (capital spend for 2012-13 will be of the order of £500k and made possible in part by a release of £150k from our reserves)
 - Completion of the redevelopment of the main campus – this is the `big prize` ..

Partnership Working

- This very much defines what we do. Very well established Moray Lifelong Learning Forum and School-College Strategy Group.