

# Moray Economic Partnership – Meeting Note

## 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Johnstons, Elgin

Attendees	Jim Royan (JR) – Chair; Randal Robertson (RR) – Hitrans; Mike Devenney (MD) – Moray College; Lesley Gallagher (LG) - Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Cllr Murdoch (FM); Richard Hartland (RH); & Shelley Flett (SF) - Moray Council; George McNeil (GM), Margery McLennan (MM) and Laura Cruickshank (LC) – Moray Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Fowlie (AF) – NHS Grampian; Anthony Standing (AS) – Skills Development Scotland
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1. **Apologies:** Gordon Sutherland (GS) – Moray Council and David Oxley (DO) - HIE

2. **Introduction from Host**

George McNeil welcomed everyone into the Archive Room of Johnstons of Elgin, where he went on to explain about and showcase some of the books in the room which dated as far back as the beginning of the business.

3. **Meeting Note 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 approved**

4. **Chairman's Update**

Since the last meeting the Chair had the following updates:

- We are now out of the 'response plan' era and into the delivery of the Moray Economic Strategy (MES) era. The MES was formally launched at the Convention of the Highlands & Islands on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- JR contacted Nadine Brown about giving an update briefing to Michael Moore. Unfortunately no dates were available until well into 2013 so JR will write a letter on behalf of the MEP.
- The Strategic Business Forum (SBF) is making good progress with all invitees accepting the offer to be a part of the Group while also identifying deputies. LC will be servicing this group.  
**ACTION:** Johnstons to host a business breakfast on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 8am for the SBF to have a scoping meeting i.e look at what the priorities are etc. This will be at a high level and will get a sense of how people feel.
- A working dinner will be held in early February at the Knockomie Hotel in Forres where the SBF will meet with Senior Officials and Elected Members from the Moray Council. **PS this meeting will now be with representatives of the Community Planning Partners**
- Progress has been good with the cohort of working groups. A meeting was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Members who attended found it useful to be able to begin to establish cross linkages but they felt that this group would need to meet regularly to get the most benefit. In response to a question about reporting structures, JR explained that a meeting had been called to discuss this, but he anticipates that a report would go to every meeting of the CP Board.
- A discussion was held around methods for the Cohort Groups to communicate in a timely and appropriate fashion. A suggestion was made that "The Box" be used which is a sharepoint type system.  
**ACTION:** GS to speak to GMC regarding the box.

- The Chamber business summit is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the MEP have a slot at this event. The 5 identified Community Champions will be at the event to allow them to be seen and for the community to identify who they are.
- Historic Scotland is making a site visit to Elgin re funding application for an Elgin Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme which is likely to be decided by the end of December.
- There will be a stage 1 application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in March for the Castle – Cathedral – Cashmere project.
- JR spent 2 days at Caithness, with Dounreay only having an expected 10 year life span remaining, they are facing similar economic issues as Moray regarding the need for diversification and growth to replace dependency on the Armed Forces.
- JR and FM visited Northern Oils, they have big plans and know about the enabling mechanisms. It was a very refreshing attitude.

## 5. Communications Update

- Community Broadband Scotland has 6 pilot schemes and the Glenlivet / Tomintoul area will be part of the pilot.
- Everyone around the table agreed that there was a need for some sort of communications post, someone with enough knowledge to 'hit the ground running'. It was agreed that all members would take the suggestion back to their respective organisations and discuss any contribution that may be given. Any responses to go to LG while copying in GS and JR.
- A copy of the MEP Report card should be given to each delegate at the Chamber of Commerce event on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
**ACTION:** SF to have 70 copies of this printed and give to LC or MM

## 6. Review of Partnership Progress

- A discussion was held around how we get a message to Community Groups, it was decided to host an event for Community Councils, Area Forums etc in January / February time.
- Ideas on benchmarking coming from the Improvement Service but something needs to be done within the Council. This will be considered and figure headed by JR in the New Year.

## 7. Meeting Dates For 2013

- It was agreed that meetings should be held every 6-8 weeks. In order to decide these dates SF will send out a 'doodle' with potential dates and let everyone know once they are confirmed.

## 8. HOT Topics

- Health Care & Development - 50 families in Moray have been piloted on a new scheme for a big Channel 4 initiative. This is a prototype TV platform for early next year. This is a significant test bed around community care.
- Designing Healthy Communities – AF handed out some pictures on this topic – it was agreed this be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- A96 Dualing – SCDI are doing some survey work. RH and his head of service are to attend a seminar and hope to meet the Chair of SCDI next week. Looking to have a joint approach on the A96 digital health corridor – Inverness to Elgin.  
**ACTION:**

1. Designing Healthy Communities future agenda item topic 2013
2. RH will prepare a submission for the MEP Board in JR's Name as Chair, this will then be circulated to the Group who can add comments.

#### 9. AOCB

- RH was approached by the Highland Show to promote food & drink in Moray, Jim Grant is looking into this. Any information or publicity used could be re-used at the Golf open next year.  
**ACTION:** Once a proposition has been put together for this, can a copy be forwarded to MM.
- Inverness Architects Awards Scheme has been held every 2 years for last 6. It is a competition and has different categories. Moray entered for this first time recently. Look at building this into the Moray Economic Strategy.

#### 10. Future Meetings

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 9.30am Parkhouse Business Centre.
- Further dates will be sent when all members have responded to the doodle