

Moray Economic Partnership – Meeting Note

22nd February 2013, HIE Board room, Forres

Attendees	Jim Royan (JR) – Chair; Randal Robertson (RR) – Hitrans; Tom McGarry (TM) – Moray College; David Oxley (DO) – Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Cllr Murdoch (FM); Richard Hartland (RH); Gordon Sutherland (GS) & Shelley Flett (SF) – Moray Council; Margery McLennan (MM) – Moray Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Fowlie (AF) – NHS Grampian; Anthony Standing (AS) – Skills Development Scotland Lorna Creswell, Moray Council and Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface Moray also observed the meeting.
-----------	--

- 1. Apologies:** George McNeil, Chamber of Commerce; Mike Devenney, Moray College and Lesley Gallagher, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- 2. Welcome From Chair**

JR introduced and welcomed Lorna Creswell of Moray Council and Fabio Villani of the Third Sector Interface Moray to the meeting as observers.
- 3. Meeting Note 11th January 2013**

Subject to the name on page 1 being changed from Mike Ramsay to James Campbell, the meeting note of the 11th January 2013 was approved.
- 4. Chairman's Update**

Since the last meeting the Chair had the following updates:

 - JR met with Dale Winchester re the Coleburn project – prospectus has now been sent out to potential funders. They are actively canvassing prospective funders.
 - The Engagement Dinner held on Friday 8 February was an important building block. JR complimented Richard Hartland and Councillor Murdoch and advised the meeting that discussions are ongoing with Roddy Burns, Chief Executive of Moray Council.
 - Elaine Hay is doing a dissertation on the Moray Economic Partnership looking at what worked well and how things were done. This will be an interesting piece of work once finished.
 - 1 to 1 meetings between JR and members of the Board will begin week commencing 25th February.
 - JR intends to have conversations with Ian Gale and Andy Sturrock re????
 - There will be a business breakfast on Wednesday 6 March on Employability.
 - Gavin Thomson will meet with GS, FM and JR re the opening of their building during April. Morrisons got contract in June with 31 March as an end date. This was to be a bespoke building and Morrisons have been excellent and on target.
- 5. Communications Update**
 - In respect of Lesley Gallagher being absent from the meeting, the communications item was cancelled.

6. Strategy Performance Measures

GS, AS & DO got together to discuss. They took the objectives of the MES and data sources already available. The outcomes in the document are things they felt could be monitored. DO further advised that they haven't identified targets as yet and that they will need to look at all information properly before agreeing any targets. They are happy to take any feedback on the document.

AS advised that they are getting their heads around lifelong learning. Skills Development Scotland are looking at lots of things and will try to get this at a more local level. Employment rates can be looked at quite easily and will also look at positive destinations for school leavers. As additional information AS advised the meeting that for the last school year, 91.8% of Moray School Leavers went on to a positive destination broken down approximately as

- 27.3% went into employment
- 34% went into Higher Education
- 27% went into Further Education

Following further discussion it was agreed that there would be a press story around the information given by AS and able to do a bespoke MEP piece using a young person as proof of what can be achieved.

The group had a discussion around item 6 on the paper "Increased employment in SME's" and how this would be measurable. A discussion needs to be held around this and how it could work. FM commented that SME's get put together and that they need to be looked at in terms of the '1 man who wants to grow' – strip it back and look at slightly higher numbers.

JR queried in relation to item 3 "Diversified Economy through wider range of sectors" where the military are included and commented that we need to keep close to Lossiemouth and Kinloss and be mindful of this.

Overall it was agreed this was a work in progress and it would be used as a draft for the SOA outcome plan remembering that it will be used as a way of monitoring and should not be used for driving.

7. Programme Priorities

GS informed the Group that the meeting had been used as a deadline to get information in from the programme managers. Programme teams will need to be formed in order to start delivering projects. A meeting will be held week beginning 25 February with all the programme managers.

The Development Programme identified 3 headings and GS would like to use this as an approach with the other groups.

This document will be presented to the CP Board as a guide for how the MEP are going forward and Programme Managers will give updates which will also be presented to the CP Board periodically.

FM enquired as to whether finance for the programmes could also be captured.

MM felt that leisure facilities were missing from the programmes and that the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere project should be a specific item.

Highland Council runs a business fund for supporting businesses. Moray has the East loan fund but could look into having a similar model as Highland for Moray.

AF advised the group that there are lots of Kick Start funds which should be further investigated. A consortium group is required for a number of these and that is what the MEP is.

ACTION: GS to investigate how the loan fund would work and take back to a future meeting of the Group. A Proposal will then be taken to the ED&I committee of Moray Council in relation to this.

ACTION: SCDI got a copy of the Highland Recovery Plan, RH will share this with the group.

ACTION: GS, AF & DO to meet to discuss the consortium group and European funding along with Reni Milburn who is an expert on funding.

8. HOT Topics

a) Economic Outcomes Programmes – Awareness Raising for Councillors and Moray Council Managers

GS advised the group that the profile needs to be raised. Richard Sweetham from the Improvement Service is developing a programme for Economic Outcomes.

- 4 March will be a economic session with all managers and head teachers within Moray Council
- 5 March is a presentation to the ED&I committee regarding the Council's role in Economic Development.

This is a 2 year programme offered to all local authorities and at this stage is awareness raising within managers to think 'outside the box'

b) Business Breakfast – Employability Single Agency Feasibility Project

A business breakfast will be held on 6 March with Richard Scothorne investigating a single point of contact for unemployment. A conversation will be held with the business forum about their needs regarding employability. A further meeting will then take place with stakeholders. This is funded by the Scottish Government.

9. AOCB

- DO Advised the group that a lot has been happening in the Enterprise Park with £10m of funding going towards building. There will be link roads built. There are 500 jobs within the Enterprise Park and there have been 3 new businesses in the last year.
- DO Advised that in relation to Covesea Richard Lochhead announced funding for the lighthouse. There will be 95% funding to the community to buy the lighthouse.

- RH advised that he sat next to Keith Brown at the SCDI dinner and asked him whether he had money for the Buckie Harbour. RH has received a letter regarding this explaining that Fergus Ewing will be attending a meeting at the shipyard and there will be a ministerial visit in May.
- RR – Hitrans are looking to refresh the business case for the station at dalcross and more commuter links from Elgin – Inverness. The are also looking at investment for Keith Station and are working with the planning team. Conan Bridge Station has now opened and there is now double the amount of services between Glasgow and Oban.
- TM – The life science centre is on target for a handover on 29 June and the hospitality and tourism academy is being launched at the time of this meeting.
- DO – State Aids – boundary means we can do more in west than in east Moray. At this stage it looks like the boundary may move west but there is Scottish Government pressure to keep the boundary as far east as possible. The potential to help bigger companies is likely to be less.
- GS – The people first meeting with Moray College was very positive.
- AS – Update from the engagement dinner, an offer was made to hold training for all advisors in Moray from Wm Grant. Will widen this to include more organisations. A similar offer was made from Accunostics.

10. Future Meetings

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 17 th April 2013	9.30am	TBC
Tuesday 4 th June 2013	2.00pm	Moray Council Committee Room
Tuesday 6 th August 2013	9.30am	Moray College
Wednesday 9 th October 2013	9.30am	TBC
Tuesday 3 rd December 2013	2.00pm	TBC