

**Moray Economic Strategy  
Inward Investment and Business Growth Group meeting  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 10.30am  
Board Room, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Moray, Forres**

**Meeting note**

<b>Attendees</b>	David Oxley (DO), Steven Hutcheon (SH), Andrew Anderson (AA) and Nicole Green (NG) – HIE; Gordon Sutherland (GS) and Jim Grant (JG) – Moray Council; Mike Ramsay (MR) – Scotland Electronics International Limited
<b>Apologies</b>	Giles Hamilton (GH) – Accunostics; Douglas Ross (DR) – Moray Council

1) Overview of Projects

Buckie Harbour – Masterplan has been commissioned with an eight week study period, report expected mid to late October.

Enterprise Park Forres - Positioning paper on next phase of developments to be presented to the HIE Leadership team building on the masterplanning that has taken place.

Elgin Business Park – Legal discussions in progress.

2) Spaceport Opportunity

The Civil Aviation Authority were commissioned by the UK Government to assess potential sites academically and have produced a short list of eight. Six are in Scotland, four of which are in the HIE area and two of which within Moray.

Now a consultation of the essential criteria is underway, responses to which should be submitted by the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. It is expected that bids will be asked for in November, with final decision being made early next year. The MEP will be leading on the response on behalf of the Community Planning Board. The Inward Investment and Business Growth Group will consult the other groups within the Strategy and produce the response on behalf of the MEP. This will need to be approved by the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Suggestion made to develop a subgroup of business representatives, which could be introduced at a Business Breakfast event. Private sector involvement should be wider than Moray.

At a later date, an open forum for the community should be arranged to emphasise what the opportunities for the area are.

HIE are commissioning a SWOT analysis of all four sites in the HIE area to help response. Report from this expected to be available in three weeks' time.

On award, the UK Government will provide an anchor tenant.

Although related tourism is very important, there is also an opportunity to develop a new industry for the area.

A Communications Strategy should also be developed.

3) AOB.

None.

4) Date of next meeting.

Date TBC – mid-September. This meeting to include representation from the tourism, construction and skills sectors; Moray Chamber of Commerce; Inverness Chamber of Commerce; Aberdeen University; Robert Gordon University and UHI. *Action for DO to schedule and invite representation.*