

**Moray Economic Strategy
Inward Investment and Business Growth Group meeting
Wednesday 4th March 2015, 10.00am
Board Room, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Moray, Forres**

Meeting note

Attendees	David Oxley (DO), Steven Hutcheon (SH) and Nicole Green – HIE; Gordon Sutherland (GS) – Moray Council; James Johnston (JJ) – Moray Strategic Business Forum; Mike Ramsay (MR) – Scotland Electronics International Limited
Apologies	Andrew Anderson (AA) – HIE; Cllr Douglas Ross (DR) and Jim Grant (JG) – Moray Council

DO chaired meeting until 10.30 AM where JJ took over the position for remainder of meeting.

1) Update on Spaceport proposition

The down selection of potential sites for the spaceport was announced on the 3rd of March 2015, by the UK Government. Both Moray locations, Kinloss and Lossiemouth, were not included in this selection. In their response, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), stated that the bases were to be removed from the selection due to “overriding operational factors”.

It was agreed that a bid for the Spaceport should still be submitted by Moray. The MoD rationale needs to be understood further to do so and the opportunity for co-operation between the MoD and the Spaceport operation on site emphasised.

The submission from Foster & Partners analysed all potential sites. The only negative factor for Kinloss was the proximity to research facilities. It was agreed by the group that this was not a limiting factor due to potential partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). This submission has been shared with Angus Robertson MP (AR). AR supportive of the group's stance. A meeting with him should be scheduled quickly, DO to take this forward. After this AR to meet with MoD. It would also be useful to arrange a visit to Westminster to discuss with ministers and senior officials. JJ to investigate the funder of Foster & Partners submission.

All responses can be found online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/spaceport-locations-and-criteria>

Actions moving forward

Consultation responses to be reviewed and a list of contacts to be devised from this. Any response which is not from a potential site should be written to and informed that Moray is planning on submitting a bid. DO and JJ to draft a letter for this purpose. The letter will be sent from Cllr John Cowe (JC), Chair of the Moray Economic Partnership (MEP). GS to inform JC.

Write to key UK ministers and senior officials. Use a similar letter to that of the above. DO and JJ to take this forward also. The group agreed a letter could also be written to Jeremy Ketley, Department for Transport.

Previously scheduled meeting with Cavendish to go ahead. Cavendish to review stakeholders.

SH to undertake mapping exercise between the MEP submission, the UK Government response, the Foster & Partners submission and any other response which details Kinloss. The basis of this can be used within the above mentioned letters.

The media presence should continue through Platform PR. GS to schedule session with them. Releases going forward must emphasise the possibility for complimentary activity between the

Army Barracks and Spaceport on the Kinloss site. Strengths of the site to be revisited and emissions from other responses highlighted. Nothing new to be added to any release, must be consistent with submission. Focus to be solely on Kinloss. Army presence to be celebrated and emphasised that this would be a complimentary operation.

Discussions with the MoD to be held to encourage reconsideration of their position.

It would be beneficial to have support from potential funders and operators.

HIE position

Two sites in the HIE area are in the down selection – Stornoway and Campbelltown and will continue to be supportive of both at this stage.

Public engagement

At a later stage there could be an online campaign ran.

2) AOB

N/A.

3) Date of next meeting

TBC

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Actions from meeting

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Action number	Agenda item	Decision	Action by
1	1	Schedule meeting with Angus Robertson MP	DO
2	1	Investigate funder of Foster & Partners submission	JJ
3	1	Draft a letter to send out to appropriate contacts from consultation responses	DO & JJ
4	1	Inform JC of purpose of letter to contacts from consultation responses	GS
5	1	Draft a letter to send to key UK ministers	DO & JJ
6	1	Mapping exercise between MEP submission, UK Government response, Foster & Partners response and any other submission which details Kinloss	SH
7	1	Schedule a session with Platform PR	GS