

Moray Economic Partnership

Thursday 29 June 2023 – 2.00pm (Teams)

Graham Leadbitter (Chair)	Moray Council
Jim Grant	Moray Council
Chris Muir	Moray Council
Michael Kelly	Moray Council
Marc Macrae	Moray Council
Sandy Keith	Moray Council
Gary Templeton	Moray Council
Fiona Robb	HIE
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Gemma Cruickshank	Visit Moray Speyside
Fabio Villani	tsiMoray
Andrew Anderson	tsiMoray
Sarah Medcraf	Moray Chamber of Commerce
Stephen Sheridan	SDS
Christine Cameron	NHS Grampian
Carol Wink (Minutes)	HIE

Apologies

David Reid	HIE
Rhona Gunn	Moray Council
Pearl Hamilton	FSB

1. Welcome The Chair opened the meeting.	
2. Minutes from last meeting The Minute from 30 March was agreed. Update on actions Updates on the LEP, Business Support and Communities & Place subgroup plans for activity and timescales will be presented at the next Moray Economic Partnership (MEP) meeting. The HIE Strategy and budgets are being finalised and an update will be provided at the next MEP meeting. Comments on the Talent Discussion paper have been forwarded to HIE. Other actions from the previous meeting were addressed at relevant stages in the agenda.	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Childcare update The Childcare survey work has now been completed giving a good insight into childcare issues in the area from both the parent and provider perspective. A short-life working group has been set up to analyse and progress the findings from the survey work carried out.</p> <p>NHS – update on Dr Gray’s developments Christina Cameron, NHS Grampian, presented an overview of the long-term strategy for 2023-2033 and development plans for acute services for Dr Gray’s Hospital, Elgin.</p> <p>TSI Spotlight Fabio Villani, tsiMoray delivered a presentation on Third Sector and Social Enterprise introducing the Draft Third Sector Interface Outcomes Framework for 2023/2026. The Framework will enable a central source of knowledge and provision of capacity building support, leadership and decision making for the sector. He also reported on some of the work currently being undertaken by tsiMoray which is contributing towards the health and wellbeing of communities in Moray.</p> <p>There is huge ambition for growth within the third sector in Moray but cost constraints and barriers are always an issue and have a detrimental impact on an organisations ability to bid for contracts (eg, cost of public liability insurance when tendering for work). The Community Wealth Building work is helping to facilitate better engagement between public sector procurement teams, third sector and small businesses to raise awareness and provide procurement support which will enable a greater number of providers in the third sector to prepare when bidding for contracts locally.</p> <p>Net Zero – partnership approach discussion There was discussion around net zero and some of the challenges faced.</p> <p>Funding has been made available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to create a service to engage, signpost and support businesses and community groups on their journey to net zero. Moray Chamber of Commerce (MCC) is working with Moray Council (TMC) to scope out and draw up the invitation to tender for this 2-year project which will be a MCC branded service.</p> <p>Following the Elgin Town Centre Summit in May, TMC has been working with MCC to launch a taskforce to help deliver on the net zero actions set out in the action plan. The taskforce is due to be officially launched in July 2023.</p> <p>TMC stressed the importance of ensuring that there is maximum benefit to local companies and to the local economy by making sure that businesses are skilled and prepared for undertaking net zero</p>	

	<p>related work (eg electric charging point installation and servicing, solar panel installation) rather than calling on the bigger national companies from outwith the area to carry out this type of work.</p> <p>TMC is working on a Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy to look at energy efficiency and possible heat control zones across the region.</p> <p>Moray College UHI reported that significant investment would be required to reshape the existing campus in order to meet their net zero aspirations.</p> <p>tsiMoray has secured SG Climate Hub funding towards a community and engagement specialist post to support community engagement and capacity building in relation to climate action and awareness.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Standing items</p> <p><u>Moray Growth Deal</u></p> <p>Bus Revolution – this service is now operational. Additional electric vehicles have joined the fleet and the new booking App is being downloaded and used. The formal launch by the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary has been delayed until August 2023. The marketing and communications being planned around this event will present a good opportunity for raising awareness of this and the other Moray Growth Deal (MGD) projects.</p> <p>Digital Health – the demonstration and simulation environment was launched in April 2023 bringing together different stakeholders and industry partners, clinicians, project staff and digital developers to showcase the technology being developed. Currently 3 different prototypes are being tested.</p> <p>The Full Business Cases for the Moray Aerospace Advanced Technology Innovation Centre (MAATIC), Business Enterprise Hub (BEH) and Manufacturing Innovation Centre Moray (MICM) projects are in the process of being completed. A Change Request was approved by the MGD Board in May 2023 to split the MICM and MAATIC projects and to establish a permanent location for MICM at the Enterprise Park Forres, utilising an existing building rather than the construction of a new facility.</p> <p>The Cultural Quarter, Early-Years STEM and Housing Mix Delivery business cases are due to be complete by the end of 2023. Third sector organisations will have significant input into these projects.</p> <p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>The White Label marketing contract has now come to an end. The communications sub-group will continue to meet to direct activity but due to budget constraints, it has been decided that existing communications teams across partner organisations will support any</p>	

	<p>on-going marketing and communication requirements for the MGD projects.</p> <p>Strategic Funds TMC reported that there is no capital allocation for Just Transition funding this financial year but the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) can offer financial transaction funding specifically for the north east of Scotland for projects that fit with the existing aims of Just Transition. If MEP members are aware of any organisations that could benefit from this fund they should signpost them to SNIB. It has still to be confirmed if 2024/25 Just Transition funding will include capital projects.</p> <p>TMC met with Scottish Government to discuss the failed round 2 Levelling Up Fund bid. Feedback encouraged TMC to build on the previous bid by progressing projects to a more shovel ready stage. Criteria and timescales for round 3 have yet to be announced but it is thought likely that the level of funding available will be smaller than in previous rounds.</p> <p>Community Wealth Building The Community Wealth Building Strategy and Action Plan is now available in draft form: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_149231.html</p> <p>The results from the Childcare Parent and Carer and Childcare Provider surveys are in the process of being analysed.</p> <p>TMC will provide an update on the Community Wealth Building Strategy at the next MEP meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: TMC will provide an update on Community Wealth Building at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5. AOB</p>	<p>The Regional Economic Partnership (REP) met in June 2023. Agenda items included the vision and action plan for the region, the new visitor levy, childcare provision, skills, intelligence hub and housing. A housing taskforce has been set up with Scottish Government to look at possible solutions to the region’s housing issues. TMC is looking at the Glasgow intelligence hub model to see how it could work for the Moray region. The REP is due to meet again in September 2023.</p> <p>Moray is due to host the Convention of the Highlands & Islands (COHI) meeting in October 2023.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	

6.	Date and Time of next meeting(s) Thursday 28 September (2:00pm – 4:00pm) Thursday 14 December (2.00 – 4.00pm)	
----	--	--

	ACTIONS SUMMARY	
	Updates on the LEP, Business Support and Communities & Place subgroup plans for activity and timescales will be presented at the next meeting.	TMC
	An update on the HIE Strategy and budgets to be provided at the next meeting.	HIE
	TMC to provide an update on Community Wealth Building at the next meeting.	TMC