

Moray Economic Partnership

Monday 23 September 2024 (MS Teams) – 2.00pm

David Reid (Chair)	Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
Beverly Smith	Moray Council (TMC)
Michael Kelly	Moray Council
Lorna Williamson	Moray Council
Marc Macrae	Moray Council
Sandy Keith	Moray Council
Claire English	Moray Council
Hazel Sly	Moray Council
Sarah Barnes	Moray Council
Andrew Anderson	tsiMoray
Fabio Villani	tsiMoray
Gemma Cruickshank	Visit Moray Speyside (VMS)
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Business (FSB)
Sarah Medcraf	Moray Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Rhona Gunn	Moray Council
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Stephen Sheridan	Skills Development Scotland

1	Welcome David Reid (Chair) opened the meeting.
2	Matters arising not on agenda There were no matters arising.
3	Minute from last meeting (17 April 2024) The minute from 17 April 2024 was agreed.
4	Appointment of new Chair Sarah Medcraf (MCC) has agreed to take on the role as Chair for future MEP meetings.
5	Moray Growth Deal – standing item Michael Kelly (THC) gave an overview of the current position and timetable for the Cultural Quarter and Early Years STEM projects being submitted to Council for consideration. <u>Cultural Quarter – Full Business Case (FBC) review and endorsement</u> Claire English (TMC) presented the draft FBC for the Cultural Quarter project highlighting the key points and various options being considered for the three phases of the project: phase 1 – Elgin Town Hall; phase 2 – Grant Lodge; phase 3 – Hotel. The discussion that followed focussed on the business model being proposed for phase 1 and 2 of the development and the market requirement for a large scale hotel project in Elgin.

	<p>Following discussion, MEP members endorsed the draft FBC and gave approval to move on to the next stage.</p> <p><u>Early Years STEM – Full Business Case (FBC) review and endorsement</u> Hazel Sly and Sarah Barnes (TMC) presented the draft FBC for the Early Years STEM project highlighting the different phases and options being considered for the proposed development.</p> <p>Following discussion, MEP members endorsed the draft FBC and gave approval to move on to the next stage.</p> <p><u>General Update</u> An Update Paper was circulated prior to the meeting giving an overview of the current status of the MGD projects highlighting key targets and actions required.</p> <p>Mike Duncan reported that Scottish Government has opened a consultation to gauge people/organisations experience and views on the impact of the Growth Deal projects.</p> <p>Sarah Medcraf reported that at the moment there is a level of consultation fatigue amongst partners and the business community and there is a need to rethink how partner organisations engage with businesses and with each other.</p>
6	<p>MEP Reports</p> <p><u>Sub-group update reports</u> Sub-group update papers were circulated prior to the meeting summarising activity and progress to date and next steps required for each of the Moray Economic Strategy (MES) key themes. These updates will form the basis of the MES Annual Report which will be uploaded onto the yourmoray.org.uk web portal in due course.</p> <p>Beverly Smith thanked partners for their on-going input to the sub-group work.</p> <p><u>Future reporting discussion</u> During discussion the amount of information being duplicated across reports was highlighted. MEP members suggested that in order to streamline reporting requirements a slightly different template could be used with one collective document pulling together updates on all of the different themes.</p>
7	<p>MEP Governance Discussion Paper David Reid introduced the MEP Structure and Governance Update Discussion Paper inviting partners to consider and decide on the forward structure of the MEP, thinking about function, relevance and membership. The recalibration of the role and governance of MEP was last discussed in August 2022. The following points were raised during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP provides a role for audit and scrutiny before onward movement through various approval committees • To avoid reporting the same things to MEP as to the multiple existing forums, MEP should have a specific benefit with a focussed agenda • MEP is the only cross partner non-specific funding group and is the only forum with longevity providing a central place to discuss and get an overview of Moray’s economy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP presents opportunities to raise awareness and identify where partners can maximise impact and leverage support by learning from each other and supporting each other • MEP has evolved from when it was established and will continue to evolve as need determines • MEP will be vital when preparing for the next big challenge (eg covid, childcare), as existing relationships have already been established • Meetings must have a purpose, should be kept focussed and not duplicate items being discussed elsewhere • Smaller more focussed agenda • MEP to meet four times a year where possible (two in person and two on-line) aligning with the meeting schedules for CPP, CoHI and HI REP. <p>There was a general feeling that there is still a need for MEP but a bit of work is required around focussing the agenda and cutting away some of the levels of reporting to avoid duplication of other forums.</p> <p>Action: David Reid, along with Sarah Medcraf and Beverly Smith will re-draft the MEP Structure and Governance Paper for consideration by MEP members.</p>
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>Future agenda items from tsiMoray:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present on the community led vision that the Moray Local Action Group has developed • present on the work that has been commissioned on Can Moray Feed Moray. <p>Suggestions for future agenda items should be forwarded to HIE.</p> <p>On behalf of MEP members, Fabio Villani thanked David Reid for Chairing the meeting and welcomed Sarah Medcraf as the new MEP Chair.</p> <p>The date for the next MEP meeting will be decided in due course but will likely take place early December 2024.</p>
9	<p>Close</p> <p>David Reid thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>

Summary of actions	
David Reid, along with Sarah Medcraf and Beverly Smith will re-draft the MEP Structure and Governance Paper for consideration by MEP members.	HIE/MCC/TMC