

Moray Economic Partnership

Thursday 5 December 2024 (Teams) – 11.00am

Attendees:	
Sarah Medcraf (Chair)	Moray Chamber of Commerce (MCC)
Rhona Gunn	The Moray Council (TMC)
Beverly Smith	TMC
Lorna Williamson	TMC
Michael Kelly	TMC
Marc Macrae	TMC
Sonya Warren	TMC
David Reid	Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Fabio Villani	tsiMoray
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Business (FSB)

Apologies:	
Sandy Keith	The Moray Council
Andrew Anderson	tsiMoray
Gemma Cruickshank	Visit Moray Speyside

1	Welcome and Apologies Sarah Medcraf (Chair) opened the meeting.
2	Minute from last meeting (23/9/2024) and Matters Arising There were no matters arising. The minute from 23 September 2024 was agreed.
3	Shared Prosperity Fund Paper Lorna Williamson (TMC) summarised the UKSPF update paper(s) outlining the proposed amendments for reallocating underspend on some of the existing approved projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocated funds for the Elgin Fountain project to be redirected to support the restoration of the Cullen Mercat Cross and completion of the Duke of Gordon lighting project. • Underspend on some of the local Business Support projects to be reallocated to avoid claiming underspend and a reduced Year-4 allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extension of the Town Centre Development Manager post by 18 weeks, which has expanded to include business support. ○ Development of a comprehensive tourism strategy for Moray, directly linked to the visitor levy proposals. ○ For a second round of applications for grant funding towards Moray Digital Development. • Approval 'in principle' to an extension to the HIE Graduate Placement Scheme to 31 March 2026 to honour current placement obligations. <p>The papers were discussed in detail and the re-allocation was formally approved by MEP members.</p>

4	<p>Moray Growth Deal – standing item</p> <p><u>General Update</u></p> <p>Michael Kelly (TMC) gave a general update on progress being made with the MGD projects.</p> <p>Cultural Quarter and Early Years STEM have received clearance to proceed to delivery stage.</p> <p>The assurance process for the Business Enterprise Hub project has re-started with the aim to enter delivery stage during Quarter 4.</p> <p>There will be significant activity in the coming months including: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction work at the MICIM facility at Forres Enterprise Park • invitations to Tender being launched for the Early Years STEM project • start of the re-development of the Cultural Quarter Elgin Town Hall project • South Street site clearance due to start • Preparation for Bus Revolution phase 2 <p>At this stage, the key area of activity to focus on will be communications and engagement. Quarterly MGD activity updates will be produced and MyMoray will be updated and enhanced as projects develop. Elgin Town Board has produced standardised designs for construction activity and will be used initially for the hoarding boards around the site clearances on South Street, Elgin.</p> <p>Partners will work jointly in the planning of Ministerial launches for the individual Growth Deal projects that have entered delivery stage and around other activity taking place in Elgin and around the wider Moray area.</p>
5	<p>MEP Structure and Governance Update Paper</p> <p>The MEP Structure and Governance Update and Discussion Paper has been revised following feedback from the previous meeting. MEP members were asked to give further consideration to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP membership – current and future • Meeting structure • Subgroups - chair and membership • Reporting framework <p>The following points were highlighted during discussion: -</p> <p>MEP membership – current and future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MEP grouping must add value to what agencies are charged with delivering individually. All individual organisations have their own strategies and objectives, but they all overlap in core areas and through the MEP collaboration, opportunities and constraints can be identified and addressed much more effectively as a collective. This is where MEP can add value. • Capacity and resource are an issue for all partners. • Ensure the partnership make-up is correct and identify any gaps that need filling. Membership can expand and condense back down as need arises. • MEP should be a collaborative group to pull together to achieve what partners would be unable to achieve on a single partner basis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEP should play a proactive role in delivery of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and have an active place within the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and wider grouping of meetings. LOIP should feed into MEP which in turn should feed into CPP. Consider areas where tsiMoray can contribute further as social enterprise will play an important part in terms of business support and social environmental impact in the future. <p>Meeting structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed meeting schedule looks right with four meetings across the year (two in person and two via Teams). <p>Subgroups and membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair/lead for the four subgroups should be reviewed to include participation from all MEP partners as currently all four are chaired by TMC. Have a core membership for each subgroup with others invited along to report on specific areas when relevant. Ensure partner representation on each subgroup is correct with scope to expand where relevant. Consider a rolling chair and administration function responsibility to spread the load between all partners. Ensure key themes and areas for action are still relevant or do they need to be altered, removed or increased for the Moray Economic Strategy to remain current. Current subgroups cover mainly Growth Deal but perhaps there is also a need to consider other significant investment which has been secured over the last couple of years. <p>Reporting Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline the reporting template for use across all subgroups. The Annual Report is a useful tool to consolidate and report on the economic activity happening across the partnership that wouldn't otherwise be available. To continue, participation will be required from all partners to collate the information into a public facing document. <p>Action – David Reid and Sarah Medcraf will work together to revise the MEP Structure and Governance Paper for consideration prior to the next MEP meeting.</p>
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>David Patterson reported that one of the Moray College UHI apprentices who works for Grants of Dufftown won the gold medal for electrical installation in the UK finals last year. Then the World Skills Olympics were held in Lyon, France this year there was no-one to compete for the UK in the Renewable Energy section, so the UK gold medal winner from last year was chosen to enter the World Skills Olympics finals where he won fourth place in an event that wasn't his own.</p> <p>This year, the UK finals were held in Manchester where another one of Moray College UHI's apprentices was in the first ever competition for Renewable Energy involving the installation of a photo voltaic system and using a drone to identify faults at height on wind turbines. He won the gold medal for the UK.</p>

	This has been a fantastic achievement by both apprentices who were invited to Edinburgh to meet with the Cabinet Secretary for Education as part of the celebration of Scotland's Skills Olympians and gold medal winners of the UK finals.
7	<p>Close The next MEP meeting will take place in February 2025.</p> <p>Sarah Medcraf thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>

Summary of actions	
David Reid and Sarah Medcraf will work together to revise the MEP Structure and Governance Paper for consideration prior to the next MEP meeting.	HIE/MCC