

Moray Economic Partnership

Teams Meeting

Wednesday 28 October 2020 @ 14:00

Stuart Black (Chair)	HIE
Katherine Mackintosh	Robertson
Laurie Piper	Visit Moray Speyside
Michael O'Donnell	Moray Council
Pearl Hamilton	FSB
Rona Campbell	HIE
Stephen Sheridan	SDS
David Patterson	Moray College UHI
Sarah Medcraf	Moray Chamber of Commerce

Apologies

Andrew Anderson	tsiMoray
Jim Grant	Moray Council
Ewen Mackintosh	Gordon & MacPhail
Graham Leadbitter	Leader, Moray Council
Tim Eagle	Councillor, Moray Council
Rhona Gunn	Moray Council
Jacqui Taylor	Moray College UHI
Dr Jamie Hogg	NHS Grampian
John Cowe	Councillor, Moray Council

1.	Welcome by Chair SB confirmed he will chair this meeting as the Full Council Committee meeting has been extended.	
2.	Minutes of meeting It was noted previously that Modern Apprenticeship numbers are low. SS confirmed that this time last year in 19/20 it shows 70 starts and for the same period for 20/21 there was only 16 which is down by 77% for Moray. SS will get the figure to show if 70 people are still employed but can confirm that the number of redundancies are in single figures in all areas in the Highlands and Islands. MO confirmed that he is working on a KPI report and will report to Council Committee on 2 nd December 2020. There will be an additional section this year covering COVID related KPI's in the recovery strategy. Minute agreed. <i>David Patterson joined the meeting.</i>	SS

<p>3.</p>	<p>Round Table Updates</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce – work has been done to evidence for Tier 1 but if a decision is made for Tier 2 it will knock a few people back. There have been enquiries from town centre businesses with concerns on queuing for town centre shops/butchers around Christmas time. The guidance is not clear on queuing so might be worth businesses hiring the town hall if unable to deliver. Is there flexibility there to help town centre businesses?</p> <p>Town centre businesses are still paying rates but will have minimal customers due to the government encouraging people to work from home.</p> <p>MO confirmed that he will look at retail and queuing issue and report back. Business Gateway are dealing with grants/hardship funds and applications are open but unsure on numbers.</p> <p>Local authority would be in Tier 1 but Health board possibly in Tier 2 due to Aberdeen so unsure if connected. SM confirmed that Environmental Health/Trading Standards Manager verified that the information that has been fed back is for Tier 1.</p> <p>FSB – PH agreed with SM. Butchers all have same concerns and generally shops don't want a queue outside. Other businesses are waiting to hear from grants. FSB/Chamber are on the same page.</p> <p>Robertson – three tenders have been sent to MOD and will be into the new year before deciding on who has been successful which is causing a 3 month delay. Projects proposed down south are large infrastructure projects rather than smaller things happening in Moray.</p> <p>Visit Moray Speyside – it is a bleak picture from tourism businesses and will look better if we go into Tier 1. Hardship grants for self-catering/accommodation may have changed but a number of self-catering businesses didn't meet the loss of income criteria or are not eligible.</p> <p>Businesses are cautious when applying for funding and overthinking the system.</p> <p>Moray College UHI – core business of the college is back up and running. However there is a 20% limit of any buildings so no more than a 5th of people in business. Practical work is being fast tracked in case another lockdown is imposed. Modern apprenticeships are down this year. Money has not been spent from apprenticeship levy from last year due to going into lockdown and this year's money has been announced but not finalised. This year there is 40% of money to SME which is outside the normal rules but will be bidding for more money. Work will continue with DWP to provide short, sharp programmes concentrating on constriction and health and care. The college will also be providing training for other Kickstart users and will have a couple of positions too. A new principal will be starting with UHI from Australia and</p>	<p>MO</p>
------------------	--	------------------

	<p>the selected candidate has already worked with college, universities with a similar model of what they would like to have in Moray.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland – SS will send Kerry links to be circulated. SS will also send over details on National Transition Training Fund which is a £25 million fund to provide relevant training and employment opportunities to over 25's at risk of redundancy or made redundant.</p> <p>HIE – RC has been helping colleagues in their business team. There has been ongoing discussions on cost to employers for employees working from home. This issue has been raised given that homeworking is going to be the default for now.</p>	<p>SS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Working Group Updates</p> <p>Small Business Development Group</p> <p>On the Business Resilience Forum they have come up with a number of grant schemes and there is a strong demand to improve online experience. The Scheme has now closed but need to look at prioritisation and may need to get more money in the pot. There is also a strong demand for start-up funding and 9 applications so far but will need to look at budget before going into appraisals.</p> <p>Skills and Employability Group</p> <p>There has been work done on the Kickstart scheme. The work on reviewing the skills investment plan has been placed on hold as a result of COVID 19, as part of the economic recovery plan the group have been meeting fortnightly and are currently implementing the employability and skills actions within the approved economic recovery plan.</p> <p>Talent Attraction Group</p> <p>SS confirmed that this group hasn't met since late June and is looking for a view on direction of travel. Since the strategy launched last year it could be tighter and a single focus on Talent Attraction. SS would like to speak to members on what outputs they want to achieve as a group to take forward, what KPI's in both apprenticeship and talent attraction or review what is being done in the skills group.</p> <p>RC added that there is still issues with NHS and need to look at the focus as some things have changed but retention is still an issue. SM has already discussed with RC including the demand for plots is a real opportunity for the talent attraction to be in the region.</p> <p>KM added that this time last year it was difficult to see where the direction was so trying to slim down and more focused will make a difference.</p> <p>SB, JG and SS to meet at look at this initially. MO to pass onto JG.</p> <p>A lot of work has been done recently on Talent Attraction at HIE and is developing so will help this group.</p>	<p>SB/SS/JG /MO</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Moray Economic Recovery report</p> <p>Digital Report – This is an information report that went to Committee on 6th October 2020 which included an update on R100 and the action the Council will be taking.</p> <p>Town Centre Report – This report includes financial implication and went up to Full Council Committee today for the revenue aspect and forms part of the economic recovery plan. There are also x2 procurement posts noted in this report. Report was approved at Full Council Meeting this morning.</p> <p>There will be £66,000 used from own reserves to make the top up and UHI are also looking to make up the cost too.</p> <p>SB confirmed that they are currently doing work at Horizon making small office pods (x4) to be used for starter units and start up businesses and just waiting on planning permission to be finalised.</p> <p>Work has been done on MGD MATTIC Project and SB had a call recently with Boeing managing director who spoke very positively on the project which is encouraging.</p> <p>There is a huge amount of sympathy for people running businesses and is a very difficult time for everyone concerned.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Issues raised by members –</p> <p>Brexit was discussed previously. The Council is upping export licences and work is going on around that. COSLA will be looking at fees. Import and Export has been included in the recovery strategy.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>25th November 2020, 2pm</p>	