



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 24 MAY 2023

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: MORAY GROWTH DEAL ANNUAL REPORT

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 On 8 March 2023 Council considered and approved a draft version of the Moray Growth Deal (MGD) Annual Report, covering the period 20 December 2021 to 31 December 2022 (para 13 of the minute refers).
- 1.2 Delegated authority was provided for the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) to approve a final iteration. **Appendix 1** tracks all changes made to the version presented to Elected Members on 8 March 2023.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section (II) (20) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to a new policy matter which does not fall within the terms of reference of any Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The production of an annual report is a grant condition associated with funding from the Scottish and UK Governments. This report introduces a final draft of the MGD's first annual report covering the period 20 December 2021 (when the Full Deal was signed) to 31 December 2022.
- 2.2 The version of the Annual Report presented to the Moray Council on 8 March 2023 (para 13 of the minute refers) was developed using feedback from the MGD Programme Board, the MGD Business Assembly and the Moray Economic Partnership. During March this document was further revised following feedback from the Scottish and UK Governments. It was also used as the basis for the Deal's first Annual Conversation held on 29 March 2023.
- 2.3 The Annual Conversation was constructive and involved:
 - Informal 'showcase' sessions that enabled officials from the Scottish and UK Governments to gain more insight on plans for the Cultural Quarter, Business Enterprise Hub and Housing Mix Delivery developments in Elgin,

along with a visit to some key project locations and a demonstration of the new Bus Revolution buses and the digital app that is due to be rolled out.

- A formal meeting in the afternoon saw officials meet with the Moray Council's Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance and Moray Growth Deal Senior Responsible Officer), Head of Economic Growth and Development, Head of Financial Services and the Moray Growth Deal Programme Manager. This involved a detailed discussion on progress made during 2022, activity planned for 2023 and a focus on the MAATIC project with David Patterson (UHI-Moray Principal and project SRO) in attendance.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Following submission to the Council, the intention is that:

- (i) The Annual Report (**Appendix 1**) will be made publically available through the Council and My Moray websites
- (ii) A press release will be issued to promote key highlights
- (iii) A summary document will be prepared to convey the status of the project in a distilled, easy to read format.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The Moray Growth Deal projects will contribute to the Corporate Plan priority of promoting economic development and growth, whilst meeting the LOIP vision of raising aspirations, reducing inequalities in educational attainment, providing access to employment, expanded choices for residents, and improved livelihood and well-being.

(b) Policy and Legal

Each Growth Deal project has been developed to meet local, regional and national policy agendas in line with legal requirements where relevant.

(c) Financial implications

The production of the 2021/22 annual report for the Moray Growth Deal in itself does not present any financial implications, but it does contain a section relating to the finances of the programme.

The Council's Head of Financial Services sits on the monthly Moray Growth Deal Programme Board at which a report is submitted for review setting out spend against budget allocation and takes an overview of the financial implications of the deal for the Council as s95 officer.

(d) Risk Implications

The production of the 2021/22 annual report for the Moray Growth Deal in itself does not present any risk implications, but it does reference risks being managed by the Programme Management Office that have the potential to affect successful delivery.

Risk is a standing item at the monthly Moray Growth Deal Programme Boards and is covered in monthly meetings that the Programme Management Office has with each Project Manager.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

Equalities and Socio Impact Assessments for each project will be updated as part of Full Business Case development.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impact

As a requirement of the Moray Growth Deal, all projects will address carbon reduction, improved environmental performance and a just transition to net zero as a central part of their development.

(i) Consultations

A final version of the annual report has been prepared following consultation with the following groups:

- Moray Growth Deal Programme Board
- Moray Economic Partnership
- Business Assembly
- The Scottish and UK Governments
- Moray Council Elected Members (briefing on 21/02/23 and Council meeting on 08/03/23)

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This paper provides a final draft of the Moray Growth Deal's 2021/22 annual report for the Council to provide consider and note.

Author of the report: Michael Kelly, Moray Growth Deal Programme Manager

Background papers: