



REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL 17 JUNE 2020

SUBJECT: EXPANDED ELECTED REPRESENTATION ON THE MORAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Council that at the most recent meeting of the Moray Economic Partnership (MEP) on 27 May 2020 it was agreed that the number of elected members on the MEP would be expanded to a total of 3. This is an additional 2 members as the MEP is currently chaired by Councillor Leadbitter.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II (12) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to appointments to an outside body.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council consider nomination of 2 additional members to the Moray Economic Partnership in addition to the existing membership of Councillor Leadbitter.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Moray Economic Partnership (MEP) is a formal partnership to support the local economy of Moray. It is part of the Community Planning framework and provides leadership and strategic direction for the economic strand of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.2 The Partnership brings together The Moray Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Moray Chamber of Commerce, The Scottish Council for Development & Industry, Moray College UHI, Skills Development Scotland, HITRANS, Moray Strategic Business Forum, NHS Grampian and Moray Health and Social Care Partnership, Cairngorms National Park Authority and tsiMORAY.
- 3.3 The Partnerships aims and objectives are aligned with the Moray Economic Strategy <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file123287.pdf> and partners are stakeholders in its delivery.

- 3.4 At the Emergency Cabinet meeting on the 21 May 2020 agenda item 7, the Economy Report section 12.2 stated the MEP would be critical in the response and recovery of the economy.
- 3.5 At the most recent meeting of MEP on 27 May 2020 it was agreed that firstly the MEP is the appropriate group to lead the work on Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Secondly it was agreed that while the long term objectives of the economic strategy are still relevant an interim strategy for recovery is required. The strategy will include proposals for community engagement on economic recovery. It was agreed to effectively develop and deliver the strategy MEP will now meet once a month.
- 3.6 At this same meeting extending the elected member representation was considered including extending this by 2-4 additional members. It was put forward and agreed that expanding the membership during the recovery phase would provide a diverse range of input during a crucial time in Moray. However members felt that council representation on MEP required to be balanced and proportionate relative to the wider membership and that addition of more than a further two members would affect that balance. Accordingly it was agreed that only two additional members should be nominated, that this level of representation would be kept under review and that the Community Planning Board would be asked to confirm this decision when it next meets,
- 3.7 Nominations have been received for Councillors Eagle, Cowe and Ross.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

As previously stated the MEP is part of the Community Planning framework and is responsible for delivering aspects of the 10 year plan, particularly a growing, diverse and sustainable economy. The recommendation in this report is designed to enhance the ability of the MEP to do this during such a critical time.

While the overarching strategic aims of the Corporate Plan, 10 Year Plan and Moray Economic Strategy remain broadly the same the COVID-19 crisis will mean that the way in which they are delivered and measured will have to be adapted. The MEP will be developing the information to enabling decision making in that respect.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Financial implications

While there are no direct financial implications of this report the COVID-19 crisis will have wide ranging financial implications and actions taken by the MEP may have financial implications for the council and its partners.

(d) Risk Implications

None directly related to this report however COVID-19 is a high risk to the Growth of the Moray Economy.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None.

(h) Consultations

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Finance and Environment), the Head of Development Services, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Democratic Services Manager, and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The MEP has approved the addition of 2 extra Councillors to the group. This will bring the total number of Councillors on the MEP to 3.

5.2 The Council is asked to nominate those 2 extra members.

Author of Report: Michael O'Donnell, Senior Officer Economic Strategy and Growth

Background Papers:
Ref: