



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 21 JANUARY 2020**

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MORAY
2018/19**

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the Draft Annual Report providing holistic information about Economic Development in Moray during 2018/19 in which the Council is a lead or principal agency.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the exercise of functions that promote economic development.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) **considers the draft annual report on economic development in Moray, as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- (ii) **agree its publication as set out in paragraph 3.1.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 August 2015 (paragraph 9 of the minute refers), the Council agreed broad headings for the annual report on economic development in Moray. The intention of this annual report (**Appendix 1**) is to bring together the broad span of economic activity undertaken across the Council but currently reported across a range of committees including skills development and employability work with Education, the supply of Council housing and employment land within Housing and Property Services and the provision of infrastructure within Direct Services. The report is a broad health check as to the vibrancy of the local economy across a range of indicators, reflecting the Council's role in developing that economy. Members are asked

to consider the draft report, and note that following that consideration, the final report will be formatted for publication in pdf and on the Council website.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- 3.2 The headline achievement of the 18/19 Annual Review is the agreement between both the Scottish and UK Governments on a funding package of £65 million for the Moray Growth Deal. While the heads of terms have not yet been signed this gives all parties the confidence to begin work on draft business plans for the projects to be pursued.
- 3.3 In addition to the Growth Deal activity 18/19 saw significant inward investment in high growth/value added sectors with Orbex locating in Forres, where the rockets for launching satellites will be developed and constructed, and from SLAM Worldwide, an international multimedia company.
- 3.4 In East Moray the Council has been investing to develop the industrial portfolio of the Buckie region by constructing roads and services at March Road. This has made the site investment ready for businesses wishing to construct their own premises.
- 3.5 This compliments the work HIE are doing at Barmuckity Business and Forres Enterprise Parks. At Barmuckity HIE have supported a private developer to build roads and services opening up 30 hectares of developable land and work on a new Travelodge nearing completion. In Forres, where the enterprise park is at capacity, a second phase is being planned.
- 3.6 The Council's new build housing programme achieved 68 completions with 98 under construction. A total of £10 million was invested in social housing in Moray in 2018/19.
- 3.7 Moray Skills Pathway consortium was formed with 21 local agencies coming together to coordinate and promote employability related services.
- 3.8 Looking forward the Moray Growth Deal will be the focus of attention however it is essential that all other Economic Development activity is continued and built upon in order to fully realise the benefits of the Growth Deal investment.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The report sets out what was contributed by Council services and partners in 2018-19 in relation to the corporate plan priority to promote economic development and growth, also the LOIP priority of a growing and sustainable economy.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council considers support for economic development issues on their merits, against the objective to facilitate sustainable economic growth and the desired outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications.

(e) Staffing Implications

This report has been compiled within existing staffing resources

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

(h) Consultations

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, the Equal Opportunities Officer, Paul Connor (Principal Accountant) and Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer) have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The annual report on Economic Development in Moray provides the Council with a periodic overview of the Council's role in developing the Moray economy. This overview will be of assistance in making decisions relative to economic activity driven, financed or otherwise supported and encouraged by the Council.

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Development

Background Papers:

Ref: