

Economic Recovery Plan – Update

Action	Update	Complete
Revenue		
Small Business Support consultancy service (70k across two years)35K from HIE in 21/22 subject to due diligence	Consultancy services procured and commenced in January giving SMEs access to one to one advice and support on Brexit issues and assistance in developing bids for procurement processes.	N
Business Grants and Start up Support		
Young Company Capital Investment Scheme – Offering grants of up to £50k for investment in equipment (HIE funding £1m)	The YCIG has now concluded. 6 companies were assisted in Moray with investment of £116k	Y
Ecommerce Funding up to £25K (HIE Funding £500k)	Digital Enablement Grants were provided to 29 companies in Moray with investment of £335k. This scheme has been replaced by Digital Boost	Y
Digital Boost – Offering grants of up to £5k to support digital and ecommerce. (Government Funding)	The DigitalBoost Expert Support Programme went extremely well up to year end in April 2021. We successfully helped 27 Moray businesses access digital grants totalling £135K through the service, with a further 23 enquiries digitally-related enquiries now resolved - maintaining 'extremely satisfied' reviews across the board. A budget envelope of £1.6m has been mooted for 2021/22 (compared to last year's spend of £2.5m) to be shared with all areas pro-rata across Scotland. But that £1.6m for 2021/22 now includes the introduction of two new services - Digital Assessment Tool and Digital Expert Support – Decision on whether Digital grants will be available still to be ratified.	N
Small Business Support		
Consultancy provision to small business to support procurement and supplier development assisting companies in preparing bids. (Moray Council funding £25k, new request subject to SMART delivery plan approved by Council) HIE 25k funding subject to due diligence	Info about procurement support through for Moray based businesses seeking help to write tenders has been marketed and shared on social media platforms and also with stakeholder partners. 1-2-1 support has been delivered using online platforms to 3 businesses up until end April 21. Looking at PCS this would indicate that there are 12 live potential contracts via Moray Council so local opportunities are limited - although Highlands and Islands wide the numbers of opportunities available are significantly higher.	N
Consultancy provision to local companies to provide import and export advice, this may well help to mitigate impacts of Brexit	10 businesses have requested and received support through the Brexit consultancy programme since January 2021 with very positive feedback some of which are ongoing due to the complexity of their business. We are confident that businesses will continue to assess this although enquiry numbers have tailed off during April. This may in part be due to the launch and widespread marketing of Brexit support from the UK	N

<p>depending on the trade deal negotiated. (Moray Council funding £10k, new request subject to SMART delivery plan approved by Council and HIE £10k subject to due diligence by HIE)</p> <p>HIE general programmes of business support more widely available to businesses.</p> <p>HIE support for tourism Destination Management Organisations across Highlands and Islands (£3m)</p>	<p>Govt. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund-opens-for-applications</p> <p>We will continue to market local support available on social media and with stakeholder partners as businesses seem to access support when issues arise rather than planning ahead</p> <p>Support for DMOs – HIE provided £350k for Visit Moray Speyside over the coming 3 years to help with tourism recovery</p>	N
<p>Town Centres</p> <p>Town Centre Fund further grants for empty space to living space and 50% grant for alteration of large retail premises to smaller units in town centres. £433,000k (Government funding)</p> <p>Works to improve and adapt Town centres resulting from master planning and LDP delivery £200K (Moray Council Capital new request, subject to business case) (HIE £200k subject to due diligence)</p> <p>Pop up shop scheme in the main five towns of Buckie, Elgin, Forres, Keith and Lossiemouth and Speyside £50k (Moray Council funding, new request subject to SMART delivery plan approved by Council)</p> <p>Town Centre Start Up – Offering a 50% grant up to £10k maximum for individuals start ups following participation in the Pop Up Shop programme. £100k</p>	<p>Transforming Empty Space to Living Space - 6 projects were awarded grants at a total of £248,300 leading to an investment total of £496,600.</p> <p>Altering Large Empty Retail Units- 6 projects were awarded grants at a total of £168,065 leading to an investment total of £513,196.</p> <p>Elgin City Centre draft Masterplan published for consultation in March 2021 and finalised version with Delivery Programme to be published later in 2021. Programme of Masterplans for other Town Centres currently being progressed.</p> <p>Short term projects being identified to support economic recovery of Centres.</p> <p>The Pop up shop Scheme & Town Centre Start Up grants were delayed due COVID 19 restrictions and lack of staff resources in Legal & Economic Growth sections. However it is planned to be launched this summer.</p> <p>Follows on pop up so delayed as above</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>

<p>(Moray Council funding , new request subject to SMART delivery plan approved by Council)</p>		
<p>New COVID 19 Fund potential for further funding for SME/Hospitality adaptation through newly developed fund in response to COVID 19 (450k Government/EU funding)</p>	<p>No Update</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Local Development Plan delivery programme including promotion of vacant and derelict sites, retail impact assessments, master planning for town centres and promotion of town centre living and adaptation for climate change and local place plans. (70k reported to Planning and Regulatory Services as a budget pressure, 15 September 2020)</p>	<p>Report on Vacant and Derelict sites being progressed for consideration at P&RS Committee in August, which will identify potential funding opportunities.</p> <p>Retail model study commissioned following Quick Quote process. This will provide an up to date baseline of town centres and provide an evidence base for considering retail impact assessments.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Development Management and Building Standards support for town centre development including free pre enquiry advice and ID with prioritisation of support from Transport, Environmental Health and Legal for town Centre proposals.</p>	<p>No Update</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Housing and Infrastructure Provision of employment land and industrial units in Forres. £1.5 million, and provision of £1m towards expansion or development of industrial units in Speyside/east of Moray</p>	<p>New 200m access road completed to open up 10 acres to the south east of the park. Planning permission granted for 8 business pods in 2 groups of 4. Proposal of Application Notice submitted for new up to 15000m2 factory unit.</p> <p>No update on Speyside/East of Moray</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>(Moray Council Capital, new request, subject to business case)</p>		
<p>Accelerate Development of masterplan and site development costs for business and industrial areas at Mosstodloch as identified in the Local Development Plan to increase the effective employment land in Moray in conjunction with HIE with a view to developing a business case.</p>	<p>Early discussions with Crown Estate (owners of the site) to progress the Masterplan</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan over the next 2 years will provide 224 affordable homes with a spend of £22.7 million (Scottish Government, HRA and RSL funding)</p>	<p>Covid led to delays in housing completions but the Strategic Local Programme target of 102 completions was achieved in 2020/21. In the period to 2022/23 327 completions are scheduled in the latest SLP</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Moray Growth Deal work is underway to complete outline business cases by December 2020 to try and achieve final sign off of the deal by March 2021 which would enable draw down of funding in 21/22 and early provision of capital spend on some projects including the cultural quarter, aerospace academy, business hub and housing mix.(current indicative spending for Growth Deal between 2021 and 2024 is £30 million including all partner contributions)</p>	<p>See Moray Growth Deal agenda item</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Open new land to southern edge of Forres Enterprise Park and develop business units (900k HIE investment)</p>	<p>See entry above on FEP</p>	

<p>Procurement</p> <p>There is a need to review our procurement strategy and our approach and key objectives. Our current approach has been driven by the need for savings and compliance with relevant legislation and although the strategy includes objectives for wider community benefit progress on these issues has been slow and the proportion of local spend has been in decline over recent years.</p> <p>An alternative approach would be to place Community Wealth Building at the heart of our procurement strategy with a clear focus on increasing local spend and wider community and sustainability benefits, this is wider than our traditional approach to procurement as it would require closer analysis of local spend which can be difficult with limited data and spend out with the area and efforts to improve the local supply capacity to reduce spend out with the area and to create and retain jobs locally.</p> <p>This approach requires a culture change but will have a greater impact if it was adopted across all public sector partners in Moray, this level of change will require an additional staffing resource and budget it is wider than just procurement as it seeks to develop the supply chain in Moray</p>	<p>Recruitment to Community Wealth Building post is ongoing.</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>including social enterprise and community provision (Est £35k, Moray Council new budget request, HIE £35k subject to due diligence) in addition the central procurement team is working beyond its capacity and with additional work associated with accelerating elements of the growth deal an additional member of staff is required. (Est £53k, Moray council new budget request)</p> <p>Proposal in principle subject to a separate report for Council and Community Planning Partners to consider before implementation.</p>		
<p>Social Enterprise/Community Support</p> <p>It is important to recognise that the community and social enterprise companies have an important role to play in the economic recovery. Many of these organisations have already played a central role in supporting communities through COVID 19, Community capacity building is an important part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery process and opportunities for communities to take on roles through Community Asset Transfers have been well received. There are further opportunities for communities through community benefit funding and potential investments. Communities and social enterprises will receive support where staffing</p>	<p>HIE supported applicants to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 successful SG Community Recovery Fund applications totalling £113,377 • 12 successful SG Adapt and Thrive applications totalling £643,283 <p>HIE awarded £47,444 to Dufftown & District Community Association (May 2021) towards 2-year Development Officer costs. Match funding from Dorenell Community Benefit Fund to be confirmed end May.</p> <p>Continuing to work in partnership with Portgordon Community Harbour Group and Crown Estate Scotland to create a Harbour Advisory Group to support development of asset acquisition proposals. Nicola Moss from Moray Council requested to join the Advisory Group.</p> <p>HIE and tsiMORAY working in partnership to finalise new Moray Social Enterprise Strategy 2021-2026 and Action Plan 2021-2023, aligned with recently published national strategy and action plan.</p> <p>HIE collaborating with tsiMORAY and Energising Moray to submit bid to Community Renewal Fund for consideration by Moray Council.</p> <p>HIE awaiting detail on next round of SG Recovery Fund. Likely to be targeted approach aligned with vulnerability index.</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>resources allow from the Economic Development Team and HIE to develop capacity to operate social enterprise to support the local economy.</p> <p>Rural Tourism Fund BID to develop network of facilities for toilets and mobile home use match funding from HIE £30k, Moray Council £142K existing commitment which can be carried forward on a committed project.</p>	<p>The Staycation Ready Project has been further developed & Phase 5 of the overall proposal of works as approved by Council on 12 May 2021 will be submitted to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. The total project cost is £510,000 with a request from RTIF for £278,616 with match funding from the Coastal Community Fund of £191,384 and request for £40,000 from HIE. Community partners provide in kind contribution ranging from volunteers to value of land. If the applications are successful, the planned completion of this element is end of March 2022.</p>	N
<p>Moray growth Deal Business Hub We will explore how we can work in a way that public agencies are more accessible and cohesive in their communications and support for business bringing forward elements of the business hub project in the growth deal to provide effective support through current COVID 19 restrictions and as we recover to normal. This may include temporary premises but will also include accessibility through digital platforms and video conference.</p>	<p>Work ongoing on outline business case</p>	N
<p>Employability and Skills Work in collaboration with local businesses [including 3rd Sector] to maximise opportunities via new and enhanced job creation schemes, this includes the Kickstart scheme for 16-24 year olds. The scheme provides minimum wage for 6 months employment to 16-24 year olds on universal credit.</p>	<p>Data has not been made available at local authority level. Scheme is ongoing however uptake is believed to be low both locally and nationally.</p>	N

Enhance keyworker support within the No One Left Behind model of delivery and enabling participation this includes funding from the youth guarantee scheme which is estimated at £570k government funding for Moray	Additional key workers in post. Work ongoing.	N
Moray Pathways Community Hub (ICT Suite and support) for employability clients to ensure access to digital and internet and offer of ICT equipment	This activity will take place at the Inkwell Centre with a target of 400 participants per year.	N