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**REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: NORTH HIGHLAND AND MORAY LOCAL SPACE LEADERSHIP GROUP**

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

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to nominate a Member to participate in the North Highland and Moray local Space Leadership Group;
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (47) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to review of Council wide policy.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council consider the terms of reference for the group and nominate a Member to be considered for representation on the Local Space Leadership Group.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The North Highlands and Moray steering group have been developing a strategy for the development of a space cluster associated with a new space port in Sutherland. Moray is included as Orbex who operate from Forres Enterprise park is seen as a key stakeholder in the Sutherland space port proposal for launching satellites.
- 3.2 The evidence base relating to skills and the supply chain has been gathered and the draft strategy will be available in September 2021. As part of the ongoing drive to deliver an action plan associated with the strategy there is a proposal to have a Local Space Leadership Group and nominations are being sought for consideration.
- 3.3 The draft terms of reference for the leadership group is attached in **Appendix 1** and it is recommended that the Council nominate a Member for consideration to be a part of the Local Space Leadership group.

- 3.4 The space sector offers significant opportunity for growth and high quality jobs in Moray. The presence of Orbex and potential for expansion is a good foundation for developing a space cluster in Moray and North Highland.
- 3.5 The Moray Growth Deal project - Moray Aerospace and Advanced Technology and Innovation Centre - will be well positioned to provide a skills base to the industry and offers potential for research and innovation as well as working with key industry partners.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

The Development and delivery of the Space Cluster Strategy fits with the objective of the LOIP by developing opportunity for higher paid employment

“By the year 2030 Moray will have a sustainable and inclusive economy which generates improved opportunities for everyone, including more skilled and higher paid jobs;  
*Increased in participation, skill and pay levels with reduced gender inequality through:*

- *Pathways to employment and higher skilled employment*
- *Targeted approaches to those furthest from the job market*
- *Choices for the young workforce*
- Apprenticeships at all levels

**(b) Policy and Legal**

None

**(c) Financial implications**

There is no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

None.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There will be work associated with supporting actions for the economic development team, however this work fits with the priorities established within the LOIP and corporate plan for economic development. There are currently staffing pressures across the service due to current workloads.

**(f) Property**

None.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

There are none because the recommended actions do not affect people.

**(h) Consultations**

The Head of Finance, the Legal Services Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer and Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer) have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The asks the Council to nominate a Member for consideration to participate in the proposed Local Space Leadership Group**

Author of Report: Jim Grant (Head of Economic Growth and Development)

Background Papers:

Ref: