

Moray Business Resilience Meeting
Thursday 20 August 2020 (Skype call)

Action Points

Attendees:

Clare Lock - MBWC
Gemma Cruickshank – Elgin BID
Fiona Robb - HIE
Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council
Jane Cumming – SCDI
Jim Grant – Moray Council
Lynne Ross – DWP
Scott McKnockiter – HIE
Stuart Black - HIE

Apologies:

Craig Robertson – Business Gateway
David Groundwater - FSB
Douglas Ross - MP
Fraser Grieve – SWA
Jan Bruce – SDS
Jane Munro - DWP
Laurie Piper – Visit Moray Speyside
Michael O'Donnell – Moray Council
Richard Lochhead - MSP
Sarah Medcraf – Moray Chamber of Commerce
Stephen Sheridan – SDS

1. Stuart Black opened meeting
2. Public Sector Update
 - a. Council led MEP webinars have been running successfully with businesses engaged to provide input to the Recovery Plan.
 - b. HIE and Partners will be administering the £14M Hotel Recovery fund, learning lessons from the PERF/Hardship funds, checking platforms stringently for ease of customer use
 - c. A number of HIE area companies have registered for the Early Growth Challenge Fund administered by Scottish Investment Bank
 - d. An additional five companies have received HIE funding following rejection from the PERF programme
 - e. News of additional programmes to support local businesses coming in a few weeks

- f. HIE will be identifying any underspend on the Supporting Communities Fund for awards already made and whether this can be repurposed or clawed back into a recovery pot. Communities are still in the responding phase
- g. Job Centre Plus introducing Kickstart scheme which is available to businesses to help them take on employees. Scheme already in place in England and awaiting further guidance from SG
- h. HIE keen to invest in a project in Elgin town centre with suitable match funding
- i. Mandatory register of customers now in place and enforcement of hospitality industry who fail to meet requirements

3. Private Sector Update

- a. Difficult to gauge business activity at the moment, assumption that most are now getting back to normal
- b. Networking events have had to be cancelled due to low take up levels
- c. Elgin BID Awards will be going ahead in October via Zoom. Other awards hope to be presented virtually
- d. Many new start-up businesses in Elgin town centre
- e. Tourism and restaurants busier in the highlands region compared to Edinburgh
- f. Many people operating within guidelines although different approaches evident
- g. 60 businesses have now signed up to the Check and Protect app
- h. Many local sandwich shops are benefitting at lunchtimes from the schools returning

4. AOB

None

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 27th August 2.00pm – 3.00pm