

## **Moray Business Resilience Meeting**

**Monday 6 April 2020 (Skype call)**

### **Action Points**

#### Attendees:

Cllr Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council  
Jim Grant – Moray Council  
Michael O'Donnell – Moray Council  
Richard Lochhead - MSP  
Douglas Ross - MP  
Jane Cumming - SCDI  
Sarah Medcraf – Moray Chamber of Commerce  
Laurie Piper – Moray Speyside Tourism  
Donna Harper – MBWC on behalf of Clare Lock  
Stuart Black - HIE  
Fiona Robb - HIE  
Scott McKnockiter - HIE  
Craig Robertson – Business Gateway  
David Groundwater - FSB  
Gill Neill – Elgin BID  
Laurie Piper – Speyside Tourism

#### Apologies:

None

1. Stuart Black opened meeting and thanked everyone for their time, round table introductions followed
2. Actions from previous meeting.
  - a. Grant application numbers and funding to be updated by Moray Council
  - b. FAQs on Moray Council website are now easier access
3. Local Business Updates
  - a. SG and UK Govt to clarify key worker status and any anomalies between regions
  - b. Request to SG to increase the rateable value for businesses to double the current £51K
  - c. Applicants for CBILS are still being told there is a wait of up to 12 weeks. Concern banks need to move quicker
  - d. Urge to keep momentum going and communication open with all businesses
  - e. First Moray Chamber of Commerce webinar went well and another one planned with Moray Council, HIE and BG in attendance to answer any questions in open and controlled environment
  - f. FSB website has been updated for ease of use and translation into several languages
  - g. FSB have contacted SG to recognise those who are falling through the gap eg. working from home or those working from vehicles, to access new emergency grants/loans
  - h. Call to work collaboratively with other national governments for best practice examples

- i. Businesses still do not know when they will receive their cash
  - j. Clarity required about those letting rooms and self employed
  - k. Moray Tourism and Elgin BID received notification of online abuse towards self-catering and caravan sites who have remained open. Need a way to identify which businesses are accommodating those in essential key worker positions to avoid unnecessary conflict
  - l. Elgin BID have sent out a survey to their members to gauge the support already received by businesses and what else needs to be done
  - m. Applications to the BID Resilience Fund have been submitted
  - n. Request to allow for flexibility on parking restrictions within Elgin High Street to allow for medical supplies to be delivered
  - o. Hold on events until possibly as late as December but review on a month by month basis
  - p. Increase in online shopping and home deliveries nationally with companies finding ways to diversify. BG hosting national webinars to inform businesses how to expand
  - q. HIE hosting a Resilience Forum for whole of Highlands and Islands region on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Details of outcome to be fed back to Moray area
  - r. Banks have relaxed rules on security and personal guarantees. HIE have been in contact with banks and further details to follow
  - s. BG hosting webinar on business funding
  - t. Pilot webinar to be launched by HIE Food and Drink team to encourage diversification
  - u. BG working on exit strategy
  - v. Details of the Food Fund have been released on the SCVO website
  - w. Free school meals funding and food voucher schemes launched for those who are eligible
4. Public Sector Update
- a. SG have announced more support for fishing industry and communities sector
  - b. Confirmed SG allowing one grant application per business compared to south of the border
  - c. Specific examples of those businesses affected eg. by banks to be fed back to Douglas offline
5. Next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm.
6. AOB
- a. Moray Chamber arranging meeting with Fergus Ewing MSP
  - b. Joint calls with national Chambers
  - c. Places for childcare for key workers still available
  - d. Reminder to commend local businesses for their positive action during this time

**Date and time of next meeting**

**Thursday 9th April 2.00pm – 3.00pm**