

Moray Business Resilience Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2020 (Skype call)

Action Points

Attendees:

Cllr Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council
Michael O'Donnell – Moray Council
Jim Grant – Moray Council
Donna Harper - MBWC
Gill Neill – Elgin BID
Fraser Grieve – SWA
Jan Bruce – SDS
Laurie Piper – Moray Speyside Tourism
Jane Munro - DWP
Fiona Robb - HIE
Stuart Black - HIE
Richard Lochhead – MSP
Craig Robertson – Business Gateway
David Groundwater - FSB

Apologies:

Sarah Medcraf – Moray Chamber of Commerce
Douglas Ross - MP
Jane Cumming – SCDI
Scott McKnockiter – HIE

1. Stuart Black opened meeting
2. Public Sector Update
 - a. Business grants have now closed. Moray Council have distributed almost £19M of funding for non-domestic rates
 - b. B&B funding now closed with 25 applications received and 13 successful in securing funding totalling £39k
 - c. £242k was paid out to 121 applicants for the Self Employed Income Scheme. A total of 160 applications were received
 - d. Survey now live on Moray Council website and encourage members to pass on to local businesses to complete
 - e. Almost £1M was paid out to businesses in Moray for the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund that has now closed
 - f. Early Stage Growth Challenge Fund being launched 20th July via FindBusinessSupport website

3. Private Sector Update

- a. Those businesses that have been able to open up in the past week have been receiving support from ElginBID to make best use of the space they have
- b. Although footfall is low, getting reassurance from wearing of face masks is increasing confidence
- c. Tourism sector are busy with self-catering bookings but hotels working at only 20-25% capacity not just in Moray but nationally and especially in cities. Moray Speyside Tourism are engaging with SG where appropriate to provide additional support
- d. TV advert being filmed and bloggers are reporting in the region. Visit Scotland promotion campaign engaging positively with Moray
- e. Frustrations that guidance is being released too late to allow businesses to operate effectively, especially in the beauty industry where certain treatments involving close personal contact will still not be allowed. Refer to UKG guidance currently, SG guidance will follow. Some businesses that are allowed to open are choosing not as unsure of the guidance
- f. 3770 on Universal Credit in March, 6303 in May and a further 331 in June
- g. 18-24 year olds priority group and concentrating on upskilling and retraining
- h. Virtual Community Hub being set up where partners will be invited to engage
- i. www.moraypathways.co.uk relaunched and [vlog published](#)
- j. Looking at options for grant funding to upskill and re-train. JCP can help with providing funds for short courses that require certification and transferable skills to appropriate jobs eg in construction and care, supporting apprenticeships and employers with digital, retail and hospitality courses
- k. If anyone in contact with local businesses that require support for filling vacancies - where there is a lack of trained applicants, JCP can help out with re-training for short/sharp certificated courses. Anyone wishing further information should e-mail us at jcpmoray@employerandpartnershipteam@dwp.gov.uk
- l. Preparing to re-open some of the Job Centres to allow for face to face contact with those who do not have access online
- m. Jobs Fair in September has been cancelled but looking at setting up a virtual job fair where there will be a vacancy listed every minute. 31/07/20 #CareinMoray 01/10/20 #RetailinMoray. Advertising via Twitter @jcpinNorthScot
- n. Working with DYW Moray, videoing employers and staff to advertise what it is like working in each sector to encourage people to apply for jobs in those sectors.
- o. The [New Enterprise Allowance](#) helps those wanting to set up new ventures.
- p. Sector based work academies
- q. DWP offering Flexible Support Fund which covers help for customers with travel to interview costs, clothes for interviews, anything that will help remove a barrier to employment, training costs and Grant Funding
- r. Only half of the distilleries in Speyside are planning to open. SWA supporting the hospitality industry through their mentoring gateway but it is trial and error predicting the footfall. There is too much variation in the guidance between the visitor centres, cafes and shops to be consistent to embrace tourists where there is a lack of local visitors
- s. There now appears to be a softening of community acceptance on tourism and the coordinated message is reaching the right audience and nervousness has eased
- t. More than 130 businesses in Moray have signed up to the Good to Go scheme

- u. Visitors are prepared to pay more for accommodation with flexible cancellation policies in place. Reassurance that cleanliness is the determining factor when booking
- v. SDS involved in process to re-set and re-start with an appointment only system
- w. School leavers are changing their plans, not wanting to leave Moray necessarily for big cities. Each school leaver will be contacted individually to make sure they have a plan and to be able to access support accordingly. Staff planning to get back into schools
- x. Exam helpline being set up as concern that exam results will not be as expected
- y. BG Survive and Thrive programme to enhance the service already offered
- z. 14 new start ups in June and a further 16 in July is positive

4. AOB

- a. None

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 23rd July 2.00pm – 3.00pm