

## **Moray Business Resilience Meeting**

**Monday 4 May 2020 (Skype call)**

### **Action Points**

#### Attendees:

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

#### Apologies:

None, all attended

1. Stuart Black opened meeting and thanked everyone for their time, round table introductions followed
2. Actions from previous meeting.
  - a. None
3. Public Sector Update
  - a. BG assessing applications for the newly self-employed
  - b. Online system for CTH and PERF experiencing problems due to volume of applications. Technical issues now been ironed out and system back up and running. Online livechat facility now also available after the pre-application stage. Attachments can be emailed if having difficulty uploading on the system (colleagues to liaise with Scott)
  - c. Bounce Back loans now live and a few companies have already applied. Keeping updated with progress
  - d. Moray Chamber and LA to manage expectations of businesses reopening when approvals are given
  - e. Health Protection guidelines have now been amended for social distancing to be a legal duty
  - f. Companies that have additional properties now able to apply to LA for rates relief

- g. Support for tourism industry and expectation for more people to book staycations until international situation known
  - h. FSB assisting with processing grant applications
  - i. Webinars being provided on furlough and also 'un-furloughing' when it gradually eases through different sectors
  - j. Work continuing in the background for a recovery stage when it happens
  - k. NHS Grampian are dealing with testing of care sector workers. Employers are encouraged to contact NHS Grampian to follow up tests for frontline workers and those returning to work if required
4. Private Sector Update
- a. Application process for PERF is viewed as onerous for small businesses who do not have finance know-how so additional support is required
  - b. Rural areas more innovative and small business more resilient which should give more optimism
  - c. Public transport can be less important for businesses in rural communities as private transport is used more
  - d. Self-caterers are now receiving their grants
5. AOB
- a. SG to issue press release on communities funding that has been paid out

**Date and time of next meeting**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm – 3.00pm**