

Moray Business Resilience Meeting
Thursday 26 March 2020 (Skype call)

Action Points

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

Richard Lochhead – MSP

1. Stuart Black opened meeting and thanked everyone for their time, round table introductions followed
2. Actions from previous meeting.
 - a. Michael announced press release from Moray Council and MyMoray.co.uk updated with details of Moray Business Resilience Forum
 - b. Grants systems is now up and running
 - c. With reference to non-domestic rate payers - note to remind businesses that they need to submit bank statements along with application to speed up the process
 - d. Still some finer details to be agreed with SG
 - e. Keyworkers Cat 1 list issued. SG to clarify Cat 2 workers
 - f. Q&A received from businesses to be fed back to Moray Council
 - g. Moray Council to provide a FAQs area
 - h. Number of grant applications (65) is significantly lower than other similar local authorities. Moray Council to issue another press release and liaise with non-domestic rates team
3. Local Business Updates
 - a. Concerns from businesses about loan eligibility and would prefer overdraft facility

- b. Differences between Scotland and England on rateable values and grant assistance
 - c. Business owners are using personal savings to pay staff in order to keep them employed
 - d. Difficulty of communication and different responses from banks
 - e. Technical questions need a response
 - f. Furlough concerns and knock on effect of other types of leave, eg sick leave, holiday leave, etc
 - g. Still need more support for self employed
 - h. Querying how businesses process payroll
 - i. Forward business planning. Business Gateway can assist with process for strategic planning medium – long term
 - j. Issues of whether employers must meet minimum wage requirements despite reduced 80% wage limit. Clarified by David this is the case. Minimum wage increases 1st April
 - k. Other funding available eg. Digital Development Loan (£5k-100k) and third sector funding to feed out to anchor organisations in the region of 10k-15k
 - l. Application forms for community assistance to be streamlined
 - m. Concerns for leaseholders and tenants
4. Public Sector Update
- a. Any concerns raised relating to Council funding to be fed up through chain to Michael.
 - b. Holyrood to meet next week to legislate self catering
 - c. Individual business cases in relation to banks to be notified to Douglas Ross to raise to MP hotline
 - d. Job Retention Scheme – money to be paid to the employer
 - e. Business Gateway and HIE to liaise on support for non-account managed businesses
5. Frequency of meetings agreed twice weekly Monday and Thursdays at 2.00pm
6. AOB
- a. Highland Council have launched helpline but no plans for Moray Council follow suit. Signposting in place already and MyMoray website being updated
 - b. Moray Council/MEP media used to promote grants
 - c. Business Gateway have opened webinars for businesses to develop soft skills

Date and time of next meeting

Monday 30th March 2.00pm – 3.00pm