

Moray Business Resilience Meeting

Thursday 7 May 2020 (Skype call)

Action Points

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

Jim Grant – Moray Council
Scott McKnockiter – HIE
Fraser Grieve – SWA

1. Stuart Black opened meeting and thanked everyone for their time, round table introductions followed
2. Actions from previous meeting.
 - a. Update from Moray Council: 1136 applications received; 1117 approved to the value of £12.385M.
 - b. 71 applications now rejected due to technical changes in guidance received on the 2nd phase of funding
3. Public Sector Update
 - a. Some self-employed still not fitting criteria for New Starter grants but successful applications are being paid out within 6 days
 - b. Strong demand for PERF, staff working over the weekend to assess applications. Those who do not fit eligibility will be signposted accordingly to other forms of funding and supported by HIE/BG. It is difficult to support all
 - c. CBILS/Bounce Back an alternative if grants are not suitable
 - d. A smaller grant could assist companies with applications for CBILS as they would be in a better financial position
 - e. All applications for communities funding have now been approved and money paid out

- f. LA to promote grants to ensure all who qualify receive appropriate funds with flexibility for additional properties
 - g. Issues for supply chains once lockdown lifted
 - h. Keen to support those falling through the gaps especially individuals using their own personal finance risking losing their homes
 - i. PACE will step up towards the end of June when most furlough will end. 45 day notice period for redundancies will start soon
4. Private Sector Update
- a. Reports of companies being rejected for funding, including CBILS, as serviceability cannot be proved. However, other companies originally rejected are now being successful in securing grants/loans
 - b. Split opinions on Bounce Back loans although there has been a huge demand
 - c. Politicians are welcoming the steps companies are taking to get back to work
 - d. Accountants and agents not able to apply for new funding on behalf of self-employed. This has been set by HMRC who need to contact individuals and not a third party
 - e. Clarity required for self-employed who have already applied for support grant whether they can further apply for new funding options
 - f. Looking to Far East for guidance on what people are now spending money on now they are getting back to normal. People are cautious to spend but trend appears to be demand for top-end products, including houses
 - g. Advice sought from businesses when returning from furlough
 - h. Tourism industry anticipating a date for lockdown to be lifted to enable them to get ahead of the game and start promoting
 - i. Tourism businesses are applying for all grants they are eligible for in case they miss out. DMO is a possible route for funding
5. AOB
- a. None

Date and time of next meeting

Monday 11th May 2.00pm – 3.00pm