

## **Moray Business Resilience Meeting**

**Thursday 23 April 2020 (Skype call)**

### **Action Points**

#### Attendees:

Cllr Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council  
Jim Grant – Moray Council  
Michael O'Donnell – Moray Council  
Douglas Ross - MP  
Sarah Medcraf – Moray Chamber of Commerce  
Donna Harper - 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  
Laura Mitchell – on behalf of Richard Lochhead

#### Apologies:

Richard Lochhead – MSP  
Stephen Sheridan - SDS

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, 1105 applications received, 771 paid with a value of £8.4M.
  - b. 20 rejections already processed that are either not eligible, their rateable value too high or fall into the Small Business Bonus Scheme category. Moray Council will keep track of reasons why criteria not met to see if flexibility can be applied throughout to review at a local level
  - c. Infographic produced for publishing on website. To be updated after each meeting
3. Local Business Updates
  - a. Need to know how long the support will continue for
  - b. What will the framework for decision making look like when returning to work and support local businesses if it is safe for them to operate again

- c. Employers to come up with ways to meet social distancing requirements eg. by extending to working day/shift patterns to meet global orders and requirement to meet commitments especially with supply chain
  - d. 16k applications approved for CBILS with an average of £170k payout throughout the UK. Many still reluctant to apply. Banks to hopefully announce how many have been issued but equally what the decline rate is. FSB lobbying Government to increase the guarantee from 80% to 100% and focus on smaller businesses
  - e. Self-catering businesses are now starting to receive their grant payments but frustration for those who have not received any correspondence. Moray Council to follow up individually
  - f. Issues around companies who had registered their premises at beginning of March being rejected for the Small Business Bonus Scheme due to correspondence being lost in the system. Moray Council to investigate on case by case basis
  - g. Need to clarify support schemes for those with multiple properties
  - h. Identified a possible 20,000 people in the new self-employed category who require assistance across Scotland
  - i. Some seasonal companies unsure what to do about furlough of staff especially those who did not have staff on payroll at the 19<sup>th</sup> March but this is the definite cut off date
  - j. Issue of smaller distilleries relying on tourism trade whilst waiting for first sales require support
  - k. Encouraging self-caterers to continue to apply for funding
4. Public Sector Update
- a. Potential pathways for exit strategy announced by First Minister with need to address the long term practicalities.
  - b. The HMRC Job Retention Scheme was set up quickly to allow for payroll to be processed by end April but now finer detail on the scheme can be addressed
  - c. Princes Trust announced additional funding for younger entrepreneurs (18-30 year olds)
  - d. SG announced additional funding of £100M: £34M for newly self-employed to be administered by LAs; £20M Hardship Fund for Creative, Tourism and Hospitality; £45M Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund accessed through FindBusinessSupport platform. Funds to be released early May
5. AOB
- a. HIE and Moray College have been in discussions for a digital food and drink platform. Partners are invited to contribute and will be contacted in due course
  - b. Communities funding now being paid out. 7 anchor organisations awarded, 1 other in process and now reaching out to another 5. Identifying further organisations who may qualify for next round of funding to be launched on 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Date and time of next meeting**

**Monday 27th April 2.00pm – 3.00pm**