

Moray Business Resilience Meeting

Thursday 6 August 2020 (Skype call)

Action Points

Attendees:

Clare Lock - MBWC
Craig Robertson – Business Gateway
Fiona Robb - HIE
Fraser Grieve – SWA
Gill Neill – Elgin BID
Gemma Cruickshank – Elgin BID
Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council Laurie Piper – Moray Speyside Tourism
Michael O'Donnell – Moray Council
Richard Lochhead - MSP
Sarah Medcraf – Moray Chamber of Commerce
Scott McKnockiter – HIE
Stuart Black - HIE

Apologies:

David Groundwater - FSB
Douglas Ross - MP
Jan Bruce – SDS
Jane Cumming – SCDI
Jane Munro - DWP
Jim Grant – Moray Council
Laurie Piper – Moray Speyside Tourism
Stephen Sheridan – SDS

1. Stuart Black opened meeting
2. Public Sector Update
 - a. Funding to support additional seating in the town centre unsuccessful
 - b. A further push on publicity and promotion for up-coming council led webinars
 - c. BG fielding different enquiries and more interventions for start-ups with 52 in the last couple of months
 - d. Survive and Thrive programme to progress at end of August over the next 2 years
 - e. HIE awaiting details of the Hotel Recovery Fund and hope to be able to gather expressions of interest by the end of August
 - f. Self-Catering Support scheme opened on Monday for a period of 7 days
 - g. Business survey available on HIE website
 - h. HIE supporting more businesses with smaller interventions and liaising with BG and Moray Chamber

- i. Disappointing news of 65 redundancies at Johnstons'. Threat of further companies reaching the 20+ PACE threshold
- j. Although some businesses are closing, there are positive examples of business doing things well and finding new ways of working and encouraging figures for new business starts
- k. News about Aberdeen lockdown has hit home and made people more aware. Lessons to be learned and businesses are being more cautious managing social distancing. Aberdeenshire Council in consultation with Moray as a neighbouring council
- l. Council reconciling list of all individual businesses who have received rates relief. SG published summary of other grants awarded by region
- m. Concerns about Aberdeen responding positively and will review impact. Is there anything we can do as a preventative measure to assist the Council for a potential local lockdown?

3. Private Sector Update

- a. Businesses are now more familiar with opening and managing social distancing
- b. Recent nice weather has allowed seating outside and Elgin town centre has been busy
- c. Eat Out to Help Out scheme going well
- d. Trace and Protect app has been running successfully in Cairngorm National Park for over a month with over 10,000 users. Moray aims to deliver the same app sooner than expected with trials from different participants. Hoping for large scale press and TV coverage
- e. Connect You hub operated via Moray Chamber of Commerce is nearly live
- f. Malt Whisky Export Tariff review is due on Tuesday. This will decide whether it will be reduced or extended and if it will include blended whisky. Promote the #calltimeontariffs campaign as deadline is looming
- g. Five distillery visitor centres are now open with a further 2 are due to open in next couple of days. All have received visits from HSE and have the all clear to go
- h. Support of hospitality by the whisky industry. Media campaign reaching over 2M. 2nd tranche of the campaign will focus on keeping people safe
- i. MSP receiving feedback from public on what they see out and about. Allegations of a minority of licenced premises not following the rules but many good examples to be recognised
- j. Looking at whether it should be made mandatory to collect people's details to allow track and trace to be successful
- k. Interesting to find out the profile of those made redundant to be able to match skills and retrain accordingly
- l. Identify, through feedback from council webinars, any groups of businesses who have fallen through the funding gaps and support these first should further funding become available

4. AOB

- a. Case studies have been shared with SG via development officers and community anchor groups highlighting the extreme hardship and mental health issues surrounding communities

- b. Details of Foundation Scotland communities funding has been published
- c. Each member thanked Gill at Elgin BID personally for all her hard work and support for the region. Gemma Cruickshank will be taking over from Gill and members wished her well in her new role

Date and time of next meeting
Thursday 13th August 2.00pm – 3.00pm