

## **Moray Business Resilience Meeting**

**Thursday 28 May 2020 (Skype call)**

### **Action Points**

#### Attendees:

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

#### Apologies:

Stuart Black - HIE  
Richard Lochhead – MSP

1. Jim Grant opened meeting
2. Actions from previous meeting
  - a. 1540 grant applications received by Moray Council. Approvals stand at the value of £14.645M
  - b. 145 rejections
  - c. The Forum was asked on their thoughts from the emergency cabinet report previously circulated. Feeling that it is a useful summary with a snapshot of the situation and partners are invited to feed back to the working live document
3. Public Sector Update
  - a. To date £717k has been paid out on the PERF grant. Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Hardship funds now being paid out. Every application is bespoke and assessed across a consistent set of criteria by trained assessors, to ensure those businesses who need support the most or who are pivotal to our future economy will be funded. Many do not fit eligibility criteria. Those who have been rejected can appeal for their application to be reassessed

- b. Information will be published regarding the full appraisal process and a list of all successful applicants in due course
  - c. All grant awards will be published on the European Commission Competition database and information on all grant payments over £25,000 will also be published on HIE and Find Business Support websites
  - d. BG has now processed over £194k through the Self-Employed grants
  - e. Confirm over £15.5M has been paid into the Moray economy so far
  - f. Moray Council has a challenge to create a safe surface pedestrianisation to support the footfall. They will look into relaxing enforcement and reducing timescales to ease restrictions in providing outdoor seating for example for catering establishments
  - g. No details on any extensions to schemes have been issued to LAs
4. Private Sector Update
- a. Some self-caterers have still not applied for funding so it would be useful to know who these are
  - b. Elgin BID members are starting to plan for reopening premises but there is limited guidance and support to help them navigate what is required. It is best value to have practical resources – there is too much information but not enough help. Elgin BID have produced a [‘guidance leaflet’](#) which has been circulated to members
  - c. Conversations have changed in the private sector and businesses are ready to go back to normal as they understand the importance of what is involved. They want to help but not trip up and to feel safe
  - d. Guidance still required on the changes to the furlough scheme
  - e. Scottish Chambers are to receive funding from SG. Moray Chamber to put in bid
  - f. Tourism industry awaiting guidance from Visit Scotland to support opening region by region
  - g. Self-catering establishments providing accommodation for keyworkers only are still being visited by Trading Standards due to complaints being raised but can produce appropriate paperwork. Other self-catering providers are too apprehensive to re-open
  - h. Clarification still required on which premises are allowed to re-open and some concerns there are too many rules
  - i. Difficult conversations within the tourism sector realising that social distancing rules will just not work for them eg. coach tours and smaller hotels
5. AOB
- a. HIE gathering intelligence to feed back to SG for the future needs of the communities funding. Funding extension requests to the end of September now being considered and processed.

**Date and time of next meeting**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2.00pm – 3.00pm**