

Moray Growth Deal update

October-December 2025

Project updates

Bus Revolution project, m.connect on demand public transport services

The Bus Revolution project continues to improve access to public transport in Moray's towns and rural areas. Continuing the phase two expansion, more people are now benefiting from flexible and reliable travel options.



Key developments in Q4 (October-December 2025):

- New evening and weekend services launched.
- Additional driver recruitment completed.
- Feedback from residents and local groups is always valued, helping us to refine the service and guide future improvements.

Business Enterprise (BE) Hub

The BE Hub project is preparing to enter the delivery stage, moving closer to becoming a cornerstone of the **South Street regeneration project**.

Key updates for October-December 2025:

- Final steps of the Development Funding Agreement are being progressed between UHI Moray and Robertsons.
- Staffing models developed by UHI Moray.
- Curriculum development began.

Cultural Quarter

The Cultural Quarter project continues to advance on two key fronts - Elgin Town Hall and Grant Lodge.

Elgin Town Hall

- Contract signed with main contractor, Taylor & Fraser, site set up and construction works started.



Grant Lodge

- External funding applications submitted.
- Planning and listed building consent applications submitted.

Together, these developments mark steady progress in revitalising Elgin's historic centre and creating new opportunities for arts, heritage and tourism.

Digital Health

The Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre continues to deliver innovative trials and real-world testing in Moray. Highlights this quarter:

- A fifth Living Lab was activated.
- 12 new jobs now activated due to Rural Centre of Excellence (RCE) R&D activity.
- Successful Community Appointment Day hosted.

If you're interested in supporting the project or learning more about the digital health solutions being developed in Moray, visit the **[RCE website](#)**.

Project updates

Early Years STEM

The Early Years STEM project is well into delivery and making good progress. Its aim is to inspire children across Moray to enjoy science, technology, engineering and maths from a young age.

Key developments October-December 2025:

- Internal fit out of the STEM Starts Centre at Elgin Library completed.



- The mobile STEM Starts outreach vehicle started visiting schools, ensuring rural and remote communities benefit from high quality STEM engagement.
- Development of the STEM Learning Programme continues, to facilitate STEM learnings for our young people from the early years through to secondary and beyond.

This project represents a long-term investment in Moray's young people, helping to inspire creativity, build essential skills and strengthen the future workforce.

Housing Mix Delivery

The Housing Mix Delivery project continues to advance across several development sites. Its goal is to provide a mix of high-quality homes in both town centres and rural areas, supporting sustainable growth and thriving communities across Moray. This quarter's highlights include:

- **South Street, Elgin:** Enabling works complete. Plans underway for construction to start in April 2026.
- **Speyview, Aberlour:** Phase 1, construction of 39 affordable homes due to completion, March 2026.
- **Dallas Dhu, Forres:** Dallas Dhu, Forres: phase one construction underway.
- **Lochyhill, Forres & Hillside Farm, Dufftown:** Masterplan complete.

Skills and Innovation intervention

The Skills and Innovation project is being reshaped to replace the original MAATIC proposal, which was withdrawn in 2024. Key developments for the quarter include:

- Potential skills proposals have been developed and are under review following a series of workshops.
- Consultants appointed to support the progression of proposals.
- Once approved, the project will focus on equipping local people with high-value skills needed by key employers in Moray.

MICM

The Manufacturing Innovation Centre for Moray (MICM) is progressing well and will provide a hub for innovation, technology, and support for Moray's manufacturing sector. Updates from October to December include:

- Construction on phase one completed with snagging taking place.
- Elevator UK appointed as MICM service operator entering into 6 month mobilisation and consultation phase.

Once operational, the centre will help local businesses adopt new technologies, improve productivity and grow sustainably.

(January-March 2026)

Looking ahead, the next quarter is expected to bring significant milestones:

- ▶ **Construction progresses on Elgin Town Hall redevelopment.**
- ▶ **South Street - Agreements for UHI, Robertsons and the Council to be finalised, with preparations for construction to start**
- ▶ **Early Years STEM Starts Centre launches and outreach offer increases.**
- ▶ **Decision on the revised Skills and Innovation intervention by Moray Council.**
- ▶ **m.connect continues phase two roll-out.**
- ▶ **MICM service launches and building opens.**
- ▶ **Grant Lodge Planning and funding applications decisions.**
- ▶ **Speyview housing mix delivery units are allocated.**