

Moray Growth Deal update

January-March 2026

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 Q1 (January-March 2026):

- The Bus Revolution project has been preparing to move into Phase 3 of delivery, focusing on strengthening internal systems, refining the m.connect network, and using mobile data and AI to support evidence led service planning.
- Continued investment in fleet and infrastructure and the planned expansion of the 314 service to improve connections between Dallas Dhu and Forres town centre.
- Significant progress has been made on EV charging infrastructure planning, with preferred sites identified across Elgin and Forres and further checks progressing on access, permissions, and electrical capacity.



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 January-March 2026:

- The BE Hub has now entered formal delivery stage with construction due to begin on the South Street site mid to late Q1 (Apr to Jun).
- Pre-operational phase of the BE Hub continues within two key areas of development:
 - The Recruitment Plan
 - The Curriculum Plan

Cultural Quarter

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



Elgin Town Hall

- CQ co-hosted Elgin's first film festival with Elgin Town Hall for the Community, Spotlight Film Hub Scotland and Moray Playhouse.
- Internal and external demolitions complete at Elgin Town Hall, foundations dug for new Foyer and new Studio Space

Project updates

Grant Lodge

- External funding secured from the National Lottery (£212,427) and Scottish Government (£1.1M).
- Grant Lodge planning and listed building consent completed.
- Development Officer appointed for Grant Lodge Trust with support from Architectural Heritage Fund.



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:

- All Living Labs have completed multiple co-design and development phases and are now largely in the final stage of live testing.
- Smart housing technologies, data platforms and digital care pathways are being tested with delivery partners and users to understand the benefits, and areas of improvements.
- Continued funding activity, national partnerships and local industry engagement are supporting plans to sustain and build on the project beyond the current phase of the programme.

If you're interested in supporting the project or learning more about the digital health solutions being developed in Moray, visit the [RCE website](#) or Join the RCE Personalised Digital Innovation Health and Care Showcase event celebrating how local individuals, partners and organisations have worked together over the last four years to improve health and care in rural communities across Moray. Interested? Come along and join us at UHI Moray on June 11th from 13:30 to 15:00.

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 January-March 2026:

- Internal fit out of the STEM Starts Centre at Elgin Library completed.
- Official launch of the STEM Starts Discovery Centre in Elgin at a special event.



- 34 businesses and stakeholders joined us for a Business Breakfast to tour the centre, hear more about STEM Starts, and explore new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.
- HRH Duke of Gloucester and HM Lord Lieutenant of Moray visited for a guided tour of the facility and shared enthusiastic feedback.

Housing Mix Delivery

The Housing Mix Delivery project continues to advance across several development sites. This quarter's highlights include:

- **South Street, Elgin:** All legal agreement complete and signed, with construction set to commence on site mid to late Q1 (Apr to Jun).
- **Speyview, Aberlour:** Construction of 39 affordable homes complete and first tenants moved in.
- **Dallas Dhu, Forres:** Phase 1 plan revision underway to ensure site viability. Construction expected to commence early 2027.
- **Hillside, Dufftown Masterplan:** Planning and Regulatory Services Committee approved the Masterplan for consultation in May.



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:

- Aim of the funding is to develop a proposal that delivers current and future skills needs for the region.
- Consultants were appointed in January who have worked to develop a strategic outline case for a project proposal.
- Expected that governance approvals will be sought over the summer, with a view to work on the outline business case commencing in late Q2 2026/27.

MICM

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

- Following the appointment of Elevator to run the Centre, work has progressed at pace to commence engagement with the sector.
- Following a soft launch in the January to March quarter, services will be fully mobilised during April to June quarter.

Priorities for the next quarter (April-June 2026)

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

- ▶ **Construction progresses on Elgin Town Hall redevelopment, steel installation for extension.**
- ▶ **South Street construction begins for BE Hub and Housing Mix.**
- ▶ **Early Years STEM Starts Centre launches and outreach offer increases.**
- ▶ **Decision on the revised Skills and Innovation intervention by Moray Council.**
- ▶ **m.connect begins rollout of Workforce Mobility employer engagement surveys.**
- ▶ **MICM ministerial launch and building opening.**
- ▶ **Speyview housing mix delivery units handed over.**
- ▶ **Hillside, Dufftown Masterplan consultation in May.**