



Grow population EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

STRATEGY TALK

MORAY GROWTH BID

TOPIC		
What is it?	Why?	Action
<p>The Moray Growth Funding Bid is Moray Council's proposal to leverage in strategic investment from the UK and Scottish Governments and partners in the public and private sector to stimulate economic growth. It is like the "City Deals" which Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire and Highland have developed, but because Moray doesn't technically contain one of the recognised Scottish cities, the funding model we are using is slightly different, although both focus on growth. Over the next few months Moray will work with our neighbouring cities to identify any areas where our Growth Bid can be linked into their City Deals.</p> <p>The focus in Scottish deals has been on working in partnership with others to deliver an economic stimulus that no one partner could deliver alone, and that goes beyond business as usual, creating a tangible return on investment. Collectively, the deals can help to draw in the capital investment funding which local authorities have found it increasingly difficult to provide alone, improving the Scottish economy as a whole.</p> <p>Each funding deal takes up to two years to develop to the point where an agreement in principle is reached, and then a similar amount of time to flesh out in more detail the projects which</p>	<p>The key policies when developing a growth deal include the Scottish Government's "Scotland's Agenda for Cities" which also extends to regional economies like that in Moray and the national Economic Strategy.</p> <p>In terms of these policies, Scotland's regions are expected to drive growth in the economy by increasing their competitiveness and reducing inequality. This will benefit the local population by focussing on increasing internationalisation in trade and industry, boosting investment and innovation and supporting inclusive growth.</p> <p>It's important to remember that economic development isn't just about industry, commerce and jobs, but also about education, health and the infrastructure we need to live well and happily. So inclusive growth means providing fair access to these things for everyone.</p> <p>This fits in well with Moray Economic Strategy, the key aims of which are to grow our population, create new high quality jobs and raise wage levels.</p> <p>Against this policy background, work with stakeholders across Moray has identified 4 key areas on which our growth bid should focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our key sectors – these 	<p>Over the next two years a huge amount of work will be needed to create and refine the terms of the Growth Bid.</p> <p>Because economic development cuts across many areas of Council and Community Planning Partnership activity, this will involve time and effort across a vast range of services.</p> <p>The concept of partnership working is absolutely fundamental to the growth bid, and so it's important that we all know what's involved so that the small group of officers leading this programme are supported.</p> <p>Over the coming months a range of people will be asked to participate in workshops to help to scope out the bid projects. The services most closely connected to the 4 key areas on which the bid will be focussed will be most closely involved.</p> <p>The potential prize for Moray is huge. Government funding for the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire City Deal is up to £250 million over 10 years, with a further £254 million pledged from the Scottish Government for four capital infrastructure projects. The Highland Deal has drawn in £135 million from the Scottish Government and £53 million from the UK Government. Whilst councils are also required to contribute substantially to the Bid costs, with the right Bid, Moray would hope to draw in a</p>

<p>will together provide the economic catalyst for growth at which point the full deal agreement is signed. This means that the focus for growth deals tends to be on medium to long term growth.</p> <p>Work to develop a Moray bid began in late 2016 and it is hoped that an agreement in principle will be possible by late 2017/early 2018, but much will depend on the extent to which the funding objectives of the UK and Scottish Governments are seen to have been met by the initial bid proposals. Every bid evolves over time, with projects going through a number of versions or iterations before funders are satisfied. The timescale for this process of refinement is hard to predict.</p>	<p>include food and drink, manufacturing, construction and renewables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business support, skills and employability • Moray as a Place – this includes a focus on our quality of life, natural environment and heritage • Connections – this includes our roads, transportation, digital connectivity and other infrastructure like schools and housing <p>Along with our public and private sector partners, officers are now developing a vision for the bid, and identifying the projects that would help to deliver that vision. A series of workshops have been held and a long list of over a hundred potential projects has been created. That long list will then be refined and outline high level business cases prepared. Once that has been done, negotiations will begin with the UK and Scottish Governments on reaching an agreement in principle.</p> <p>A guiding factor in the whole process is that those who contribute the funding expect a return on their investment. This is very closely monitored and measured, with payment being conditional on the expected economic benefits being realised. This means that a lot of time is spent on making the financial and economic case both for the whole bid package and vision, but also for each individual project.</p>	<p>similar scale of funding, commensurate with our size.</p>
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