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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

*In order to secure its future and to be financially sustainable, the tourism industry in Moray is in the process of organising a vote amongst its members to create a new tourism body, funded by a levy on all tourism related businesses in Moray.*

*This was the theme of the annual tourism conference held in Elgin Town Hall on 8 November when the Chair of Visit Scotland gave the key note address.*

*Tourism is an increasingly important part of the Moray economy and it is vital it has a viable future if tourism is to grow and expand to its full potential.*

## FROM THE CHAMBER

*As the Council commences the next round of budget deliberations it is important to monitor day-to-day expenditure.*

*I was therefore pleased to see that by keeping a keen eye on how we procure goods and services, annual savings of £1.7m have been achieved.*

*The Council plays a key role in supporting local business and industry by providing premises for rent located all across Moray. Target occupancy levels and rental income have exceeded targets which allows the Council to continue to invest in these premises for the benefit of those many businesses and industrial concerns which are so important to the Moray economy.*

*As well as supporting business and industry the Council also supports many sports clubs and other leisure activities throughout Moray by letting halls and pitches at nominal rents.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

### # 5 December

*Attending the Long Service Awards and Star Awards taking place at Elgin Academy.*

### # 10 December

*Participating in a workshop at Elgin Academy with public sector partners such as Police Scotland and NHS Grampian, looking ahead as we continue to work together on the priorities of our communities:*

### # 17 December

*I'm presenting the Keystone Awards. These awards (developed by SCVO) are a Quality Assurance Award for village halls and community centres which show the organisation are fully aware of their role and responsibility in delivering a fully functioning facility.*

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

*Each week on our social media channels we've been outlining the activity carried out by our gritting crews. Last week they hit a milestone - in total this season they've gritted more than 10,000 miles. Thanks to our hardworking colleagues for keeping us safe and moving.*

## THANK YOU

*I would like to thank all staff for the continued hard work and thank in particular the Council's Heads of Service. As reported in my September notebook the Council has gone through a restructure of senior management. Change like this is always difficult and I am grateful to my Heads of Service for their commitment and dedication throughout this process whilst continuing to run Council services*