



HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS SCOTLAND PROGRAMMES 2007–2013

Community Planning Partnership Plan

This form should be used by Local Authorities to apply for Structural Funding for Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Plans only. Please note that this form does not constitute registration of any individual organisation who may in the future apply for funding. The appropriate registration form must be completed if the organisation has not yet been confirmed as eligible to apply directly for European Structural Funds assistance.

Proposed Programme	ESF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ERDF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CPP Area	Moray	
Organisation	The Moray Council	
Proposed Priority/Priorities		
Proposed ERDF Total Project Costs	£2,034,767	
Proposed ERDF Total Eligible Costs	£2,034,767	
Proposed Grant Rate (%)	40%	
Proposed ERDF Grant Requested	£806,707	
Proposed ESF Total Project Costs	£437,587	
Proposed ESF Total Eligible Costs	£437,587	
Proposed Grant Rate (%)	46.9%	
Proposed ESF Grant Requested	£205,293	
Plan Start Date	November 2008	

PLAN PROPOSALS

Detail the various activities to be supported and how these will be implemented (please ensure it is clear which Fund and Priority these are expected to be applied under and how they fit with the chosen Priority):

The Moray Community Planning Partnership overarching Priorities for 2006 – 2010 are:

- Protecting and Enhancing the Environment
- Working for Increased Prosperity
- Achieving a Healthy and Caring Community
- Building Stronger Communities
- Achieving a Safer Community
- Improving Travel Facilities, Choices and Safety
- Investing in Children and Young People

This is being updated through the Single Outcome Agreement, The Moray Council's new additional priorities of Rural -, Tourism & Economic Development and the Moray 2020 Strategy, all designed to address the economic challenges Moray is facing.

Even so Moray is not geographically featured in the Fragile Area map; it is recognised that the area is economically fragile due to the following key issues:

- 21% of the economy is reliant on the two RAF bases and the recent threat of reductions in personnel highlighted the major impact that it would have.
- Whilst Moray enjoys an overall high employment rate of 76.6% in comparison to UK average at 69.2%, it has the highest proportion of low- paid workers in Scotland. The report 'Towards a Living Wage' published by the Scottish Low Pay Unit, shows that 52.4% of workers in Moray earn less than £7.58 per hour compared to the Scottish average of 35.1%. This is mirrored in the weekly gross median wage for full time employees of only £362.40, which has consistently been the lowest in Scotland since the 1990s. (ASHE-2005) This is compounded by a generally high level of part-time employment and a workforce skills base, which is particularly weak at higher level qualifications (13%). (SNS data)
- Another such indicator is Moray's GVA, which at £1.26 billion in 2003, was 6% below the Scottish and 12% below the UK average (Moray 2020 Strategy). Since 1993 output per resident has been on average 15% below the Scottish output and 19% below the UK. (ONS Statbase, Regional Accounts & Dream timetracks)
- The main sectoral employment trends between 2001-2005 highlight reductions in construction - 4.8 (Scotland + 8.3%) and in banking & finance - 1.4 % in Moray (Scotland + 12.4 %). Tourism related jobs represent a significant component of employment in Moray, with heritage tourism and outdoor activities particularly strong. However, the number of tourism-related jobs in Moray remained almost static between 2001 and 2005, whereas in Scotland as a whole, employment in the sector increased by 6.7%. (Source: ABI / Moray Rural Strategy)
- Fuel Poverty in Moray is 21% in comparison to Scotland at 13% with access to services such as transport, education, shopping and petrol stations in comparison to Scotland is considerably poor, particular in the rural areas of Moray and presents social and economic disadvantage. (www.sns.gov.uk / Moray Rural Strategy)

In 2001 the HIE area was extended to bring the entirety of the Moray Council area within the HIE boundary. In response to the 2006 NUTS Review, the European Commission decided to reflect the change in amending the boundary between Highlands and Islands and NorthEast Scotland NUTS2 areas. Due to the timing, it had no effect on Moray's eligibility for the present

Structural Fund Programmes and the Council's area remains to be divided with the East of Moray (population 64416 – 823.87 km²) coming under the Lowland & Upland Scotland Programme and the West (population 22524 – 1428.22 km²) under H&I Programme. However for the purpose of the fragile area map it includes the data from the East of Moray distorting the fact that the West of Moray is particularly fragile, which includes areas within the Cairngorms National Park such as Tomintoul with a population of just 725 on 383.34 km² and Forres as one of the priority settlement identified as one of Moray's areas heavily dependent on a single sector and facing an impending economic shock.

Under the Lowland & Upland Scotland Programme (LUPS), the East of Moray is one of 10 Local Authority areas, eligible for the ERDF Rural Development Priority, which mirrors the Highlands & Islands ERDF Priority 3. To address Moray's economic & rural issues some of the proposed actions are planned to be delivered Moray wide, seeking support under LUPS and HIPP with the smaller community projects being contained within the LEADER bid, which is also led by Moray's Community Planning Partnership.

In the development of the Community Partnership proposal, projects went through a selection process, which had to meet the local strategic priorities of the CPP, the Single Outcome Agreement & The Moray Council's priorities; all contributing to integrated social inclusion / regeneration and meeting on a national level the targets of the H & I ERDF Priority 3 or ESF Priority 1, the Scottish Governments Economic Development five Strategic Objectives and contributing to addressing the Lisbon agenda of promoting economic growth and sustainable employment within a rural context.

ERDF

As Moray has very few developments regarding Renewable Energy / Green designs, several projects are being developed. Within the LUPS area it is planned to pilot 3 industrial business sites using green technology. A renewable energy audit for Village Halls is presently being undertaken, enabling community groups to install with the assistance of LEADER funding sustainable energy sources. Within the H&I area of Moray, 2 Bio-Mass pilot schemes are being developed and under this bid the following project is proposed:

Moray Bio-Energy Centre is a Social Enterprise, recently set up to provide educational and research facilities in the production of renewable energy, using locally sourced products from Farm and Forestry for Community groups, as well as assisting in reducing fuel poverty. The Enterprise consists of members from UHI, NorBuild, Forestry Commission, Highland Birchwood, Forres Community Woodland and The Moray Council. The proposal builds on a successfully delivered European Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) project by the Forestry Commission with a wood pellet machine being installed at NorBuild, a small hardwood sawmill. As the NPP project is now finished, a long-term lease agreement for the machine has been concluded between the Forestry Commission and The Moray Bio-Energy Centre. However to maximise its full potential, it is proposed to create a suitable building for the production of wood pellets, which also will be used as a training facility. It will provide additional storage, drying facility for wood chip and sawdust, conveyor systems for processing and production and provide the essential link for the above renewable energy projects. All income generated from the project will be re-invested into furthering the Moray Bio-Energy Centre's aims and objectives.

Under the CPP priority of 'Achieving a Healthy and Caring Community', the Governments theme to help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities and under the H&I ERDF Priority 3 the following project is proposed:

Dependent Care Facility - This project will establish a multi-functional Mental Health Resource Centre in Forres. A building has been identified but requires conversion and adaptation to make it fit for purpose. This is a partnership between Moray Council and NHS Grampian to provide a hub to support vulnerable adults with mental health support needs. The aims of the Centre will be to:

- support beneficiaries with mental health issues so they are able to return to work
- act as a hub for the development of Employment Support Services in the area facilitating access to basic skills development, vocational training, developing care skills, volunteering, and job search for working age adults with mental illness.
- support beneficiaries so that they have the confidence and skills to remain in the workplace once employed.
- support employers so that they in turn can offer jobs and ongoing support for beneficiaries with mental health issues.
- support those with mental health issues, including dementia, and their carers so that they can remain living at home by providing a mixture of social care and planned treatment.

Under the CPP's priorities of 'Building Stronger Communities & Working for Increased Prosperity', the H&I ERDF Priority 3; conversion and adaptation to enterprise / community centres / facilities that offer employment or training opportunities and the development of e-skills / learning / childcare / commerce facilities especially those employing 'green design' principles a number of interlinked projects are proposed, which will be also developed under the LUPS programme. They include:

Dufftown and Rothes Learning Centres - This project involves the conversion and adaptation of primary school facilities in Dufftown and Rothes to achieve integrated library and learning centres that will also act as community and community planning resource points. This forms part of a strategic approach for rural communities across Moray with 13 Learning Centres being planned. For the Lowland Upland Scotland area proposals in Fochabers, Lossiemouth, Hopeman, Portknockie and Burghead have been consulted with ESEP and applications for funding will be submitted later on this year.

The project is being developed within a community planning strategic approach to lifelong learning that seeks to establish a continuum of learning opportunities involving key partners and that recognises the essential need to make learning opportunities and skills development available, targeted at a local level. The project will see the development of 2 e-skills/learning facilities and the development of 1 childcare facility (at Rothes) in the H&I area of Moray and in particular targeting the Speyside area with 25% of the working population being deprived. (Scottish Multiple Deprivation Statistics / Speyside Local Community Network Locality Profile 2007).

Immediate impacts will be to: reduce travel, thereby encouraging more local involvement; provide an accessible locus and focus for learning, skills development and community involvement; and strengthen a strategic approach to the provision of targeted learning and a continuum of opportunities and relevant qualifications. Targeted groups will be supported to develop skills to move towards sustainable employment.

The project will:

- Ensure delivery by the Libraries Service, Moray College, Open University and Learndirect Scotland of ICT and other learning opportunities through a target approach to the unemployed, returners to work, reluctant learners, learners with access difficulties, general learners etc.
- Provide a base and appropriate space for Essential Skills literacy and numeracy, ESOL for migrant workers, parenting skills classes etc

- Provide access to distance learning
- Provide access to high speed 16MB Broadband
- Provide a meeting place and resource for community groups etc
- Provide a base for community consultation, information and involvement
- Assist parents in supporting their children's learning, particularly those parents who traditionally have been harder to reach

The Moray College Greshop proposal will enable the extension of the existing small construction training facility in the Greshop Estate in Forres and be able to offer a greater range of specialist training. The facility would be equipped for training in building and construction using "green design principles". The existing site offers training in joinery and bricklaying. The new facility would be able to train local people in the market for building and repair techniques, specifically related to sustainable housing and buildings. There is a need for training in these new techniques to promote energy efficiency and the use of sustainable materials within the construction industry. The computer provision would be extended to incorporate the use of all available training and information sources. Although located in Forres the project will offer training to include the remote areas of Moray and complement the More Chances, More Choices proposal. It is planned to mirror this initiative in the East of Moray through a Heritage Construction Training facility also seeking funding under the Lowland & Upland Scotland programme.

In the Tomintoul area, there are very few opportunities for new business developments & employment opportunities as a consequence of remoteness and declining traditional industries. The two proposals are being submitted under Priority 2 and are linked through aiming at the tourist market, increasing visitors numbers, creating business spaces & employment, whilst supporting community initiatives and providing additional space.

Glenlivet Mountain Bike Trails - The main aim of this project is to develop the potential of the Glenlivet Estate as a centre for mountain biking, through the construction and development of a network of challenging off-road and downhill routes in the Glenlivet Estate forests, linking the already established cross country trail network of cycle tracks. It is recognised that the existing cross country trail network is challenging, diverse, well laid out and managed, but that it is insufficient in itself to attract large numbers of mountain bike enthusiasts, particularly those looking for more technically difficult downhill routes – which is where the growth in mountain bike demand and mountain bike technology lies.

The principal objectives of the project are to:

- Improve the economy of rural Moray and in particular to develop opportunities for all-year round outdoor activities, which help support local businesses and improve, the prospects for the Lecht Ski Centre – given uncertain and variable winter snow conditions.
- Attract additional visitors to the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area for the benefit of the areas tourism economy
- Stimulate the development of a privately operated mountain bike business to provide employment in the area
- Stimulate new forms of product and service development within local tourism enterprises
- Manage sustainable recreational activities in an environmentally sensitive way
- Support a diverse land-based economy, enhancing commercial, environmental and social infrastructure.

The two principal elements of these proposals are:

- Construction of an 8 mile downhill walking and cycling trail linking the top of the Lecht

Ski Centre chairlift with Tomintoul, following mostly existing hill, farm and forest tracks linked by paths to be constructed. This will result in the establishment of a downhill route linked with uplift facilities at the Ski Centre which will provide access for walkers and cyclists some of whom who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a mountain walking experience.

- Construction of a network of downhill mountain biking routes within the Glenlivet Estate forest areas planned to provide challenging and technical routes, which will attract a wide range of cyclists. It will link with existing forest roads and estate tracks to provide a network of cycling trails on a scale not provided elsewhere in Moray or within the Cairngorms National Park.

Tomintoul Experience – This project involves the essential conversion and adaptation of a dated Museum/TIC facility at Tomintoul to achieve a modern visitor experience that will play the key role in a strategic approach to developing tourism in Tomintoul and Moray, in further supporting the local community and in encouraging enjoyment of the Cairngorm National Park. The project is being developed within a strategic approach involving the local community, The Moray Council, The Cairngorms National Park Authority, Glenlivet Estate (Crown Estates), VisitScotland and HIE Moray. The upgraded facilities will provide in particular: the promotion of the valuable heritage, leisure and educational opportunities of the Cairngorms National Park; telling the story of Tomintoul and area; promoting the attractions and visitor services in the vicinity; acting as a focus point for an immediate Tomintoul Experience in tandem with the Glenlivet Estate Visitor Centre at the other end of Tomintoul thus promoting Moray as a place to visit and stay. A key element within the design will be to ensure a community space, thereby further encouraging the centre to be an all year round attraction (presently only open from April – Oct.). “The Tomintoul Experience”, including centre and other integrated local provision will be appropriately marketed.

This integrated, community supported approach will:

- Underpin a strategic approach to tourism in Moray
- Significantly increase usage of the centre
- Increase repeat visits to the Centre, Tomintoul and the Cairngorms National Park
- Encourage a longer stay and higher spend within the area
- Underpin the local economy and community sustainability
- Strengthening community capacity
- Developing community cohesion and sustainability
- Offering skills development
- Ensuring access to key services at a local level
- The achievement of an improved, co-ordinated visitor experience in Tomintoul

Findhorn Village Centre is a community resource providing a wide range of activities and is a base for several charities. It is planned to refurbish the existing hostel and expand the childcare facilities through a new building using green technologies, which also would offer additional educational, e-learning training facility and provide a base for other local small businesses to deliver a range of programmes, which will enhance the community facilities. Adding a sustainable heating system through a ground source heat pump, which will be linked to a computer, will provide a new educational and demonstration element. The completed project will also create a Tourist Information point where visitors will be able to use Wi-Fi broadband computer facilities. (At present there are 14,000 visitors per annum with no dedicated access to information.)

ESF

Many of the structural causes of poverty and disadvantage are being addressed within the Single Outcome Agreement, some with the use of the Fairer Scotland Fund; all in recognition that the regeneration of the most disadvantaged communities will require multiple actions through the partnership approach. Based on the previous Regeneration Outcome agreement / More Choices More Chances strategy, a number of initiatives are being planned throughout Moray to tackle in particular the issues of Young people who are furthest removed from the labour market such as through an Apprenticeship scheme, major investment of Locality Teams (shared bases for Police, Health, Social Work, Community Workers etc in all secondary schools.) The educational attainment of youngsters in S5 and S6 do not compare favourably with other Local Authority areas, which is also reflected in the higher number of youngsters who are leaving school to move into employment, entering at the unskilled – low pay level. Two of the proposals under ESF will complement initiatives such as Youthstart to avoid that youngster end up in the ‘not in employment, education or training category’ and assists them in entering sustainable, skilled employment opportunities.

There were 3.8 new start ups per 1,000 population in 2005, compared to 4.7 in the rest of the Highland & Islands and the third proposal will focus on the economically inactive older age group with the aim to encourage greater business start- ups in the rural areas. It complements a range of other developments under this plan and initiatives contained within the Leader programme for Revitalising Communities and Progressive Rural Economy.

Skills First – Based on a successful pilot scheme funded with Obj.3 in the LUPS area, the overall objective of this project is to provide early intervention and to assist 77 young people (aged 14 to 17), who are “at risk of disaffection from formal education” and therefore in danger of not entering employment, training or further education. The target group also includes young people who lack self-confidence and those with poor communication, literacy and numeracy skills.

A 2-year modular programme structured and paced to enable the young people to steadily develop their skills and experience will be offered over 2 x ½ days per week. This will take place during school hours but out-with the core school curriculum. Students will achieve awards and qualifications throughout the duration of the programme – qualifications include ASDAN awards, Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Duke of Edinburgh Award and St Andrews First Aid Award. The two main partners in the project are The Moray Council and Skill Force, a national voluntary organisation who will provide the beneficiaries’ training. The project will also work closely in partnership with Careers Scotland and Learn Direct Scotland to ensure that the young people are signposted to receive the best support and advice possible.

The More Chances, More Choices project is in partnership with the Forres Learning Centre (TMC) and will address the issue of 120 young people (who have left school) in the Forres and west Moray area, who are farthest from the employment market and who have multiple barriers to overcome to adjust to adult life. This 3 year project will work with youngsters, who are at risk of involvement in crime, substance abuse and who lead chaotic lives that have prevented them from accessing existing education, training and / or employment opportunities. The proposal is one of the measures to provide a range of support mechanism for young people and dovetails with other Community Planning Partnership proposals such as the Skills First, the Dufftown & Rothes Learning Centres, Greshop Development. Training will be on offer in the construction trades, hospitality and care sectors. The project will offer a holistic training & support package with key support workers and a variety of training and guidance mechanisms to address the multiple challenges that are faced by the beneficiaries group.

New 50s is a project which will provide training opportunities for 140 people over 50 years old and who are economically inactive to set up micro businesses in dry stone walling, heritage building, garden design, musical instrument repair and construction. The training will be provided in Forres and in the Spey Valley area such as Tomintoul & Rothes and will include courses in finance, marketing and business coaching. These training options have been chosen to focus on business opportunities that remote areas present for people, who are no longer economically active but would like to make the most of their talents. The three year programme will provide continual support and to allow the activities to be tailored to suit the needs of the communities and to provide security for the participants. Various modes of delivery and of support will be tested.

Detail who will be responsible for each eligible component:

To ensure a co-ordinated approach to deliver the plan, The Moray Council's (TMC), Development Section will provide the support for all the projects throughout the life span of the proposed plan through designated staff being assigned to provide support for the submission of full detailed applications, claims and monitoring. Whilst the lead and / or project applicant will have the responsibility for the delivery & administration, the Moray Council will provide the assistance, in particular for those who are new to European funding in the set up stage to ensure a clear audit trail and compliance with grant conditions. The Moray Council's Environmental Services and Policy & Resources Committees agreed to front where appropriate Structural Funds applications in particular for the Voluntary Sector and all the arrangements will be subject to detailed partnership agreements. The progress of the 10 components of the plan will be regularly reported to the Community Planning Partnership.

The Moray Council will be the lead applicant for the following projects:

Moray Bio-Energy Centre
Dufftown and Rothes Learning Centres
Glenlivet Mountain Bike Trails
Tomintoul Experience
Findhorn Village Centre
Skills First

The NHS will be the lead applicant for
Dependent Care Facility

The Moray College will be the lead applicant for the following components

Greshop
The More Chances, More Choices
New 50s

Outline the implementation timescales for each component:

The overall plan will be delivered over a three year life span with the first starting dates in November 2008. All start & completion dates for each components are detailed in the supplementary Annex I. Some of the project proposals have the potential to start earlier, however as a precautionary measure choose a slighter later date as outcomes of some of the Match Funding applications are still pending and some of the detailed plans are still being finalised.

Detail how much each component will cost, outlining total costs, total eligible costs and proposed grant request and grant rate.

Each components total cost, grant request and Match Funding details are contained with Annex I. It highlights that the Match Funding will be provided by a wide range of sources and in the case of the project fronted by the NHS, they will provide solely the Match Funding for the proposals with the estimated running cost being financed through the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership.

The spending profile for the projects are that the 3 ESF project will have an equal spilt of expenditure over the lifespan of the proposals and for the ERDF projects the majority spend at the beginning to middle between the delivery and completion date.

Detail the outcomes which will be achieved through each component, ensuring these are aligned with the Priority targets expressed in the Operational Programmes.

For each component the outcomes and results are detailed in Annex I. The total for the **ERDF** proposals are below:

Number of e-learning/childcare and other community facilities supported: 10

Area of business space created or modified (m2): 40m2

Number of renewable energy projects supported: 1

Number of gross jobs created: 34.5

Number of projects on the sustainable use of natural and cultural assets to develop new products and services: 2

Resulting in number of new products & services based on natural & cultural assets developed: 5

Other additional outcomes:

Number of net jobs created: 25

35 child / after school care places created

Area of training space refurbished = 245 square metres

9 additional community facilities/activities will be supported

Increased percentage in number of meetings held/community use of premises - 300% pa

Number of people encouraged to volunteer to support visitor experience – 6

Support for 5 small businesses

30 new IT training places

The total of outcomes for the ESF proposals are:

Number of participants receiving support: 337

Number of participants with multiple deprivations: 310

Number of participants who are aged 50 or over: 140

Number of participants entering into employment: 110

Number of participants entering education or training: 136

Number of participants completing a partial or full qualification: 270

Number of participants in work six months after leaving: 109

Number of participants who progress towards employment: 222

Net number of participants entering employment: 120

Other additional outcomes:

All ESF projects will provide a holistic approach in providing training and support and the extra outcomes will range from confidence building to gaining a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, literacy & numeracy skills. All will be monitored as part of the overall evaluation procedures.

DECLARATION	
Name of Certifying Officer	Bob Stewart
Certifying Officer Signature	
Position in Organisation	Director of Environmental Services
Contact e-mail	stewarr@moray.gov.uk
Contact Telephone Number	01343 563260
Contact Address	The Moray Council, Environmental Services, Council Offices, High Street, Elgin IV30 1BX
Date Submitted	9 th July 2008

Once completed, please submit this form to Highlands & Islands Partnership Programme. You should send the form electronically as a file attachment to stage1@hipp.org.uk and a signed hard copy to the following address:

Highlands & Islands Partnership Programme
Jubilee Lodge
12c Ness Walk
Inverness
IV3 5SQ

FOR IAB USE ONLY	
Date Received	
Date Checked	
IAB Officer	
IAB Officer Signature	
Comments	
Action Taken	
Date Response Returned to Applicant	
Date Advised SE	

FOR SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE USE ONLY	
SE Portfolio Manager	
SE Portfolio Manager Signature	
Comments (please include names of any SE policy contacts you have liaised with)	
Approval Date	