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**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 31 JANUARY 2017**

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN  
MORAY 2015/16**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the Draft Annual Report providing holistic information about Economic Development in Moray during 2015/16 in which the Council is a lead or principal agency.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (3) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the exercise of functions that promote economic development.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee considers the draft annual report on economic development in Moray, as set out in Appendix 1 and agree its publication as set out in paragraph 3.1 below.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 August 2015 (paragraph 9 of the minute refers), the Council agreed broad headings for the annual report on economic development in Moray. The intention of this annual report (**Appendix 1**) is to bring together the broad span of economic activity undertaken across the Council but currently reported across a range of committees including skills development and employability work with Education, the supply of Council housing and employment land within Housing and Property Services and the provision of infrastructure within Direct Services. The report is a broad health check as to the vibrancy of the local economy across a range of indicators, reflecting the Council's role in developing that economy. Members are asked to consider the draft report, and note that following that consideration, the final report will be formatted for publication in pdf and on the Council website.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan/Health and Social Care Integration**

Moray 2026 "The Ten Year Plan" identifies Sustainable Economic Development as its top priority. The Plan includes it but is not limited to outcomes to increase the population, regional average wage, employment by the private sector, employability, the number of business start-ups, and the number of start-up businesses that survive beyond five years and the percentage of premises that have access to Next Generation Broadband. Sustainable Economic Development is also the Council's top priority in terms of the Corporate Plan and the report correlates ongoing activity with actions identified in the Corporate Plan.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

The Council considers support for economic development issues on their merits, against the objective to facilitate sustainable economic growth and the desired outcomes of the Ten Year Plan and Corporate Plan.

(c) **Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) **Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications.

(e) **Staffing Implications**

This report has been compiled within existing staffing resources.

(f) **Property**

There are no property implications.

(g) **Equalities**

There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

(h) **Consultations**

The Corporate Director (Economic Development Planning & Infrastructure), the Head of Development Services, Paul Nevin (Senior Solicitor), the Head of Housing and Property Services, the Head of Direct Services, the Equal Opportunities Officer and the Democratic Services Manager have been consulted, and any comments have been incorporated in this report and consultees are in agreement with sections relating to their area of responsibility.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The annual report on Economic Development in Moray provides the Council with a periodic overview of the Council's role in developing the Moray economy. This overview will be of assistance in making decisions relative to economic activity driven, financed or otherwise supported and encouraged by the Council.**

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

Ref: