



**REPORT TO: WEALTHIER STRATEGIC GROUP – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008.**

**SUBJECT: WEALTHIER AND FAIRER STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT - 2007/08.**

**BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER**

## **1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report presents the first Strategic Assessment for the Wealthier and Fairer Theme, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group is asked to note the current Strategic Assessment which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.**

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The new concordat with the Scottish Government saw a change in how the Community Safety Partnership would be funded and consequently a shift towards new governance and accountability within the Partnership. Community Planning is now undertaking a new business model approach. The Wealthier Strategic Group, covering the Wealthier and Fairer Theme of Community Planning will also adopt this approach.
- 3.2 Our Research and Information Officer carried out a Strategic Assessment. Based on evidence gathered from all agencies Moray and Grampian wide, it was designed to support strategic decision making in relation to managing risks, setting priorities and allocating resources. It aims to assist in not only setting but also achieving the outcomes and objectives of the Strategic Group, The Moray Council Administration and the Scottish Government. The document details the current picture in Moray highlighting any emerging pictures and trends. **(Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment)**

3.3 The Strategic Assessment is focused on three main areas:-

- i) Economic Activity
- ii) Employment
- iii) Culture

3.4 The Strategic Assessment will form the basis of a wider consultation with the community to develop strategic priorities for action. These will need to consider:-

- i) expanding the land available for commercial and industrial growth.
- ii) developing services and industries which have a higher average wage.
- iii) improving the transport infrastructure both to aid transport of exports and develop the import of tourists.
- iv) building on the cultural diversity of Moray to create local employment and attraction for visitors.
- v) developing its research and education to create a local skill base that wants to remain in Moray.

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

##### **(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**

The “Wealthier and Fairer” theme group of the Community Planning Partnership covers a wide range of issues which includes Employment, transport, culture and skills.

The Corporate Development Plan of The Moray Council, The Moray College Development Plan, Ancestral Moray Development Strategy, HITRANS report on transport in Moray, HIE Strategy all have actions which support some of the recommendations in the Strategic Assessment.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Moray Council has a statutory obligation to work with the Community in planning its future economic development.

##### **(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)**

Although economic development will be from the private sector the Strategic Assessment also points out that there will need to be a number of incentives and support arrangements from the local authority to stimulate growth.

##### **(d) Consultations**

Lead officers and council officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report. A much broader consultation will need to

take place before the Strategic Assessment and Strategic Priorities can be finalised.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Wealthier Strategic Group note the first stage of the preparation of a Strategic Assessment for the Wealthier and Fairer Theme. This will be developed to provide the strategic priorities for all partners to adopt and be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.**

**Author of Report:**

**Background Papers:**

**Ref:**