

REPORT TO: WEALTHIER AND FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED MORAY LIFE SCIENCES CENTRE

BY: PRINCIPAL, MORAY COLLEGE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 Arising from a discussion on the Wealthier and Fairer Priority Action Plan (2009/10) at the meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group meeting held on 21 May 2009, it was agreed that the proposal for a Moray Life Sciences Centre should form the basis of a fuller report to the following meeting in September 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group is asked to note the significant progress that has been made in bringing about a Moray Life Sciences Centre.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The attached Executive Summary taken from the business case for the Moray Life Sciences business case sets out some of the background to this development. As can be seen, this very much originates from *Moray 2020* and the need to diversify the Moray economy.

3.2 Although it had been intended that this development be sited on the Dr Gray's site, shortage of space has precluded this from happening and, instead, a site on Hay Street which forms part of Moray College's main campus in Elgin was selected by the Moray 2020 sub-group of the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership.

3.3 Since assuming responsibility for leading the project, Moray College has developed the plans with the professional assistance of LDN architects in Forres.

3.4 The Board of Moray College approved the business case in June 2009 and has committed to its share of the total costs of this £9.75 million project.

3.5 An ERDF funding commitment of approximately £3m had already been secured earlier in 2009.

3.6 This matter was the main item of business at an NHS Grampian Board seminar held at Moray College on 1st September and the project was

enthusiastically endorsed. However, NHS Grampian's £3.5m contribution presents some difficulty for the Board at a time of decreasing capital funding and growing demands.

3.7 The business case is also being considered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise who have been asked to contribute £1.5m.

3.8 All going well, building work will commence in September 2010.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The development of a Moray Life Sciences Centre is identified as a Key Action in relation to National Outcome 2 and, specifically, Local Outcome 5, i.e. People in Moray will have access to better paid employment.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The funding required has been identified and includes a significant sum for "optimism bias". A good start has been made to raising this in full but there are nevertheless potential funding pitfalls that have been identified. Mitigation of this is to be considered soon by Moray College and NHS Grampian which might lead to the project being simplified and costs reduced.

(d) Consultations

Already carried out with Moray Council, Planning and with Historic Scotland.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Author of Report:
Background Papers
Ref:

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