

REPORT TO: WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MORAY LIFE SCIENCES CENTRE

BY: MIKE DEVENNEY, PRINCIPAL MORAY COLLEGE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group are asked to note the update on the Moray Life Sciences Centre and the reasons for this project not being on target.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group are asked to note the update on the Moray Life Sciences Centre and the reasons for this project not being on target.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Community Planning Board meeting on 4 March, it was agreed that detailed reports on the areas not progressing and unlikely to be completed in Quarter 4 be the subject of a more detailed report to the theme group.

3.2 The Moray Life Sciences Centre is one of the areas for Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group which is unlikely to meet the 2009/10 target.

3.3 The delay in making the expected progress in gaining the go ahead for, and then development of, the Moray Life Sciences Centre is related to the unpredicted timescales involved in obtaining final financial commitment from all of the potential funding partners.

3.4 This matter has been under active and continuing consideration by all of the partners concerned and a great deal of time and effort expended in trying to get final decisions at Board level. In part, the delay reflects the fact that this project is now caught up in public sector `belt tightening` in respect of capital funding.

3.5 The serious threat of the already committed ERDF funding being withdrawn because of this delay has been lifted, in the meantime, and has provided the partners with a further two months (until May 2010) to come to a final decision on whether they will back this project. All of the partners have indicated that they expect to have come to a decision by then and on that basis the project's future will become known soon.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The delay in gaining final decisions on funding has led to some slippage in the achievement of the relevant milestones but there remains a good chance that this project will be backed by all of the potential funders and be underway before the end of 2010.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

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

None.

(d) Consultations

Although not involved directly in the preparation of this report, local representatives of both NHS Grampian and HIE are working very hard to make this proposal a reality.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group are asked to note the update on the Moray Life Sciences Centre and the reasons for this project not being on target.

Author of Report: Mike Devenney, Principal Moray College

Background Papers:

Ref: