

BRIEFING FOR MINISTER FOR BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND ENERGY

FRASERBURGH TASK FORCE MEETING

3 MARCH 2017

Purpose	<p>Sixth meeting of the Fraserburgh Task Force established to support the workers, businesses and communities impacted by Young's decision to reduce operations at the Fraserburgh site.</p> <p>The Task Force will be updated about the on-going work being undertaken through the 3 work streams identified in the Economic Recovery Plan.</p>																										
Who	<p>Key participants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Joint Council Leader, Cllr Richard Thomson • Stewart Stevenson MSP, Eilidh Whiteford MP, • Dominic Kerrigan, HR Director, Young's Seafood <p style="text-align: right;">Full attendee list at Page 7 .</p>																										
	<p>Fraserburgh Leisure Centre, North Links Seaforth Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9BB</p>																										
When	<p>Friday 3 March 2017, 09:30 to 11:30</p>																										
Meeting Papers	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Annotated Agenda</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Pages 3-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Papers</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agenda</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minutes of 5th meeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Pages 8-12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fraserburgh Task Force Remit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TF6 – Paper 1 – Support for Workforce</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 14-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TF6 – Paper 2 – Supporting the Fish Processing Sector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 17-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TF6 – Paper 3 – Wider Economic Regeneration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 21-23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TF6 – Paper 4 – Seafood Centre of Excellence</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 24-26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TF6 – Paper 5 – Pelagic Landing Requirement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page 27</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <u>Background Briefing</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"> Pages 28-32</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngs – Updated Position (Agenda Item 3) • Subsidised Bus Service (potential Agenda Item 4) • Centre of Excellence – Name (potential Agenda Item 6) • Fraserburgh Harbour – E Auction (Agenda Item 6) • Offshore Wind – Opportunities for Fraserburgh • Business Rates </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Annotated Agenda	Pages 3-5	<u>Papers</u>		Agenda	Page 6	Attendees	Page 7	Minutes of 5th meeting	Pages 8-12	Fraserburgh Task Force Remit	Page 13	TF6 – Paper 1 – Support for Workforce	Page 14-16	TF6 – Paper 2 – Supporting the Fish Processing Sector	Page 17-20	TF6 – Paper 3 – Wider Economic Regeneration	Page 21-23	TF6 – Paper 4 – Seafood Centre of Excellence	Page 24-26	TF6 – Paper 5 – Pelagic Landing Requirement	Page 27	 <u>Background Briefing</u>	 Pages 28-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngs – Updated Position (Agenda Item 3) • Subsidised Bus Service (potential Agenda Item 4) • Centre of Excellence – Name (potential Agenda Item 6) • Fraserburgh Harbour – E Auction (Agenda Item 6) • Offshore Wind – Opportunities for Fraserburgh • Business Rates 	
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Official support	<u>Scottish Government</u> John Davidson , Food, Drink & Trade, Fraser Dryburgh , Food, Drink & Trade [redacted exempt.]
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ANNOTATED AGENDA

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and introductions [Minister to lead this item]

- Good morning and welcome to the sixth meeting of the Fraserburgh Task Force. You will recall we agreed in October to come together again to take stock of the current situation, hear about further progress and decide on future of this group.
- It was in October 2015 that the group met for the first time with the immediate aim of addressing the uncertainties affecting employees at Young's who were facing redundancy and to look at ways to mitigate the impact of the job losses on local communities.
- I hope that you all agree that through the work of everyone involved in this Task Force that the initial pressing aim, which was to best mitigate the impact of those job losses, that to that purpose the Task Force has succeeded.
- That is not to say that the work of this group is complete, over the past 14 months or so we have heard how the 3 key work streams of the Task Force's Economic Recovery Plan has focussed on these challenges and mobilised people from local government, support agencies and local communities.
- I think that as we hear about the latest developments on these 3 streams we should consider the best way in which to take them forward, including the future of this Task Force.
- *(possible round table of introductions.)*
- Apologies received from:
 - Belinda Miller, Aberdeenshire Council
 - Bill Showalter, Young's
 - John Mullen, Young's
 - Angie Millet, Peterhead Jobcentre Plus
 - Kate Cumming, USDAW
 - Peter Chapman MSP
 - Lewis Macdonald MSP
 - Michael Clark, Scottish Pelagic Processors Association (Ross Rennie)
 - Bertie Armstrong, Scottish Fishermen's Federation (Malcolm Morrison)
 - Neil Cowie, North East Scotland College
 - Jennifer Craw, ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture (Lorna Duguid)
 - Graham Young, Scotland Food & Drink

Agenda Item 2. Minutes and matters arising

- There are **5 actions** contained in the note of meeting from 7 October 2016.

- For my part – on Action 3, SG officials have investigated the potential for use of Scottish in the name of the proposed Seafood Centre of Excellence and, while the ultimate decision lies with Companies House, they do seek SG approval as part of that process. As things stand, there would not be opposition from SG to using the word Scottish in any future Seafood Centre of Excellence.
- A paper has been circulated offering members an update on the pelagic landings requirement and I know that a meeting took place in Edinburgh on Wednesday between the Processing Sector and Mr Ewing during which Mr Ewing reiterated his determination to find a viable solution. We can have some further discussion on this later at Agenda item 6.
- Can others responsible please update on the positions relating to their outstanding actions. Marion Beattie on Actions 1 and 5 and the SSA (Alan Crockart or Jimmy Buchan) on Action 2.
- **Invite any comments from Task Force members**
- **Invite Task Force members** to agree minutes of last meeting.

Agenda Items 3 – 5

Aim: To update members on the 3 strands of activity of the Task Force.

- **Invite Work Stream leads** to provide an update on the work that has been carried out since the last meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Work stream 1 – support for the workforce

- **Marion Beattie**, SDS will provide an overview which details the work carried out to support the affected workforce.
- Invite **Dominic Kerrigan** to give a brief presentation on current situation and outlook for Young's in Fraserburgh.

Agenda Item 4. Work stream 2 – supporting the fish processing sector

- **Donna Fordyce**, Scottish Enterprise will provide an update on support to build commercial resilience and identify new business development opportunities for local seafood processors.

Agenda Item 5. Work stream 3 – wider economic regeneration

- **Christine Webster**, Aberdeenshire Council will provide an update on work to generate alternative economic activity, grow indigenous business opportunities and target specific external investment opportunities.

Agenda Item 6. Way Forward [Minister to lead this item]

Aim: To agree that the support needs for the area can be taken forward by other means of delivery.

- From discussions it is clear that the intervention to support workers has run its course. We've also heard how other work stream strands are being supported and developed by key delivery partners here today as part of normal business. That's very positive.
- I know my officials have had various discussions with both the public sector partners involved and more importantly the Community Representatives, they have advised me that there is an appetite for a change in structure with the potential for some more focussed work to take place around the three key areas identified as being those that may bring some tangible benefits to the area, namely:-
 - Seafood Centre of Excellence proposal
 - The Pelagic Landing Requirement
 - Potential E-Auction for Fraserburgh Harbour
- The paper on the pelagic landing requirement issue is included in the papers today and I know we are now going to hear now from Derek MacDonald on the Centre of Excellence Proposal, as well as John Murison on the E-Auction and I would welcome the views of the group on how we best take this forward in a meaningful way, potentially through some specific working groups on the issues.
- I would want to remain engaged with any specific groups or work streams looking at these specific areas and would like to assure you that this will continue, Scottish Government officials will also be involved in any groups.
- **Invite** views from Task Force members on suggestion for set up of working groups to look at the three specific issues. **[NOTE – Pelagic Landing Requirement is for Mr Ewing and he has committed as recently as Wednesday to working to find a viable solution.]**

Agenda Item 7. Any other business [Minister to lead this item]

- Invite contributions for any other business.
- Close meeting

FRASERBURGH TASKFORCE

3 March 2017, 09.30 – 11:30

Leisure Centre, North Links Seaforth Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9BB

AGENDA

Chaired by Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Minutes and matters arising.**
- 3. Young's – Presentation by Dominic Kerrigan**
- 4. Work stream 1 – support for the workforce**
- 5. Work stream 2 – supporting the fish processing sector**
- 6. Work stream 3 – wider economic regeneration**
- 7. Way forward**
 - Seafood Centre of Excellence**
 - Pelagic Landing Requirement**
 - Fraserburgh Harbour – E Auction**
- 8. Any other business**

Fraserburgh Task Force Secretariat
February 2017

ATTENDEE LIST (23)

Name	Organisation
Paul Wheelhouse MSP	Minister for Business, Innovation & Energy (Chair)
John Davidson	Scottish Government
Fraser Dryburgh	Scottish Government
Cllr Richard Thomson	Aberdeenshire Council
Roddy Matheson	Aberdeenshire Council
Derek McDonald	Aberdeenshire Council
Christine Webster	Aberdeenshire Council
Jan Emery	Aberdeenshire Council
Derek McCrindle	Scottish Enterprise
Donna Fordyce	Scottish Enterprise
Marion Beattie	Skills Development Scotland
Dominic Kerrigan	Young's
Stewart Stevenson MSP	Banffshire & Buchan Coast
Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP	Banff & Buchan
Allan Crockart	Scottish Seafood Association
Ross Rennie	Scottish Pelagic Processors Association
Malcolm Morrison	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Duncan Abernethy	North East Scotland College
John Murison	Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners
James Bream	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Lorna Duguid	ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture
Patrick Hughes	Seafood Scotland
Jimmy Buchan	Scottish Seafood Association (replaced Michael Bates)

Apologies (12)

Name	Organisation
Belinda Miller	Aberdeenshire Council
Bill Showalter	Young's
John Mullen	Young's
Angie Millet	Peterhead Jobcentre Plus
Kate Cumming	USDAW
Peter Chapman MSP	North East Scotland
Lewis Macdonald MSP	North East Scotland
Michael Clark	Scottish Pelagic Processors Association (Ross Rennie)
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (Malcolm Morrison)
Neil Cowie	North East Scotland College
Jennifer Craw	ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture (Lorna Duguid)
Graham Young	Scotland Food & Drink

No response (4)

Calum Maclean	Skills Development Scotland
Councillor Peter Argyle	Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside
Scott Landsburgh	Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation
Patrick Machray	ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture

FRASERBURGH TASK FORCE: FIFTH MEETING – 7 October 2016
Leisure Centre, North Links Seaforth Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9BB

Chair

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Attendees

Cllr Richard Thomson, Leader, Aberdeenshire Council
Belinda Miller, Aberdeenshire Council
Christine Webster, Aberdeenshire Council
Paul Finch, Aberdeenshire Council
Louise Cunningham, Scottish Government
Lorraine McEwan, Scottish Government
Derek McCrindle, Scottish Enterprise
Marion Beattie, Skills Development Scotland
Stewart Stevenson MSP, Banffshire & Buchan Coast
Lewis Macdonald MSP, North East Scotland
Peter Chapman MSP, North East Scotland
Eilidh Whiteford MP, Banff & Buchan
Angie Millet, DWP
Kate Cumming, USDAW
Dominic Kerrigan, Young's Seafood
Allan Crockart, Scottish Seafood Association
Michael Bates, Scottish Seafood Association
Malcolm Morrison, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
John Murison, Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners
Duncan Abernethy, North East Scotland College
Neil Cowie, North East Scotland College
James Bream, Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Roger Horam, Consultant, Seafood Centre of Excellence proposal

Apologies

Donna Fordyce, Scottish Enterprise
Michael Clark, Scottish Pelagic Processors Association

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 Mr Wheelhouse welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

2.1 Mr Wheelhouse reported that there were 8 actions from the previous meeting. 7 were completed and 1 action was on-going. Allan Crockart advised there was available capacity at the Alisrose plant and the Scottish Seafood Association would liaise regarding taking up this option. Paul Finch advised that the subsidised bus service would be funded until end of March 2017 at which time the situation would be reviewed.

2.3 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Work stream 1 – support for the workforce

3.1 Marion Beattie reported that a further 9 employees had been released with a total of 374 individuals recorded on the PACE tracker system. All those released had received at least 4 follow ups including letter, face to face, email or telephone. The Tracker recorded 173 unemployed but this did not match the low number of people signing on and showed that people were not updating their status. This was partly due to high migrant workforce which were difficult to contact. It was confirmed that all PACE material was offered in several languages and translators were available if required.

3.2 It was reported that recruitment agencies were very active which could indicate a tight labour market. There was a discussion about the financial impact zero hours contracts may have on people employed under these conditions. Angie Millet advised that it was not always necessary to sign off and sign on again. Information from the Here For You centre highlighted that a 5 week time lag for those going through the benefits system was causing some financial difficulty. The centre was delivering debt advice but the provision of verbal advice in Polish was an issue which needed addressed. Eilidh Whiteford suggested that the Here For You model should be replicated elsewhere as it had been a huge success.

3.3 Mr Wheelhouse asked for any intelligence from Here For You or PACE which would inform the need for the bus service and whether it was key for successful employment opportunities.

Action 1. Here for You and PACE to feed in intelligence regarding successful outcomes from the bus service.

4. Work stream 2 – supporting the fish processing sector

4.1 Derek McCrindle advised there continued to be low uptake from businesses for the option of an efficiency review. Scottish Enterprise would investigate so it was better understood why this had been the case. Michael Bates reported that a further 2 companies had indicated their interest to him but comments from others suggested this duplicated work already previously undertaken. Mr Wheelhouse stressed the importance of businesses re-engaging and asked Michael Bates to encourage his members to get in touch with Scottish Enterprise.

Action 2. SSA to encourage engagement with efficiency work being run by MACE/Scottish Enterprise

4.2 There are properties available, however the constraint is the availability of the right size and type of property in the area and feedback suggested there was not a significant demand. Scottish Enterprise had reviewed the Blue Growth application process to ensure a targeted and coordinated approach for development of future proposals. Following the outcome of the EU referendum it was not expected that the Blue Growth application would be successful and an alternative proposal had been identified for the Seafood Centre of Excellence.

4.3 Derek introduced Roger Horam who had been involved in both the Blue Growth and Seafood Centre of Excellence funding applications. Roger advised that a stage 1 expression of interest had been submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund on 17 August 2016. The Council were the lead delivery partner and the maximum funding of £300K had been requested from a potential budget of £2.5m. A decision about Stage 2 was expected mid October when a lot of work would be required if successful. Options included acquisition of a redundant processing plant or a new build and fit out. Should funding be awarded it was hoped that the project would start in January 2017. Mr Wheelhouse advised that Aberdeenshire Council were funding a business case study for the Seafood Centre of Excellence. Allan Crockart suggested the title should include 'Scottish' or 'Scotland's' and asked if Scottish Government could approve this. Mr Wheelhouse agreed that as Minister for Innovation he would take away to consider and also raise with Mr Ewing.

Action 3. Scottish Government will look at name for Seafood Centre of Excellence

4.4 Allan Crockart raised the manifesto commitment regarding pelagic landings on behalf of Michael Clark, Scottish Pelagic Processors Association. He stated that 56% of pelagic catch was being landed in Norway and requested that SG push forward the proposal for vessels to increase landings into Scotland as it would create jobs and improve communities. There was discussion about the complexities involved in this proposal and Mr Wheelhouse advised he would ask Mr Ewing to provide a response which would be circulated to the Task Force.

Action 4. Task Force to be provided with note from Mr Ewing about pelagic landing requirement.

4.5 John Murison referred to the Council's report on fish processing capacity and enquired if this would need to change post Brexit. Mr Wheelhouse informed that more clarity was required and Scottish Government would pursue any option to maintain access to the single market.

5. Work stream 3 – wider economic regeneration

5.1 Belinda Miller advised that it had been a challenging time for the North East. The area was adjusting and the positive from this was an increase in entrepreneurship and business creation. ONE was continuing its work and the City Region deal would provide opportunities. Visit Aberdeenshire was up and running with a series of work on-going to improve tourism. The current unemployment situation had resulted in a review of the draft Skills Strategy to ensure that it covered a wider scope of sectors.

5.2 Christine Webster reported that the Fraserburgh Development Partnership was now set up with a new action plan, Fraserburgh 2021, which identified key themes of social, economy and environment. The plan would build on community capacity going forward, look at addressing inequality in wealth and health and focus on economic diversification. The hotel prospectus had been widely circulated within the industry and work was continuing on brownfield land and housing development.

5.3 Eilidh Whiteford thanked Belinda and Christine for the great work that was underway and highlighted the Visit Aberdeenshire strategy. There was huge potential in the North East with a number of significant visitor attractions but currently these were missing from the map and it was requested more was made of this opportunity. Belinda Miller agreed to take this is taken forward.

5.4 Stewart Stevenson informed that figures showed a high proportion of self employed in the area but significantly there was low levels of tertiary education. There was a need to go back to schools to encourage pupils ambitions otherwise there would continue to be long term disadvantage for a skilled workforce. Marion Beattie agreed there was a requirement for the right training to be in place along with an awareness of where the job opportunities would lie. This would require educating parents as well as school children about the future opportunities.

5.5 Neil Cowie highlighted that the college needed to be engaged with community planning to ensure there was resource and capacity available for learning. Cllr Thomson advised that the Council were streamlining community planning which would enable better joined up working and the college would be welcomed as part of this process.

5.6 John Murison asked what could be learned about ensuring major businesses stayed in Fraserburgh rather than moving elsewhere in Aberdeenshire. Christine Webster advised that the Council were looking at providing more attractive employment land with facilities needed for businesses to grow.

5.7 Dominic Kerrigan advised that the living wage was an issue for many employers. Going forward there would be greater automation of processes which meant the capabilities and skills of work force would be even more important. Understanding the rules for the apprenticeship levy and labour with around 50% non UK were also issues.

5.8 James Bream suggested that it would be useful to consider how the new money from the apprenticeship levy would be used to develop the workforce and get businesses to engage with young people. He advised that he was happy to be involved in the relevant areas of the community planning process.

5.9 Mr Wheelhouse provided details about the Transition Training Fund in the North East. There had been 461 applications in Aberdeenshire of which 116 were in the Banffshire & Buchan constituency area. 192 applications had been approved in Aberdeenshire with around £0.5m committed. 54 applications had been approved in Banffshire & Buchan with nearly £129k committed. Marion Beattie advised that a number of individuals who had originally been turned down for funding were being encouraged to reapply with robust applications. Mr Wheelhouse requested that SDS keep information about applications to the fund updated.

Action 5. SDS to continue to provide Transition Training Fund reporting information

5.10 Lewis Macdonald enquired whether people who wished to up-skill within the oil and gas sector were eligible to apply for the Transition Training Fund. Marion

Beattie confirmed that up-skilling or re-skilling would be allowed if employment opportunities were identified.

5.11 James Bream advised that work with SDS was underway to identify a solution for people who wouldn't engage with SDS services or sign on for benefits. It was hoped that something would be in place before the end of the year and Mr Wheelhouse requested that the Energy Jobs Task Force be kept apprised of this work.

6. Fraserburgh Harbour – Electronic Auction update

6.1 John Murison provided an update on progress since June. The Harbour board had considered the Lerwick system but would not be following this model. A working group had been established which would develop the final concept. Timescales would be driven by EMFF and it was hoped that an application would be submitted in January 2017. If successful it was considered that the project would be implemented by end of March 2018. The cost was estimated to be in the region of £500k.

7. Conclusions and way forward

7.1 It was agreed that the PACE work was largely completed but several strands within Work Streams 2 and 3 were still on-going. Mr Wheelhouse and Cllr Thomson suggested that a further meeting in 6 months, around March 2017, would give time to progress outcomes for these strands. A suitable date would be circulated. Allan Crockart welcomed this proposal as local communities considered that a legacy from the Task Force had not yet been delivered.

7.2 Mr Wheelhouse advised that the purpose of the group had changed slightly and it may no longer be relevant for everyone to now be involved in the Task Force. He requested feedback from any member who considered they were in this position.

7.3 Mr Wheelhouse thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Fraserburgh Task Force Secretariat
13 October 2016

FRASERBURGH TASK FORCE REMIT

The Fraserburgh Task Force will bring together key partners to support economic growth and employment creation in and around Fraserburgh, to help mitigate the economic impacts of the loss of a major retailer contract, and to put in place appropriate support for a sustainable future for the area.

The Task Force will develop an Economic Recovery Plan to:

- Provide support and advice for the individuals employed at the site, or in the supply chain, maximising each individual's opportunity to secure alternative employment, should this be required;
- provide support to the communities impacted by the current uncertainty and potential future job losses;
- work with Young's to continue the work that has already been undertaken to highlight potential efficiency savings, training support and market opportunities;
- consider the impact of the potential changes made within the context of the existing industry seafood industry Action Plan; and
- consider the economic infrastructure of the local area, to identify how to create sustainable employment in the longer term.

MEMBERSHIP

- Chair, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy
- Cllr Richard Thomson, Joint Leader, Aberdeenshire Council
- Belinda Miller, Aberdeenshire Council
- Roddy Matheson, Aberdeenshire Council
- Mike Palmer, Scottish Government
- Margaret Sutor, Scottish Government/PACE
- Derek McCrindle, Scottish Enterprise
- Donna Fordyce, Scottish Enterprise
- Marion Beattie, Skills Development Scotland
- David Oxley, Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- Pete Ward, Young's Seafood
- Dominic Kerrigan, Young's Seafood
- Angie Millet, JobCentre Plus
- Kate Cumming, USDAW
- Peter Chapman MSP, North East Scotland
- Lewis Macdonald MSP, North East Scotland
- Stewart Stevenson MSP, Banffshire & Buchan Coast
- Cllr Peter Argyle, Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside
- Eilidh Whiteford MP, Banff & Buchan
- Allan Crockart, Scottish Seafood Association
- Michael Clark, Scottish Pelagic Processors Association
- Ross Dougal, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
- Neil Cowie, North East Scotland College
- John Murison, Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners
- Patrick Machray, ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture
- James Bream, Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Fraserburgh Task Force Secretariat

STRAND 1 - SUPPORT FOR THE WORKFORCE

Fraserburgh Taskforce – Summary of PACE Support

Background & Context

The Fraserburgh Task Force has worked collaboratively to support the improvement of the local economy; provide support to the fish processing industry and support for the individuals affected by redundancy from Young's through the Scottish Government's initiative for responding to redundancy situations, Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE).

The PACE Partnership consists of Aberdeenshire Council, Skills Development Scotland, the Department for Work and Pensions, Business Gateway, North East College, Scottish Enterprise, third sector organisations and industry representative bodies.

This paper summarises the support provided by PACE to employees of Young's between October 2015 and September 2016.

PACE Provision

PACE partners worked with Young's and their Trades Unions to ensure PACE information was provided to all Young's employees under threat of redundancy. PACE services were delivered at a number of locations including the on site resource centre; "Here For You" on the High Street in Fraserburgh; Fraserburgh Library; Junior Industrial College, Fraserburgh.

PACE support included:

- Information about the redundancy process, employee rights and entitlements.
- Information about state benefits and tax allowances
- Support to look for jobs.
- Support to write CVs, application forms and cover letters and prepare for interviews.
- Assistance to identify future career and training opportunities.
- Assistance to start up a business.
- Information about managing money.
- Assistance with reading, writing and numbers.
- Support to cope with redundancy-related stress

PACE materials were translated into Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian and interpreting services were used to ensure language was no barrier to service provision.

Two employment and support events were held on 28th January 2016 and 10th May 2016. These were favourably received and full reports have been provided to the Taskforce.

Three hundred and seventy four Young's employees/ contractors received PACE support. These left the business in stages, with the main tranches leaving in January, February, April, May and June 2016. Attempts were made to follow up all employees accessing PACE to determine their status and offer further support. This includes a final phone follow up in February 2017.

Analysis of Current Status

The status of ex Young's employees is given below:

Status	Total
Full time employment	119
Part time employment	6
Self Employed	[redacted]
Training	8
Unemployed and claiming benefits ¹	26
Moved Out with Scotland	13
Not Seeking Work / Carer	[redacted]
Retired	[redacted]
Ill health	[redacted]
No further engagement after redundancy	185
Total	374

¹ Figures provided by DWP

Many of Young's labour force are migrant workers and maintaining contact with, and following up ex employees has been challenging. Information provided by DWP about benefit claimants, shows that only 26 ex Young's employees are still claiming benefits.

Long Term Support

PACE onsite delivery has finished and the onsite resource centre has been dismantled as the company implements its new business model. All redundant employees have been provided with PACE information and PACE partners are available throughout the area to assist any current or ex employee or contractor should they require it. Employees who have dispersed throughout Scotland can access further support through the network of SDS Centres, the SDS redundancy support helpline (0800 917 8000) and redundancyscotland.co.uk

STRAND 2 - SUPPORTING THE FISH PROCESSING SECTOR

AIM: Work with local processors to help resource and deliver key elements of North East Fish Processing Strategy and Action Plan to build commercial resilience and identify new business development opportunities for local seafood processors, including Young's.

Summary	Key delivery partners
Audit processors' costs and explore options for enhancing operational & resource efficiencies.	Aberdeenshire Council (lead); Scottish Enterprise; SG food & drink.
Explore potential for development of Fraserburgh seafood processing hub and other property-based solutions.	
Support for business development and growth, including market opportunities.	

Key Actions

A number of priority areas for action were raised at the seafood meeting held on 11 January 2016, attended by local processors and their representative organisations, including:

- building on quality/premium to enhance marketing effort;
- encouraging higher volumes of fish landings in NE Scotland through collaboration between catching and processing sectors;
- addressing external business costs (transport, waste);
- creating a centre of excellence / infrastructure;
- providing clarity over bodies responsible for delivery (Seafish, Scottish Seafood Partnership, SE); and
- addressing processing skills shortages and encouraging local young people into the sector.

Audit processors' costs and explore options for enhancing operational & resource efficiencies.

1. A meeting was convened for those with processing interests on 10 December 2015 to agree actions to be pursued in this workstream, with an initial focus on commercial resilience.

2. Scottish Enterprise (SE) commissioned an audit of processors' overhead costs and mitigation options (including, but not limited to energy and utilities). Uptake has been very low and a renewed drive has been undertaken to increase uptake.

Explore potential for development of Fraserburgh seafood processing hub and other property based solutions

3. Aberdeenshire Council is identifying and assisting fish processing companies whose current premises are a constraint to business growth. SE has commissioned

BDAplus to engage with Aberdeen city based processors to establish their relocation intentions. This has now been completed and options being appraised with SE and Aberdeen City Council.

Support for business development and growth, including marketing.

4. SE is in contact with all account managed companies to identify those with business growth projects to see if these can be accelerated and whether they are able to offer potential vacancies to redundant Young's workers. Fraserburgh Harbour has been accepted into Account Management

5. Aberdeenshire Council is continuing to support smaller fish processing SMEs with growth potential through the 'Support for Aberdeenshire Business' scheme.

6. Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development team will continue to engage with other key businesses to realise business growth and investment to help regenerate the economy in the North East.

7. Working in partnership will deliver the following:

- All skills gaps in seafood sector addressed in Scottish Seafood Partnership (SSP) Skills Action Plan.
- Blue Growth application to DG Mare submitted 31 May for around €697,000 towards total project costs of €904,000. Project considers careers and up-skilling across the marine supply chain focussing on fish processing. Partners include NESCOL, Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, SSP, SE, SDS, SFF, SSA, Seafish & Fraserburgh Harbour. Will link to existing work by SDS and Aberdeenshire Council's Developing Young Workforce activities ;
- Raise ambition within the sector to trade internationally, highlighting opportunities from increased fish landings, product development and innovation. SE running sessions in November, December and February on behalf of Scottish Seafood Partnership;
- Organise financial awareness sessions looking at working capital issues including invoice discounting, factoring, export funding, trade credit protection, hire purchase & leasing, international finance and contracts - to be included in SE Sessions with partner organisations;
- Exploring novel processing capability to extract added value from shellfish waste; Project under consideration with Scottish Enterprise at present
- Regular meetings between the Scottish Seafood Association, SE and Aberdeenshire Council to identify relevant business support and projects to take forward.
- Positive working relationship established with Scottish Seafood Association (SSA);

Key Outcomes update 15 February 2017

- Building on the BDA Fish Processing Strategy¹, a fisheries marketing report was produced outlining market opportunities and support available to processors in Scotland;
- Clear SSA interest in market internationalisation development support for their members;
- Record high value of fish landings at Peterhead Fishmarket in 2016 has been accompanied by encouraging levels of collaboration between catching and processing sector including via the Fish 4 Market project;
- The first Financial & International Workshop will run on 28 March 2017 in Peterhead; further events are planned for Aberdeen and Glasgow. The workshops will be delivered by SE in partnership with Seafood Scotland, Maclay, Murray and Spens LLP and Santander;
- Council commercial premises in Fraserburgh (in harbour area) have been refurbished and let to a seafood processor who was previously space-constrained. His former (council-owned) premises have been let to another constrained processor, easing their situation;
- Offer from Market Driven Supply Chain project team to meet with SSA in Peterhead remains on the table;
- Council-funded feasibility study to develop electronic auction at Fraserburgh Harbour has been completed Scottish Enterprise part funding project manager role to develop evidence base with stakeholders and EMFF application currently being completed for funding;
- Prime Seafoods in Fraserburgh and Fraserburgh Harbour are now Account Managed by Scottish Enterprise;
- Blue Growth Careers submission to DG Mare was unsuccessful. Work continues to develop the Scottish Seafood Centre of Excellence (separate paper refers) The vision for the SSCE has grown and developed following lengthy consultation with industry and community stakeholders. On 22 December Aberdeenshire Council approved project spend from Regeneration Funds to carry out an independent assessment of the business case for SSCE. On 24 January 2017 a project brief and ITQ was circulated to prospective consultants via the Public Contracts Scotland website and invited to bid to carry out the business case evaluation. The closing date for submissions is 24 February 2017. A contractor is expected to be appointed in mid-March 2017. The target date for submission of the SSCE business case final report is the end of July 2017;
- Three rounds of engagement have been undertaken by SE and consultants MACE to encourage Fraserburgh businesses to explore options for enhancing operational & resource efficiencies. The council has also encouraged businesses to sign up for the initiative, including via Scottish Seafood Association. Disappointingly, only a handful of companies have expressed interest (currently being progressed by SE). However at least 2 large

¹ Available at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/11621/neprocessingstrategyreport.pdf>

Fraserburgh processors have recently undertaken similar resource efficiency audits under their own initiative.

STRAND 3 - WIDER ECONOMIC REGENERATION

AIM: Consider the overall economic impact, generate alternative economic activity, grow indigenous business opportunities and target specific external investment opportunities.

Summary	Key delivery partners
Improve enterprise support and enhance marketable supply of industrial land.	Aberdeenshire Council (lead); Scottish Enterprise; SG Economic Development and Housing & Regeneration Directorates.
Develop the port, town centre, engineering cluster, and create an investment prospectus for potential accommodation developers.	
Increase digital and infrastructure connectivity.	

This workstream forms part of Aberdeenshire Councils Regeneration effort in Fraserburgh. The Fraserburgh Development Partnership Vision and Action Plan considers the social, economic and physical environment and builds on the towns' social, business and built assets. Significant projects currently underway include the Here For You centre which is a partnership project aimed at bringing employability services together offering a streamlined service to clients. This centre has been instrumental in the response to the people made redundant from Young's. Other elements consider health inequalities and community capacity building, all fundamental to the future prosperity of the town. It is important to note therefore that these economic focussed initiatives below do not stand alone but form part of a comprehensive 5 year regeneration effort in Fraserburgh.

Key actionsImprove Enterprise Support and Enhance Marketable Supply of Industrial Land

1. Progress and support Fraserburgh 2021 project, which aims to accelerate significant transformational change. Applications to Historic Environment Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund will create a £5.67 Million budget for developing heritage and sports assets and improve penetration of enterprise support in Fraserburgh. Aberdeenshire Council is investing in the regeneration of Kessock Industrial Estate and investigating other employment land locations to enhance marketable supply of industrial land to ensure companies have space to grow in suitable locations and, by developing gap sites and derelict properties for retail or housing, improving the vitality of the town.

Develop the Port, Town Centre, Engineering Cluster and Create an Investment Prospectus for Potential Accommodation Developers

2. Aberdeenshire Council will develop an investment prospectus for potential accommodation developers and work with the Fraserburgh International Centre for Marine Repair and Maintenance.

Increase Digital and Infrastructure Connectivity

3. Scottish Enterprise and Aberdeenshire Council will be looking at how to develop digital businesses by improving company interaction on national digital projects (e.g. Interactive Scotland).
4. NESTRANS and Aberdeenshire Council commissioned a study on strategic transport connections between Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Aberdeen. Emerging outcomes were presented at a series of public engagement events in autumn 2015, including an event in Fraserburgh. Subject to the report's findings and funding, it is anticipated that further detail appraisal may then be commissioned on the most promising interventions during 2016/17.

Key Outcomes:

The highlights relating to the initial scope of work outlined are below. Some of the scope refers to work which is longer term in nature and these elements, particularly infrastructure and business / enterprise related are carried through the Fraserburgh Development Partnership Vision and Action Plan 2016 – 2021.

- Over £1 million awarded for the Fraserburgh 2021 project from SG's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to accelerate significant transformational change within the town through two developments: a Heritage Development and a Sports Development. This aims to -
 - Provide quality, affordable and accessible sports facilities available to all;
 - Increase the economic impact by attracting events, competitions and sports festivals, encouraging people to visit, work and live in Fraserburgh;
 - Create an Enterprise Hub that is at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurialism and tackles digital accessibility;
 - Offer accessible information to residents on Council Services
 - Provide flexible, affordable facilities that reduce barriers to entry for micro businesses;
 - Develop a central meeting place for residents and visitors.
- £1.2 Million awarded for the Fraserburgh 2021 project from Historic Environment Scotland.
- £1.8 Million awarded for the Fraserburgh 2021 project from Heritage Lottery Fund. Key building stages progressing
- Hotel Investment Prospectus developed and launched at Aberdeenshire's Development and Investment Conference in Fraserburgh on 22 April 2016. This was subsequently distributed to hotel operators, financiers, developers advisers and brands e.g. Whitbread, Travelodge, Interstate Hotels and resorts

and Aberdeen Hotels Group. Additional follow up will take place once additional staff resources are in place.

- Fraserburgh Development Partnership has been established to take forward the strategic direction of the Fraserburgh Action Plan / Fraserburgh 2021. The Partnership consists of Aberdeenshire Council and local businesses and is led by local Councillors. They have successfully developed a vision for the town and an action plan which has been agreed and an indicative sum of £1.137 Million of Aberdeenshire Council funds allocated against it. Delivery has begun in earnest with significant sums being agreed for Participative Budgeting exercises, particularly around community environmental improvements.

Key Transport appraisal outcomes were as follows:

- Providing full dual-carriageway on the A90 and A952 is unlikely to attract the scale of capital funding to enable implementation in the short/medium term or be cost-effective. However, a package of dualling between Ellon and Toll of Birness, along with junction enhancements, overtaking opportunities, and safety interventions would most likely achieve objectives and be more cost-effective;
- Many bus-based solutions, can be pursued as integral parts of road or rail-based packages but do not achieve the objectives as stand-alone options;
- Fully reinstating the former alignment of the Formartine and Buchan rail line was considered to be ineffective beyond Ellon and should not be pursued further; reinstating the rail line to both Peterhead and Fraserburgh on a y-shape is also considered ineffective. Any further assessment should consider using the former alignment between Dyce and Ellon, and assume a new rail alignment for any extension to Peterhead (possibly broadly following the former Boddam branch alignment) and possibly thereafter onwards to Fraserburgh; and
- A totally new rail or tram alignment is less effective than reinstating the former line between Ellon and Dyce. This does not provide the additional travel opportunity linking the corridor into Dyce, and additionally presents engineering feasibility issues in accessing Aberdeen Rail Station via the Bridge of Don.

Further work from NESTRANS has been commissioned (February 2017) :

- Work understanding what the package of road improvements would entail, with respect of sections of dualling, junction upgrades, overtaking/climbing lanes, and other safety improvements.
- Further work on the costs, issues and constraints related to a rail project, as well as forecasts of demand.

Fraserburgh Task Force Paper Scottish Seafood Centre of Excellence (SSCE)

1. Summary

Following the unsuccessful bids in 2016 to DG Mare for the Blue Careers project (led by NESCOL) and to Coastal Communities Fund for the Seafood Centre of Excellence (Council-led), work continues to define, evaluate and develop the Scottish Seafood Centre of Excellence project which has grown out of the work of the Fraserburgh Task Force, the case for which is evidenced by the NE Scotland Fish Processing Strategy, the Scottish Seafood Partnership Action Plan and other studies. Brexit is likely to result in an increase in fish landings and it is vital that the processing sector is supported to help grasp the opportunity it presents.

The vision for the SSCE has grown and developed following lengthy consultation with industry and community stakeholders. On 22 December 2016 Aberdeenshire Council approved project spend from Regeneration Funds to carry out an independent assessment of the business case for SSCE. On 24 January 2017 a project brief and ITQ was circulated to prospective consultants via the Public Contracts Scotland website. The closing date for responses is 24 February 2017 and a contractor is expected to be appointed in mid-March 2017.

The primary objectives of the SSCE are to :

- Provide a tailor-made space for the improvement of industry skills and development of high training standards by providing formally recognised accreditations.
- Deliver a structured programme of activity to raise awareness of the range of career opportunities and training in the food industry (especially to young people).
- Support the creation of start-up business ventures within the sector.
- Foster collaborative partnerships between a wide range of partners from across the food sector to proactively develop new added-value products.
- Strengthen relationships and facilitate knowledge exchange at each stage of the “route to market” in support of business diversification and expansion.
- To position SSCE as the Champion of the sector by building a reputation for sectoral excellence and professionalism through high quality training, partnership working and the development of high quality products and standards to enhance perceptions of the industry.

- Interact with complementary organisations in the UK and overseas to continually develop the learning offering of the SSCE and to identify new opportunities beyond existing markets

2. Rationale for Seafood Centre of Excellence

The fish processing sector in NE Scotland has for some time relied heavily on agency staff, partly for flexibility, but also due to a shortage of skilled labour, particularly filleters. In order to meet current staffing requirements and grasp the opportunities which lie ahead, the time has come for a leap forward in skills training and how the Scottish fish processing industry presents itself to school leavers and job seekers by committing to a sustained investment in its current and future workforce.

But without accessible, appropriate space and facilities built to modern QA standards (e.g. BRC), and classrooms complete with video conferencing to facilitate distance learning, it will be an uphill struggle to deliver the transformational change required of many SMEs to grow their businesses in what is expected to become an increasingly competitive market for seafood and seafood products post-Brexit.

Basic primary processing is and has been for many years the staple function of many SMEs. By investing in higher skills levels and taking a more enlightened approach to NPD (new product development) and marketing, SMEs can benefit from new business opportunities, particularly given expectations of higher fish landings. But higher fish volumes could result in lower unit returns for processors, particularly for undifferentiated products. There is therefore a clear need to foster innovation and diversification by providing SMEs with NPD facilities within the Centre of Excellence and the opportunity to work with and learn from the wider food sector.

Turning to the task of securing the industry's future workforce, a key role for the Centre of Excellence is to enhance the perception of the sector as a career option and to help attract higher numbers of local school leavers, especially as the future availability of migrant labour may be adversely affected directly by Brexit – and indirectly through weaker Sterling exchange rates (many migrants remit earnings home; jobs in the Eurozone may become more attractive).

Fraserburgh is ideally placed to attract home-grown job seekers to the seafood industry. As the most fisheries-dependent community in Scotland, local people have retained their strong affinity with fishing and seafood processing, but much more needs to be done to reach out to prospective new recruits by offering a structured career path and high quality training. The ongoing decline in oil and gas employment is likely to reduce competition from what has been a high-wage career alternative, particularly for engineering and related positions.

The culture of excellence and innovation at SSCE can also help drive local tourism by cementing Fraserburgh's position at the heart of the UK seafood

industry. Incorporating a high quality seafood restaurant and function space would attract both business and leisure tourists. The opportunity to showcase the journey of the catch from net to plate would be a strong and engaging proposition. Appearances seminars and masterclasses by high-profile chefs could create a new and appealing option to expand the market for weekend breaks, well within the constraints of locally available tourist accommodation, enhancing visitor spend. By fostering training, collaboration and innovation SSCE could also benefit local chefs and independent restaurants, leading to higher culinary standards and an improved offering of local provenance produce, reinforcing the reputation of Aberdeenshire as the heart of Scotland's food and drink industry.

3. SSCE Business Case Assessment: Invitation to Quote

The purpose of the assessment is to test the vision presented for SSCE and assess whether its operation would be economically sustainable including:

- How a clear culture of excellence can be embedded fundamentally into everything the SSCE does
- Types/volumes of training (c/w budget and cash flow) which could be delivered at the Centre (lead role for SSA)
- An budgeted assessment of the prospective demand for and use of NPD facilities
- Recommendations/costings relating to the operation of the business advice/support hub and seafood careers centre and other sources of revenue

Capital costs of construction and fit out of the Centre of Excellence are excluded from the study. If the outcome of the study is positive, a property appraisal, governance arrangements and funding will then be addressed. SSCE is intended to be primarily for the benefit of the seafood, food and related sector. But where possible, elements of the Centre should be made available for local community & business use.

The consultants selected are expected to submit the SSCE business case final report by the end of July 2017.

Fraserburgh Task Force Meeting 3 March 2017

The Scottish landings target - update for members of the Taskforce

1. The Scottish Government is committed to setting a landings target to increase the amount of fish landed, processed and transported from ports in Scotland.
2. In August 2016, the Scottish Government sought to agree voluntary, collaborative action with pelagic vessel owners and processors. A voluntary target was set for the winter mackerel season to encourage increased landings into Scotland. Initial Analysis of the final landings data shows that there has been limited progress. Overall, in percentage terms, the landings over the winter mackerel season (Oct 2016 – Feb 2017) were similar to landings in calendar year 2015. This is as a result of some vessels increasing their landings into Scotland and some vessels decreasing them.
3. In light of the limited progress in meeting the voluntary target, the Government decided, on 27 January 2017, to retain centrally and not allocate, 12 per cent of the 2017 mackerel quota whilst it considers how to achieve increased landings of pelagic fish into Scotland.
4. At present, as part of the consideration of next steps, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity is meeting a range of interested parties from the catching sector and processing to hear their views. These views will influence the next steps in delivering the landings target.

Marine Scotland
21 February 2017

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

YOUNGS – UPDATED POSITION (Agenda Item 3 – Presentation by Dominic Kerrigan)

- Company are now employing 350 staff in Fraserburgh
- CEO confirmed as Bill Showalter permanent (letter circulated to TF members)
- Donna Fordyce SE and SDI colleagues met with Sales & Marketing team in Grimsby start of February
- SE recently met with new International Sales Director Nick Munday – company's key growth focus is for international markets.

[2 lines redacted exempt.]

- Youngs are attending Boston, Brussels seafood shows and will be introduced to Scotland's in market specialists from Seafood Scotland and SDI while there.

[redacted exempt.]

SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE PETERHEAD/BODDAM (Agenda Item 4) **Information provided by Aberdeenshire Council**

A perceived need for early morning and late night bus services between Fraserburgh and Peterhead /Boddam was identified at a Fraserburgh Task Force Meeting in January 2016.

The rationale for the requested services was that lack of public transport between the towns was a barrier to employment for those people paid off by Youngs and without cars whilst there were identified (unfilled), vacancies in a seafood processing plant in Boddam.

Aberdeenshire Council subsequently tendered for the provision of the services and awarded a 17 week contract to Stagecoach to operate the services as add-ons to existing time tabled services. The cost for the trial was £11,000 and because of the Regulatory Notice period, the services did not commence until April – and ran to the 14 August.

Utilisation of the services between **Fraserburgh and Peterhead** was very low – under one passenger per day on average so there was no case to continue it after August – and it has now ceased.

Between **Peterhead and Boddam**, weekly numbers have been higher – varying between 15 and 40.

[11 lines redacted exempt.]

Lines (Defer to Aberdeenshire Council members)

- The bus service will continue until end March 2017.
- The passenger usage figures have not increased and confirm that the service is not commercially viable.
- The local supported (transportation) budget may decrease for the 2017/2018 financial year, which would result in contracts being withdrawn to accommodate a budget reduction. Contract NL61 will be within the section under “withdrawal consideration” but until there is clarity on the 2017/8 budget position it is not possible to confirm

SEAFOOD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE - NAME

Task Force partners have developed a proposal for the creation of a Fraserburgh based Seafood Centre of Excellence. This would provide a facility to deliver training and raise quality assurance standards and establish a seafood development kitchen. The group suggested that the title should include ‘Scottish’ or ‘Scotland’s’ and SG was asked if it could approve. Mr Wheelhouse agreed to consider the suggestion as Minister for Innovation and also to raise it with Mr Ewing. Aberdeenshire Council is continuing to lead with defining scope of project and how to resource it.

OPTIONS

Formation of a company to be registered at Companies House

If the Task Force partners decided that the most appropriate vehicle to deliver the centre of excellence is a company based in Scotland and registered at Companies House, and the company name included e.g. Scotland, Scottish, Alba, they should inform the Sponsorship Team within Enterprise Cities Division of the Scottish Government (of their intention to register the company at Companies House) providing the full company name, a summary of the company function(s)/ what it seeks to do and registered office/ principal place of business (including full postal address and post code). The Sponsorship Team will liaise with policy colleagues within Scottish Government to ascertain if there be any objection to the use of the

Proposed name and reply to the correspondent that either the Scottish Government has objection (and what the objection is) or that it has no objection. The company may then apply to Companies House to have the company name registered, accompanied by the letter provided by Scottish Government. The final registration decision rests with Companies House.

Formation of an organisation not to be registered at Companies House

If the Task Force partners decide to form an organisation and not a business that would be registered at Companies House they should seek appropriate independent advice of the implications of doing so.

If undertaking this course, after independent advice has been sought and assuming this is an appropriate course of action, Task Force partners may wish to consider trade marking their organisation through gov.uk. However, this may be more about protecting the name to be used more than anything else and we are unsure if the name would need to be registered formally somewhere first.

FRASERBURGH HARBOUR – ELECTRONIC AUCTION (Agenda Item 6)

- Fraserburgh Harbour Trust is considering the opportunities surrounding the installation of an electronic fish auction to improve the transparency and reach of fish sales, with the potential to increase prices and therefore consequently increasing landings into the port.
- Marine Scotland officials have been in discussion with the Harbour Trust around opportunities to fund the development through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Lines

- Projects will be assessed in the normal way and recommendation will be made to Mr Ewing.
- All bids need to be affordable and viable under the EMFF programme.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRASERBURGH - OFFSHORE WIND

- Shortly Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise will shortly commission consultants to carry out a high level Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) in to the infrastructure requirements and economic impact of the Moray Offshore Windfarm O+M base. Focussing on the three harbours MORL have identified at potential bases, Fraserburgh, Buckie and Wick.
- The EIA will demonstrate the economic importance of the O+M base pre and post development by quantifying GVA and jobs impacts. SE and HIE will use the findings as part of any due diligence should there be a request for assistance once the preferred base/location has been confirmed.

- It is hoped that will be concluded in approximately 8 weeks.

David Stevenson
SG - Head of Offshore Wind

[redacted]

BUSINESS RATES

Top lines

- No restaurant, pub, hotel or café will see their bills increase by more than 12.5%;
- Additional support for the North East economy in light of the Oil and Gas downturn, capping bill increases at 12.5% for offices in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire
- Expanded renewables relief as committed to in the Draft Budget
- As Mr Mackay set out on 21 Feb, updating the profiles of the Scottish Government's contribution required to bring the NDR pool into balance has provided the flexibility to meet the additional cost of these measures.
- The measures for hotels/pubs and offices will apply for 2017-18 and we will consider what further future support is required in light of the Barclay review when it reports this summer.
- We have freed councils to use their powers to introduce local rates relief schemes to ensure that we cover other sectors, individual areas or individuals where that might be appropriate.

The Draft Budget sets out a highly competitive business rates regime.

- **Over 70% of Scottish properties will pay the same or less in 2017-18 than they do currently.**
- We are cutting the poundage, extending the Small Business Bonus Scheme, and focusing the Large Business Supplement only on the very biggest businesses.
- More than half of rateable properties will pay nothing for 2017-18 [due to the Small Business Bonus and other reliefs].
- An external review (led by Ken Barclay) is exploring how business rates can better reflect economic conditions and support growth. We will respond quickly when it concludes in the summer.
- In 2017 all commercial premises will have their property value reassessed by the independent Assessor. The Scottish Government has no locus to intervene in this process.
- The Scottish Government will publish an analytical report on the impact of revaluation in due course.
- All ratepayers have a right of appeal against the independent Assessors determination of rateable value. This is free to do in Scotland, unlike in England where charges are proposed from 2017-18.

Our Draft Budget demonstrates our commitment to competitive business rates

- The rates poundage will drop 3.7% from 48.4p for 2016-17 to 46.6p for 2017-18.
- We are maintaining the best support for small ratepayers in the UK.

- The Small Business Bonus has saved business over £1.2 billion cumulatively since 2008.
- The Small Business Bonus eligibility threshold for 100% rates relief will increase to a rateable value of £15,000, lifting 100,000 properties out of rates altogether.
- The Small Business Bonus will provide maximum support of £6,990 per business [100% relief for £15k rateable value at 46.6p poundage]. Properties with rateable value up to £18,000 can still get 25% relief, as is the case currently [so long as ratepayer's cumulative rateable value is no more than £35k].
- **We are excluding 8,000 businesses from the large business supplement, and limiting it to fewer than 10% of properties [around 20,000].**
- **We are raising the threshold for the large business supplement from a rateable value of £35,000 to £51,000 [matching England].**

Contact - Dougie McLaren, [redacted]