



ref: INBSE board 2005 : 05 11 24 minutes

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INBSE BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 24
NOVEMBER IN THE GREEN HOUSE, INVERNESS**

Present: Ken Mackie (Chairman)
Helen Carmichael
Fiona Larg
Rosemary Machen-Young
Alasdair Munro
Freda Rapson
Chris Silver
Ian Urquhart
Bill Smith

In Attendance: Lorna Ross Highland Employer Coalition
Stuart Black (INBSE – Inverness)
Billy Macrae
Judy Clinton

1. APOLOGIES

Directors apologies were received from: Ken MacMillan, Basil Dunlop, Iain Scott, Duncan MacKellar, Robbie Bremner.

Staff apologies were received from Ruaraidh MacNeil, Ian Fraser and Audrey MacIver.

Youth Observers apologies were received from Ewan McCreath & Ricky Campbell.

2. PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed Lorna Ross of the Highland Employer Coalition who presented the board with the background and the current status of this organisation.

The power point presentation will be emailed to board members with the minutes.

Points highlighted were:

- The Highland Employer Coalition is the only one throughout the UK which encompasses a rural remit. It will recruit an executive director shortly.
- Employer led activity is the way forward to identify clearest ways to find opportunities to place people back into employment.
- The *Get a Goal* initiative was particularly successful and was the first of its type. The environment and atmosphere of Ross County football ground was deemed to be a contributory factor.
- *Introduction to Construction* will commence in January and INBSE will follow up progress on this.

- *Generic Work Preparation* will commence at the beginning of the financial year.
- There is a potential workforce from those on incapacity benefit, who with the help of the Coalition can identify new and possibly more appropriate opportunities back into the work place. The support of NHS Highland and individual General Practitioners is important
- Soft skills, including refreshing work ethics and self belief are of major importance when preparing the way back to the work place.
- The New Deal offers financial incentives to employers who recruit from the client group.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. STRATEGY DAY

The strategy day document is the basis for the new INBSE business plan which will be prepared during December for the end of January. The board will be kept informed of progress.

It was noted:

- The airport should be added as a specific item under transport
- New golf courses are welcomed but that they should be top quality
- Upgrading transport infrastructure is of paramount importance and all three areas of need were considered a priority
 - Connectivity to Perth – A9
 - Airport – A96
 - Arc Proposal – road improvement in and around Inverness.

It was agreed that the strategy day offered a good opportunity to participate in all subjects due to the constant moving of groups, with facilitators to oversee the gathering of information. Next year this meeting will be held in Nairn.

5. REPORTS

• CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman drew the board's attention to recent press reports on Scottish Enterprise's plans for revamping their LEC network.

• CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE

- The Network Internal review is underway and a new post of Operations Director has been created. Douglas Yule will take up this post from 1st January 2006. There was a general discussion on the possibility of more integration between some of the different community groups and committees which currently appear to run in parallel. The board requested a presentation from HIE at the next meeting.
- A Destination Management Organisation is proposed for Badenoch & Strathspey to maximise marketing opportunities for the area. The recent learning journey to Switzerland was undertaken to assist in the identification of good practice from other successful mountain resorts.
- A steering group is now in place for future planning for the College/UHI Campus.

6. WRITTEN REPORTS

- **Approvals**

During the reporting period staff had to approve a number of projects from the Badenoch & Strathspey area. These had previously been approved by MBSE.

The HIE management group requested further information on the Culloden project before making a decision.

- **Financial Update**

Staff highlighted the following points from the update:

- Spend is currently well below profile but the gap will narrow after HIE processes invoices received for the Centre for Health Science.
- Staff are investigating the probability of spend on the Aviemore Highland Resort by the year-end.
- The forecast outturn for skillseekers and training for work will be reduced.
- Staff will encourage Eden Court to submit legitimate costs before the year-end.

- **Network Highlights**

The board noted the contents of the report.

- **LEC Highlights**

The board noted the contents of the report.

- **Unemployment Digest**

The board discussed the correlation of those out of work due to incapacity and the numbers recorded in the unemployment digest.

- **Freedom of Information**

This report will be issued in a shorter format in future, in date order and only showing those enquiries which relate to INBSE.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) The next board meeting will be the staff and board Christmas lunch at the Green House. The board will meet at 12.00 and weather permitting will visit the Centre for Health Science. The lunch will be at 12.30.
- (2) A visit will be arranged to the Whiteness site in Ardersier in the spring of 2006.
- (3) Dates for the next joint INBSE and Highland Council meeting will be circulated shortly.

Jmc/24.11.05

