

News of 935 job losses from Moray's two RAF bases was still reverberating as 2005-06 began. It was followed in April with Grampian Country Foods' announcement that it was closing its Buckie factory with the loss of 330 jobs. By then the First Minister had charged us with developing a strategy to diversify the economy following the RAF announcement.

From July, responsibility for the Badenoch and Strathspey areas transferred to Inverness and Nairn Enterprise, allowing the renamed HIE Moray to focus on the strategy. Called Moray 2020, it was published in December 2005 after extensive research and consultation.

The strategy analyses the local economy and its needs, provides a vision of where it could be by 2020, and sets out steps needed to get there. It was adopted by the Local Economic Forum and the Moray Community Planning Partnership and HIE pledged an additional £20 million over six years to help to implement it.

We exceeded our targets in helping to build stronger communities by, for example, improving community facilities and improving skills.

We helped more than 500 people into, or in the direction of, lasting work, and nearly 140 businesses to develop workforce skills.

Our advisers assisted 89 new business start-ups; 33 businesses received assistance to grow; and 13 received help to develop international business.

We invested £4.5 million in the local economy.

2005-06 highlights

Publication of Moray 2020, the 15-year strategic plan to diversify the economy.

Building work started on a £1.9 million electronics factory in Forres.

Contract agreed to acquire land in Keith for 1,000 sq m office development.

E-business workshops held in Buckie, Elgin and Forres.

We assisted a range of local businesses including:

John Thomson Seafoods:
To improve crab meat processing

Integrated Biogen:
To develop a waste management system

Cluny Fish Supplies:
For a new building and machinery

Philips Engineering Limited:
To buy a computer-controlled lathe

Lossie Seafoods Limited:
To develop an international brand

MMS Almac:
For installation of computer to plate technology

Speyfruit:
For a processing facility

The Lecht Ski Company:
For marketing and consultancy

Tio:
For food packaging and washing equipment

Area profile



Population: 88,000

Area: 200,000 hectares

Business start-ups: 3.8 per 1,000 population in 2005

Key sectors: primary industries, timber processing, specialist metal working, defence, food and drink, manufacturing

Emerging sectors: specialist food and drink

2005-06 targets and out-turns

	Target	Out-turn	Performance %	Target 2006-07
Strengthening communities				
New/enhanced community assets	40	45	113	40
Community groups with increased capacity	10	11	110	10
Developing skills and learning				
People supported to move towards and into sustainable work	415	599	144	335
Businesses supported to engage in developing the skills of those in work	80	138	173	80
Growing businesses				
New business starts	80	89	111	80
Business growth projects	35	33	94	35
Making global connections				
Private sector earnings index* (%)	108	120	111	109
Businesses engaging in international business development	10	13	130	25

* This expresses wages in assisted projects relative to average wages in the local area. A value of over 100 indicates higher than average wages.

Priorities for 2006-07

Implement projects in Moray 2020 with our partners in the Moray Community Planning partnership.

Help regenerate the east Moray economy.

With partners, develop plans to strengthen Elgin as a regional centre, historic city and centre of learning.

Strengthen the presence of UHI in Moray.

Encourage commercially viable new ideas; create opportunities for well paid jobs for local people and graduates.

Work to stem the loss of young people and attract more people aged 16–25 to visit, work and study.

Encourage RAF leavers to remain.

Encourage a private sector-led tourism initiative to ensure that Moray fulfils visitors' expectations.



Derek Bedford, chairman



James Gibbs, chief executive

HIE Moray

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Case studies



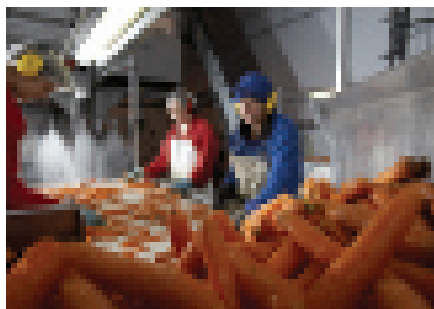
New clean manufacturing facility, Forres

Building started on a new 1,500 sq m, £1.9 million factory at The Enterprise Park, Forres. It is designed to provide an excellent facility for specialist and high technology manufacture.



Ella Comics

A new business selling comics worldwide over the internet, Ella Comics looks towards growing quickly from its base in Lhanbryde.



Tio Limited

Tio (This Is Organics) received our help to install new automated packaging and washing equipment for organic carrots.



Philips Engineering Limited

A new computer-controlled lathe helped Philips Engineering lower costs and improve quality to secure more business.