

KEEP THE RAF IN MORAY

Bulletin 16

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Moray Task Force...

has come together to address the impact on Moray of the UK Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review, published in October 2010.

Made up of private business, the public sector and community groups, the task force is campaigning to keep the Tornados at RAF Lossiemouth and to support the businesses and communities affected by the cancellation of the Nimrod contract at RAF Kinloss.

Businesses invited to sign up to letter to Prime Minister

The Task Force agreed at Friday's meeting to facilitate an open letter from the business community to the Prime Minister David Cameron, to be copied to Chief Secretary to the Treasury MP Danny Alexander, and the Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey when he visits Moray.

Local businesses are being encouraged to put their names to the letter. It will be in this week's Northern Scot, and can also be found on the Moray Task Force website where you can add your name and business.

www.moraytaskforce.com/get-involved



Moray Task Force Bigger and Better

Moray Task Force extended its ranks on Friday with a doubling in strength for the final push before the Government announces its decision over the future of the RAF bases in Moray.

The group, which was formed in October in response to the UK Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review, has worked both to secure the future of RAF Lossiemouth and to minimise the negative effects of any closure of RAF Kinloss.

The newly structured group now comprises representatives from 18 different organisations compared to 9, with new members including Lossiemouth Business Association, Knockomie Hotel, Highland Council, union representatives and Moray Tourism Development Group.

Task force Co-chairman Calum MacPherson said:

"The fact we have entered 2011 with an expanded task force demonstrates that we have stepped up a gear and it shows the strength of feeling for continued action and the resolve of the whole community to ensure we secure the best possible outcome for Moray over the next few weeks and months."

The extended task force now includes: Initial members - Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Moray Council, Skills Development Scotland, Moray Chamber of Commerce, Voluntary Action Moray, Chair of Joint Council of Community Councils, Federation of Small Business and major local employers, represented by Robertson Group. New members - Forres based employers, Lossie Action Group, Lossie Business Association, Community Planning Partnership (NHS, Police, Fire), Moray Council Party Leaders, Highland Council, Moray Social Enterprise Network, The Northern Scot and Union representation.

Moray is and will remain an amazing place to live and work, but we need the community and businesses to make their voices heard.

Enterprise Minister confirms return to Moray

Following his visit to Moray to meet with the Chamber of Commerce and with key Scottish Agency leaders, the Enterprise Minister Jim Mather has confirmed follow up meetings on **WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY**. He will further discuss issues highlighted by the local businesses and hear an update from public body bosses on how their agencies are supporting the Moray area.

The Chamber of Commerce business session at Horizon Business Centre, Forres will be **FREE** and registration will begin at 10.30am.

See The Dam Busters on the Big Screen and Support the Task Force Trust Fund

The Moray Playhouse is showing the classic British 1950s film 'The Dam Busters' tonight (Wednesday) at 8pm. There are 250 seats available and the proceeds will go to the campaign fighting fund. Tickets are on sale at the Cinema, and from Lossiemouth Post Office, Grampian Furnishers and Buckley's Newsagents in Lossiemouth.

The screening recognises the link between the 'Dambuster' squadron, No.617, one of the units currently based at RAF Lossiemouth.

Chairman of the campaign committee, Cllr Dave Stewart, said last night: "We felt this would be an appropriate tribute to one of the Squadrons at RAF Lossiemouth, not the least because just a short time after their famous attack on the Rhu Dams in the Second World War, they launched another successful attack from Lossiemouth on the battleship Tirpitz.

"There is also a link with the movie itself that was pointed out to us. When the Regal Cinema in Lossiemouth, which was very popular with servicemen in the area, closed in the late 1960s the last movie it ever screened was 'The Dambusters'."