

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee
22 February 2021

At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Joe Cullinane, Marie Burns and Alex Gallagher (North Ayrshire Council); Peter Henderson and Brian Connolly (South Ayrshire Council); Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

C. Hatton and C. McAuley (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, D. McDowall and A. Craig (East Ayrshire Council); E. Howat and D. Gillies (South Ayrshire Council); S. Foster (Spirit AeroSystems); A. Glass (Skills Development Scotland); C. Turnbull (Ayrshire College); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise) and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Also in Attendance

J. McLachlan and G. Robson (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Katie Hutton and Karen Yeomans

Chair

Councillor Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 14 September 2020 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme Update

Submitted report by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Ayrshire Growth Deal and development of its component projects as at 11 January 2021 were set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the final version of the suite of deal documents set out at Appendices 2 – 8 and the finalised agreement set out at Appendix 9 to the report.

It was highlighted that the HALO project was due to complete mid-April 2021, the Ayrshire Growth Deal website would launch at the end of February 2021, the Outline Business Case for Working for a Healthy Economy project was approved by Scottish Government on 19 February 2021 and the Outline Business Case for the Community Wealth Building project was approved by Scottish Government on 12 February 2021.

The Joint Committee asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- Covid-19 as the reason for the majority of amber updates on the Ayrshire Growth Deal dashboard and the delay in response from the Scottish Government; and
- the link to the Ayrshire Growth Deal website which would be provided on the 3 Ayrshire's own websites.

Noted.

3 Working for a Healthy Economy Project – Final Business Case

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the Final Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Working for a Healthy Economy Project. The Final Business Case was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Local Authority Ayrshire Growth Deal Agreement set out at Appendix 2 and Ayrshire Growth Deal Governance Document set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Joint Committee asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- engagement of rural communities being a key factor; and
- alignment with Locality Partnership priorities to help support communities.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) approve the Final Business Case for the Working for a Healthy Economy project set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the position regarding Scottish Government approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) approve the use of Ayrshire Growth Deal funding for the project and implementation of its activities.

4. Community Wealth Building Project

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the Final Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund Project. The Final Business Case was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Local Authority Ayrshire Growth Deal Agreement set out at Appendix 2 and Ayrshire Growth Deal Governance Document set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) approve the Final Business Case for the Community Wealth Building Fund project set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the position regarding Scottish Government approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) approve the use of Ayrshire Growth Deal funding for the project and implementation of its activities.

5. Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board Minutes

Submitted, for information, the Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board held on 29 January 2021.

Noted.

6. Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board

The Joint Committee received a verbal update by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board held on 29 January 2021.

The Joint Committee was advised of an update in relation to agenda item 10 (Strategic Transport Projects Review Update (STPR2), namely that (i) a meeting had now been arranged with the Transport Minister, the three Ayrshire Chief Executives and three Ayrshire Leaders and (ii) an update from this meeting would be provided in due course.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.