

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee
19 February 2024

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

Present

Councillors Marie Burns and Anthony Gurney (North Ayrshire Council); Douglas Reid, Iain Linton and Maureen McKay (East Ayrshire Council); and William Grant and Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, N. McIlvanney, L. Kirk and J. King (North Ayrshire Council); R. Grieveson, D. McDowall and G. Saunders (East Ayrshire Council); L. Reid, G. Hunter, D. Yuille and C. Caves (South Ayrshire Council); J. Martin and D. McCrindle (Scottish Enterprise); S. Foster (Spirit Aerosystems); A. Cox (Ayrshire College); C. Stewart (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillors Joe Cullinane (North Ayrshire Council) and Martin Dowey (South Ayrshire Council); R. McCutcheon (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser and J. McLachlan (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall (South Ayrshire Council) and P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland).

Chair

Councillor Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors

2. Exclusion of the Public – Para 9

The Partnership Board resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. Ayrshire Growth Deal Spaceport Project

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (South Ayrshire Council) on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Spaceport Project and seeking approval for next steps.

Following questions and discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations in the report.

4. Urgent Items

The Chair exercised discretion to allow consideration of the undernoted updates as a matter of urgency, to permit the Joint Committee to be updated and to allow appropriate action to be taken without delay.

4.1 Information Sharing on AGD Projects with Scottish and UK Governments

The Strategic Manager (Ayrshire Growth Deal) (East Ayrshire Council) updated the Joint Committee on information sharing arrangements with the Scottish and UK Governments and sought permission to share draft reports at pre-agenda stage, in order to provide full and comprehensive information on the projects under consideration for the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD).

The Joint Committee agreed to authorise officers to share draft reports with the Scottish and UK Governments, going forward, as a means of improving and enhancing communication with both Governments on the progress of AGD projects underway.

4.2 Review of AGD Steering Group by Programme Management Office (PMO)

The Strategic Manager (Ayrshire Growth Deal) (East Ayrshire Council) provided an update to the Board on a review, by the Programme Management Office (PMO) of the steering group under the Ayrshire Growth Deal, and informed that a survey would shortly be sent to members of the steering group on its effectiveness and how it could be improved in terms of bringing greater value in terms of developing the AGD programme.

Noted.

4.3 Scotland Office of the UK Government – Local Economic Growth Review Questionnaire

The Strategic Manager (Ayrshire Growth Deal) (East Ayrshire Council) informed the Partnership Board that the Scotland Office of the UK Government had issued a questionnaire on the Local Economic Growth Review and had requested that the PMO coordinate a response on the questionnaire.

The Board agreed (a) that the PMO be instructed to (i) prepare a draft questionnaire response, (ii) circulate the draft to members of the Board by email, for comment and (iii) submit the final questionnaire response to the Scotland Office by the deadline date of 8 March 2024; and (b) to note that the agreed action would not prevent any authority from making their own individual response, notwithstanding the importance of avoiding any contradiction with regard to responses.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.