
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

19 September 2018

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Arrangements for an Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership**

Purpose: This report provides Council with an update on progress in respect of arrangements to create an Ayrshire Regional Partnership for Inclusive Economic Growth as agreed at Council on the 27th June 2018.

Recommendation: That Council notes **i)** the updated proposals to take this important work forward; **ii)** that further updates will be presented to Cabinet, and; **iii)** a further report will be submitted to put in place new Governance Arrangements to oversee the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Members will recall the report presented to Council on the 27th June 2018 to consider the creation of an Ayrshire Regional Partnership for Inclusive Growth.
- 1.2 This report confirms that over the summer developments have taken place to shape that Partnership, and at this stage it is not considered that staff resources will be transferred to facilitate the work.
- 1.3 The new proposals will focus on the development of an Ayrshire Economic Growth Strategy to support and direct the emerging Ayrshire Growth Deal.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council agreed to establish a Regional Pathfinder for Inclusive Economic Growth at its meeting on 27th June 2018. This was to include an Ayrshire Delivery Vehicle between East, North and South Ayrshire Councils and other stakeholders from 1st April 2019. The Chief Executive was remitted to finalise new management arrangements and report these to Cabinet in due course.
- 2.2 It was further agreed that North Ayrshire would be the host authority with employees transferring from each of East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils where agreed by their respective authorities.

- 2.3 Council noted that the content of the corresponding report being submitted to South Ayrshire Council did not commit to the same degree of integrated service delivery.
- 2.4 Over the summer the three Council Chief Executives have been negotiating the shape of our Partnership agreements to ensure we are in a positive position to support and drive forward the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 2.5 The critical first step will be to develop a single economic development strategy for Ayrshire which will inform regional priorities to support inclusive growth of our economy. The three Councils will work collaboratively, and with wider stakeholders, to develop a clear vision for the area.
- 2.6 The Partnership will provide a strong and unified voice for Ayrshire ensuring that it is heard in national debates, making the case for investment and influencing national, regional and local priorities and decision making. It will also ensure a single point of influence for business.
- 2.7 At this stage, it is not anticipated that there will be a requirement for staff resource transfers, but rather, that collaboration will take place to develop the Ayrshire Regional Strategy which will in turn guide and ensure delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 2.8 Arrangements to create a new Joint Committee to support and oversee the Ayrshire Growth Deal and development of the Strategy are underway and will form the basis of a further report.
- 2.9 These arrangements were confirmed with the new Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP, when the three Council Leaders met with him on the 28th August 2018.

3. Proposals

3.1 Council is recommended to note:

- i) the updated arrangements to take this work forward;
- ii) that further updates will be presented to Cabinet, and;
- iii) a further report on the Governance arrangements will be submitted.

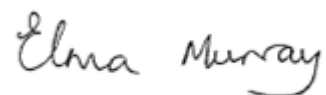
4. Implications

Financial:	The Regional Pathfinder was set to deliver £80,000 of savings within the current financial year and a further £748,000 of savings in the next financial year. Alternative savings proposals will now have to be considered.
Human Resources:	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal:	Governance arrangements are being reviewed to allow for the three Councils, stakeholders and the private sector to work together to shape and oversee the new Ayrshire Economic Growth Strategy and Ayrshire Growth Deal.
Equality: Children and Young People:	There are no equality implications arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	<p>The report supports corporate and economic strategies of the Council, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing our Economy, increasing employment and regenerating our towns; • Working together to develop stronger communities; and • Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work.
Community Benefits:	There are no Community Benefits arising from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with the three Councils to negotiate the new shape of the Ayrshire Regional Partnership.



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Chief Executive

For further information please contact Elma Murray OBE, Chief Executive on 01294 324197.

Background Papers

- Report to North Ayrshire Council on the creation of an Ayrshire Regional Partnership for Inclusive Growth (27 June 2018).