

Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board
19 February 2024

At a Special Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board at 1.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

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

In Attendance

C. Hatton, R. McCutcheon, N. McIlvanney, L. Kirk and A. Finlayson (North Ayrshire Council); R. Grieveson, M. Watson and G. Saunders (East Ayrshire Council); L. Reid G. Hunter and D. Yuille (South Ayrshire Council); S. Foster (Spirit AeroSystems); D. McCrindle (Scottish Enterprise); A. Cox (Ayrshire College); C. Baird (Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce); A. Dobson (Taste of Arran); H. Kuboyama (Federation of Small Businesses); Milan Radosavljevic (University of West of Scotland); C. Stewart and S. Wilson (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillors Joe Cullinane (North Ayrshire Council) and Martin Dowey (South Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, J. McLachlan and D. McDowall (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall (South Ayrshire Council); P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland); G. Docherty (University of Strathclyde); L. Barker (UK Government) and M. Roughhead (Visit 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. Ayrshire Growth Deal – Programme Risk Register Update (January 2024)

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) providing an update on the AGD Programme Risk Register. The updated Programme Risk Register (Risks and Mitigations) was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Partnership Board agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) recommend that the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee approve the updated Programme Risk Register dated January 2024, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Ayrshire Growth Deal – Programme Update

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) on the progress of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the development of its component projects as at 31 January 2024. The Programme and Project Inductions were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 set out the Annual Performance Report for Quarter 3 (October – December 2023).

The Partnership Board agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) recommend that the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee note (i) the updates provided in the report and its appendices, (ii) the progress across the Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme, (iii) the outcome of the Annual Conversation and the development of Summary of the Programme Review and (iv) the progress made and next steps of the Programme Review 23-24 (including the various work streams which would inform on the Review's outcome).

4. Urgent Items

The Chair exercised discretion to allow consideration of the undernoted updates as a matter of urgency, to permit the Partnership Board 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 Partnership Board 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 Partnership Board agreed to recommend to the Joint Committee that, going forward, officers be permitted to share draft reports with the Scottish and UK Governments, as appropriate, as a means of improving and enhancing communication with both Governments on the progress of the 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) to recommend to the Joint Committee 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 1.35 p.m.