

**Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee**  
**20 May 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); Stephen Canning (Substitute), Iain Linton and Maureen McKay (East Ayrshire Council); and Martin Dowey, William Grant and Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).

**In Attendance**

R. McCutcheon and L. Kirk (North Ayrshire Council); J. McLachlan, D. McDowall, G. Saunders, J. King and A. Muir (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall and G. Hunter (South Ayrshire Council); P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland); C. Stewart and S. Wilson (North Ayrshire Council).

**Apologies**

Councillor Douglas Reid, E. Fraser and D. Watt (East Ayrshire Council); C. Hatton (North Ayrshire Council); L. Reid (South Ayrshire Council); A. Cox (Ayrshire College) and J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise).

**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. Minutes**

The Minutes of (a) Ordinary meetings of the Joint Committee held on 20 November 2023 and 19 February 2024; and (b) Special meetings of the Joint Committee held on 18 September 2023 and 15 January 2024 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Programme Risk Register Update (March 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 Joint Committee agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) approve the updated Programme Risk Register dated March 2024, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **4. Ayrshire Growth Deal – Communications Protocol Update (March 2024)**

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) on the advising of the updating of the AGD Communications Protocol. The updated Communications Protocol March 2024 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) approve the updated Communications Protocol March 2024, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **5. Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor Project and Ayrshire Engineering Park**

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) providing an update on the Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor (AMIC) and Ayrshire Engineering Park (AEP) projects, following confirmation from both Scottish and UK Governments that the change request (proposing the co-location of both projects at Moorfield and the renaming of the site as the Ayrshire Innovation Park) has been approved.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- the ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland, including anticipated costs, in relation to potential upgrade and improvement works to the Bellfield Interchange, Kilmarnock, taking cognisance of concerns discussed at the meeting in relation to road safety and traffic queuing on the slip road on to it and the consequential impact on the A77 trunk Road.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) approve the change request relating to the preferred relocation of AMIC to Moorfield, alongside the Ayrshire Engineering Park, (b) note that this change had now been approved in principle by both Governments, subject to a number of clarifications which would be provided as part of the development of Outline Business Cases, (c) note that the co-located development would be known as the Ayrshire Innovation Park (AIP), (d) that revised Outline Business Cases would be prepared for submission to both Governments by no later than May 2024, (e) note that a joint Full Business Case for Infrastructure Works would be prepared for submission, to allow works to commence by January 2025, (f) note that a further two Full Business Cases for AMIC (Centre of Excellence/Food Grade Units and Large Advanced Manufacturing Unit) would be submitted, allowing construction works to take place during 2026/27, (g) note that a further two Full Business Cases for AEP (Small Terraced Engineering Units and Large Engineering Units) would be submitted, allowing construction works to take place during 2026/27, and (h) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **6. Exclusion of the Public – Para 9**

The Joint Committee 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.

**7. Exempt Item: Ayrshire Growth Deal Commercial Build A Update**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (South Ayrshire Council) on the above.

Following consideration, the Joint Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations in the report.

The meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.