



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee

A Special Meeting of the **Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee** of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Monday, 19 February 2024 at 14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

Meeting Arrangements - Not live streamed

This meeting will be held on a predominantly physical basis but with provision, by prior notification, for remote attendance by Elected Members in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.

Exclusion of the Public - Para 9

Resolve 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.

Non Disclosure of Information

In terms of Standing Order 21 (Disclosure of Information), the information contained within the following report is confidential information within the meaning of Section 50A of the 1973 Act and shall not be disclosed to any person by any Member or Officer.

1 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2 Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (a) Ordinary meeting of the Joint Committee held on 20 November 2023 and (b) Special meeting of the Joint Committee held on 15 January 2024 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

- 3 Exempt Item Ayrshire Growth Deal Spaceport Project**
Submit report by the Chief Executive (South Ayrshire Council) on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Spaceport Project and seeking approval for next steps (copy enclosed).

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee Sederunt

North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Marie Burns
Councillor Joe Cullinane
Councillor Anthony Gurney
Craig Hatton
Russell McCutcheon
Neale McIlvanney
Louise Kirk
East Ayrshire Council
Councillor Douglas Reid
Councillor Iain Linton
Councillor Maureen McKay
Councillor Stephen Canning (sub)
Councillor Barry Douglas (sub)
Councillor William Lennox (sub)
Eddie Fraser
David McDowall
Graham Saunders
South Ayrshire Council
Councillor Martin Dowey
Councillor William Grant
Councillor Bob Pollock
George Hunter
Theo Leijser
Mike Newall
Others
Simon Foster, Spirit Aerosystems
Jane Martin, Scottish Enterprise
Angela Cox, Ayrshire College
Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

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); Maureen McKay (East Ayrshire Council); and Martin Dowey, William Grant and Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, N. McIlvanney and A. Finlayson (North Ayrshire Council); R. Grieveson, D. McDowall, G. Saunders and P. Davies (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall, L. Reid and S. Yearley (South Ayrshire Council); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise); C. Stewart and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillors Iain Linton, Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council) and William Grant (South Ayrshire Council); C. Hatton and L. Kirk (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, J. McLachlan, E. Mackay and D. Watt (East Ayrshire Council); A. Cox (Ayrshire College) 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. Appointment of Chair

The Joint Committee agreed (a) to note the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) as Chair of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) for the period from September 2023 to 31 August 2024; and (b) to ratify the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns as Chair of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board (AEPB) for the period from September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of Special meetings of the Joint Committee held on 7 August 2023 and 18 September 2023 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23

Submitted report by the Chief Auditor (East Ayrshire Council) providing an annual report on internal audit activity in line with obligations laid out in Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance Document.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the difference in terminology, regarding the words used in the Audit report, i.e., 'general risk and control' as compared to 'general risk and compliance'.

The Joint Committee agreed to note (i) the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out at Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) note the work carried out prior to and since inception, including during 2022/23 as laid out at Appendix 2 to the report and (iii) the AGD Annual Internal Audit Opinion of continuing reasonable assurance as laid out in sections 10-11 of the report.

5. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

Submitted report by the Chief Auditor (East Ayrshire Council) providing an annual consolidated internal audit plan in line with obligations laid out in Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance document.

The Joint Committee agreed to note (i) the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out in Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the regulatory responsibility for each Council to approve days spent on AGD work as laid out at paragraph 7 and the subsequent annual consolidated internal audit plan for the AGD as presented at Appendix 2 to the report and (iii) (c) note the previously agreed arrangements to report the outcomes of individual internal audit assignments laid out at section 8 to the report.

6. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) - Programme Update

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) advising of the progress of the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) and the development of its component projects as at 30 October 2023. The Ayrshire Growth Deal Update of Programme and Projects and the Quarterly Communications Report, as at October 2023, were attached at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed (a) that officers be authorised to liaise with both Governments to progress the projects having regard to the updated position in line with the formal change requirements contained within the Deal protocols; and (b) to note (i) the updates provided in the report (as of 30 October 2023), (ii) the progress across the Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme, and (iii) the proposal for realignment of the reporting requirements, principally the undertaking of the Annual Performance Report, Financial Plan, Implementation Plan and Benefit Realisation Plan at the end of March 24, and onwards at the same time every year, all subject to agreement from the Government.

7. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Programme Risk Register Update (October 2023)

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) providing an update on the AGD Programme Risk Register as at the end of October 2023. The updated risk register was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to approve the content of the updated Programme Risk Register dated October 2023, as referred to within the report and set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Schedule of Future Meeting Dates - 2024

The Joint Committee was invited to note that Ordinary Meetings of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) would take place at 2.00 p.m. on:

Monday 19 February 2024
Monday 20 May 2024
Monday 9 September 2024
Monday 25 November 2024

Noted.

9. Exclusion of the Public – Paras 9 & 10

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 Paragraphs 9 & 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

10. Ayrshire Growth Deal Subsea Cable and Infill projects re-scoping proposal

Submitted report by the Project Lead – Digital, Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) on the above.

The Joint Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations in the report.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.

At a Special Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

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

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, N. McIlvanney, L. Kirk, E. McMullen, L. Neill and J. King (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, R. Grieveson, D. McDowall and G. Saunders (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall and L. Reid (South Ayrshire Council); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise); P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland); C. Stewart and S. Wilson (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillor Maureen Mackay (East Ayrshire Council), C. Hatton (North Ayrshire Council) and A. Cox (Ayrshire College).

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 (AGD) Community Wealth Building Change Request

Submitted report by the Executive Director, Place (North Ayrshire Council) on the summary mid-term review of the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Community Wealth Building (CWB) Programme and seeking approval to extend the programme by one year. The AGD CWB Programme Review Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to approve the project change request proposal to extend the programme by one year, noting that the proposal had been supported by the Scottish Government and endorsed by the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board.

3. Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund (ASIF) Governance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) seeking approval of the detailed governance arrangements for the Ayrshire Skills and Investment (ASIF) sub-committee of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) including the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders.

The Joint Committee agreed (a) to approve the Terms of Reference for the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund Sub-Committee; (b) to note that the agreed governance arrangements had been implemented, creating the AEJC, Ayrshire Skills and Investment Fund Sub-Committee, with delegated authority to award the fund; (c) to ratify the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) as Chair and appoint Councillor Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council) as Vice-Chair of the Ayrshire Skills and Investment Fund Sub-Committee (ASIF sub-committee); (d) to note the grant funding approved at the meeting of the ASIF sub-committee in November 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, in accordance with the general delegation granted by the AEJC on 20 June 2022 and ratify the delegation for approval of grant funding awarded; and (e) that an update be provided to the Joint Committee every 6 months on funding awards and achievements.

The meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.