

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2023 AT 1003 HRS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Clare Maitland and Maureen McKay, East Ayrshire Council; Councillor Anthony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council; Councillors Martin Dowey, William Grant and Bob Pollock, South Ayrshire Council; Angela Cox, Ayrshire College; Alastair Dobson, Taste of Arran; Claire Baird, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce; and Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland.

ATTENDING: Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive; Graham Saunders, Programme Manager - Ayrshire Growth Deal; Mags Watson, Strategic Manager Economic Development (Interim); Dougal Watt, Senior Auditor (all East Ayrshire Council); Craig Hatton, Chief Executive; Louise Kirk, Head of Service/Economic Development and Regeneration; Neale McIlvanney, Interim Head of Service (Growth, Investment and Employability); Laura Neill, Senior Manager Employability; (all North Ayrshire Council); George Hunter, Assistant Director - Communities; and Louise Reid, Assistant Director - Strategic Change (both South Ayrshire Council and Rachel Phillips, Scottish Government.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Marie Burns, North Ayrshire Council; Hisashi Kuboyama, Federation of Small Businesses; Milan Radosavljevic, University of West of Scotland;

ALSO ATTENDING: Christine Baillie, Democratic Services Team Leader and Sheryl Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer, East Ayrshire Council; and Craig Stewart, Committee Services Officer, North Ayrshire Council

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

ADJOURNMENT/RECONVENTION

1. The meeting adjourned at 1004 and reconvened at 1007 with the same Members and Officers present and participating with the addition of Councillor Anthony Gurney.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2023 (circulated).

AUDIT SCOTLAND: "SCOTLAND'S CITY REGION AND GROWTH DEALS - PROGRESS OF THE 2020 AUDIT REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS", JUNE 2023

3. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council, which informed members of Audit Scotland's publication of a follow-up report on Scottish Growth Deals; focussing on issues relevant to the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The Board agreed to note Audit Scotland's report content and propose its consideration by the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee.

AYRSHIRE REGIONAL REVENUE PROJECT - AYRSHIRE SKILLS INVESTMENT FUND

4. There was submitted a report (copy enclosed), together with a presentation, by the Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council which sought endorsement of the draft Full Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund (ASIF) for onwards consideration by the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee. The Draft Full Business Case was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Board agreed:

- (i) to endorse the draft Full Business Case (FBC) and arrangements for implementation of the ASIF; and
- (ii) to recommend the FBC for consideration of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1049 hrs.