

## **AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2023 AT 1049 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; and Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland.

**ATTENDING:** Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive; Dougal Watt, Senior Auditor; Graham Saunders, Interim Strategic Manager and Programme Manager - Ayrshire Growth Deal; Mags Watson, Strategic Manager Economic Development (Interim). all East Ayrshire Council; Craig Hatton, Chief Executive; Neale McIlvanney, Interim Head of Service (Growth, Investment and Employability); Louise Kirk, Head of Service/ Economic Development and Regeneration; Laura Neill, Senior Manager Employability; and Craig Stewart, Committee Services Officer, all North Ayrshire Council; George Hunter, Assistant Director - Communities; and Louise Reid, Assistant Director - Strategic Change; both South Ayrshire Council; and Christine Baillie, Democratic Services Team Leader and Sheryl Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer, both East Ayrshire Council.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Marie Burns, North Ayrshire Council; and Jane Martin, Scottish Enterprise.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

### **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023, with no matters arising.

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

2. There was submitted and noted 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.

#### **AYRSHIRE REGIONAL REVENUE PROJECT - AYRSHIRE SKILLS INVESTMENT FUND**

3. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council which sought approval of the draft Full Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund (ASIF), subject to final endorsement of the Scottish Government. The Draft Full Business Case was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the content of the draft Full Business Case (FBC);

- (ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) to approve the FBC and agree the implementation of the ASIF subject to modifications to the business case to secure Scottish Government endorsement; and
- (iii) to note agreed governance arrangements had been implemented, which created the AEJC Sub-Committee, with delegated authority to award the fund.

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

4. The Chair advised that the Chairing of the Committee and the administrative arrangements would rotate to North Ayrshire Council from 1 September 2023

The meeting terminated at 1053 hrs.