

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee
24 May 2021

At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Joe Cullinane, Marie Burns and Alex Gallagher (North Ayrshire Council); Peter Henderson and Brian Connolly (South Ayrshire Council); and Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

C. Hatton and K. Yeomans (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, D. McDowall and A. Craig, J. McLachlan (East Ayrshire Council); E. Howat and D. Gillies (South Ayrshire Council); A. Glass (Skills Development Scotland); C. Turnbull (Ayrshire College); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise); and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Katie Hutton (Skills Development Scotland), Simon Foster (Spirit AeroSystems) and Caitriona McAuley (North Ayrshire Council)

Chair

Councillor Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 22 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme Update

Submitted report by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Ayrshire Growth Deal and development of its component projects as at 21 April 2021 were set out at Appendix 1 to the report; the draft Financial Plan set out at Appendix 2; final version of the suite of deal documents set out at Appendices 3 – 6; and the finalised agreement set out at Appendix 7 to the report.

It was highlighted the draft spend profile for the Deal over 10 years was an estimate based on compression of UK Government's funding from 15 years to 10 years, took into account current activities and implementation plans and was subject to review pending finalisation of the Outline Business Cases. The profile was subject to discussion with both the UK and Scottish Governments and formed part of the suite of Deal documents which had been revised to reflect these changes.

The Joint Committee asked a question regarding strategic transport projects across Ayrshire and opportunities thought the levelling up fund and was provided with further information in relation to the North Ayrshire Council bid for the A737 relief road works to improve links to two Ayrshire Growth Deal project sites at Ardrossan North Shore and Hunterston.

Noted.

3 i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project, Irvine

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space programme at i3, Irvine Enterprise Area and the delivery of the first phase of the programme. The Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre (DPMC) i3 masterplan image was set out at Appendix 1; the proposed Phase 1 of Advanced Manufacturing Space i3 initial sketches set out at Appendix 2; and i3 Flex Space Outline Business Case set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

It was highlighted the Ayrshire Growth Deal allocation included £21M for i3, comprising £15M towards the delivery of advanced manufacturing floorspace (flexible space) and £6M towards a Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre (DPMC) supporting economic infrastructure and engineering and manufacturing sectors.

Noted.

4. Great Harbour, Irvine

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the development of proposals for Ayrshire Growth Deal investment in the Great Harbour, Irvine. The Maritime Mile Concept Plan was set out at Appendix 1 and the Great Harbour Outline Business Case set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

It was highlighted the Maritime Mile proposals involved an investment in placemaking, destination development and tourism through three activity hubs, including:

- the development of a maritime hub including the creation of event and exhibition space alongside new slip ways and moorings.
- the development/promotion of an events/arts/leisure/commercial activity zone; and
- a major new play/park facility at Irvine Beach Park.

The Joint Committee was invited to note that the proposals supported the wider development of Irvine Harbourside, with the wider project to be known as the Great Harbour. The area would be developed as a visitor destination and would enable a step change in the number of visitors attracted to Irvine, supporting additional business investment and employment.

Noted.

5. Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board Minutes

Submitted, for information, the Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board held on 29 April 2021.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.