

Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board
29 April 2021

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

Present

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

In Attendance

C. Hatton, R. McCutcheon, K. Yeomans and C. McAuley (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, D. McDowall, J. McLauchlan and A. Craig (East Ayrshire Council); E. Howat, D. Gillies and T. Leijser (South Ayrshire Council); E. Baird and R. Phillips (Scottish Government); G. Adam and S. Ingledew (Scottish Enterprise); J. Mone and M. Radosavljevic (University of West of Scotland); A. Dobson (Taste of Arran); S. Foster (Spirit AeroSystems); M. Goodfellow (Highlands and Islands Enterprise); A. Glass (Skills Development Scotland); A. Gillespie (University of Strathclyde); A. McGregor (University of Glasgow); H. Kuboyama (Federation of Small Businesses); M. Roughhead (Visit Scotland); V. Russell (Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce); C. Hume (Utopia Computers) and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Also in Attendance

A. Bullough (Audit Scotland)

Apologies

Councillor Siobhian Brown (South Ayrshire Council), Katie Hutton (Skills Development Scotland), Craig Mahoney (University of the West of Scotland) and Carol Turnbull (Ayrshire College).

Chair

Councillor Peter Henderson in the Chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 29 January 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Actions from Last Meeting

3.1 Analysis of Data and Information Requirements

Submitted report by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the analysis of data & information requirements.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with further information in relation to: -

- importance of establishing baseline data against which progress could be measured;
- ensuring projects aligned with Community Wealth Building; and
- environmental impacts.

Noted.

3.2 Communications/PR Plan

The Partnership Board received a verbal update from Allison Craig on the development of a Communications/PR Plan for the work of the Partnership Board. Allison advised that a draft Communication, Marketing and Stakeholder engagement plan had been pulled together by the PMO. The draft plan highlighted who the key stakeholders are in relation to the Growth Deal, communications requirements and how best to engage with them.

Noted.

4 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 were set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the draft spend profile set out at Appendix 2, the suite of deal documents set out at Appendices 3 – 7 and the finalised agreement set out at Appendix 8 to the report.

The Partnership Board was advised that delivery of the HALO Kilmarnock, Enterprise and Innovation Hub, on the former Johnnie Walker site in Kilmarnock, was on track for the end of April 2021 with the property being marketed and a number of positive enquiries. However, it was anticipated that formal agreements would only be possible once lockdown eased, and a revised target date of September 2021 for completion and opening of the building.

Noted.

5. Project Presentations

Received a presentation by Karen Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment) North Ayrshire Council on i3 Flexible Space, Irvine and the Maritime Mile, Irvine.

The Partnership Board was advised that Scottish Government had verbally agreed the Outline Business Cases for both projects and that formal confirmation was expected shortly.

The i3 Flexible Space presentation highlighted the aims of the projects, draft Masterplan, land ownership overview, progress to date and each phase and associated timeline.

The Maritime Mile presentation highlighted the strategic delivery plan, great harbour framework, masterplan, concept design, maritime hub, concept and arts hub, coastal hub, cost plan and project timeline.

Noted.

5. National Economic Opportunities Presentation

Received a presentation by Stephen Ingledew, Scottish Enterprise on the refreshed approach to National Economic opportunities. The presentation highlighted the opportunities and ambitions and the themes including Climate and Net Zero, Health and Wellbeing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Digital and Data.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with further information in relation to: -

- flexibility of the programmes and how tailored they could be towards the needs of an individual region like Ayrshire;
- the Partnership Board's involvement and the opportunity to consider this work further at the future workstream leads workshop;
- opportunities for Ayrshire to be part of Scotland's ambitions for Fintech; and
- how measuring the correct data would help increase the life chances and opportunities for people in Ayrshire.

Noted.

6. Freeports/Greenports Update

Received a verbal update from Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration) North Ayrshire Council on the establishment of Freeports in the UK. It was highlighted the Scottish Government had planned to launch the Greenport prospectus in March 2021 but were unable to reach agreement with the UK Government therefore the prospectus bid was not launched.

The Partnership Board agreed that officers would not continue to prepare a bid for Freeports/Greenports and would instead continue to monitor the development of other bids and report back to the Board any issues that would impact upon the region.

Noted.

7. COP 26

Received a verbal update on the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties. It was highlighted Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise were working with the Scottish Government to create a strategy that would support business engagement in the lead up to COP 26. It was noted that Scottish Government now had an established team for COP 26 and hoped to have an implementation plan out at an early date.

The Partnership Board were also advised of the progress of the Council's in developing initiatives directly within the COP26 conference and at a local level.

Noted.

9 Workstream Updates

Submitted, for noting, the workstream progress reports.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.