

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTE REQUIRES TO BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AT THE NEXT MEETING AND MAY BE AMENDED

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 1400 HRS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK/MS TEAMS

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Maureen McKay and Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council; Councillors Marie Burns, Anthony Gurney and Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council; Councillors Martin Dowey, Peter Henderson and Bob Pollock, South Ayrshire Council; Jane Martin and Derek McCrindle, both Scottish Enterprise; Angela Cox, Ayrshire College; and Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland.

ATTENDING: Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive; David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth; and Eilidh Mackay, Chief Auditor, East Ayrshire Council; Craig Hatton, Chief Executive; and Karen Yeomans, Director - Growth and Investment; North Ayrshire Council; Eileen Howat, Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council; and Christine Baillie Democratic Services Team Leader; and Sheryl Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES: Theo Leijser, Service Lead - Economy and Regeneration, South Ayrshire Council; and Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service - Economic Development; and Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director - Place; North Ayrshire Council.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the special meeting held on 8 September 2022 (circulated),

AYRSHIRE GROWTH DEAL INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

2. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2022 (circulated) by the Chief Auditor, East Ayrshire Council which provided for noting an annual report on internal audit activity in line with obligations laid out in the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance Document as detailed below:
 - to provide a summary of AGD internal audit work in year by all partners;
 - to provide an annual opinion for the AGD; and
 - for further assurance, provide the authority-wide Annual Internal Audit Opinions prepared by each of the three Councils.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to note the work carried out during year two of AGD operations as laid out in paragraphs 7-9 and Appendix 2 of the report, and based on that work;
- (iii) to note the AGD Annual Internal Audit Opinion of continuing reasonable assurance as laid out at paragraphs 10-12 of the report;

- (iv) to note the authority-wide Annual Internal Audit Opinions for the three Councils as laid out at Appendices 3a-3c of the report with regard to the wider control environments within which the AGD operates;
- (v) following discussion around staffing within the PMO, it was noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Joint Committee on proposals for a more robust model of support;
- (vi) to remit to the Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council to provide an update to South Ayrshire Council elected members on progress around the actions identified within their audit report; and
- (vii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AYRSHIRE GROWTH DEAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

3. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2022 (circulated) by the Chief Auditor, East Ayrshire Council which provided, for noting, an annual consolidated internal audit plan in line with obligations laid out in the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance Document.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to note the annual consolidated internal audit plan presented at Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) to note the previously agreed arrangements to report the outcomes of individual internal audit assignments laid out at paragraph 8 of the report;
- (iv) to note that East Ayrshire Council's Internal Audit would now provide an additional 16 days of support to the AGD; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1425 hrs.