

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

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 1400 HRS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK/MS TEAMS

PRESENT: Councillors Clare Maitland and Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council; Councillors Marie Burns and Anthony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council; Councillors Martin Dowey and Peter Henderson, South Ayrshire Council; Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive; and David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, both East Ayrshire Council; Donald Gillies, Director – Place; Louise Reid, Assistant Director – Place; and Theo Leijser, Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration, all South Ayrshire Council; Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director – Place; Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service – Economic Development; and Emma McMullen, Senior Manager – Economic Policy, all North Ayrshire Council; Alastair Dobson, Taste of Arran; Simon Foster, Spirit Aerospace; Morag Goodfellow, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Hisashi Kuboyama, Federation of Small Businesses; Johnny Mone, University of West of Scotland; Malcolm Roughead, Visit Scotland; Val Russel and Claire Baird, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland.

ATTENDING: Lynn Young and Sheryl Wilcox, Democratic Services Officers, East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Maureen McKay, East Ayrshire Council; Councillor Bob McCulloch, South Ayrshire Council; Craig Hatton, Chief Executive; North Ayrshire Council; Fiona Brown, Interim Director of Transport Strategy and Analysis; Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director - Place; Gillian Docherty, Strathclyde University; Rachel Phillips, Scottish Government; Kevin Kane, University of Strathclyde; Angela Cox and Carol Turnbull, Ayrshire College; Milan Radosavljevic, University of West of Scotland; and Brian Connolly and Jane Martin, Scottish Enterprise.

CHAIR: Councillor Peter Henderson, South Ayrshire Council (Item 1) and Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council (remaining items).

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1. It was agreed, subject to approval of the Joint Committee, to appoint Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council as Chair of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board until September 2023.

Councillor Reid then took the Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 (circulated).

**DEVELOPING AN AYRSHIRE REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY:
PROGRESS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2022**

3. The Board received a presentation from the Senior Manager – Economic Policy, North Ayrshire Council on the progress with developing an Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy.

Having noted the update, the Chair thanked the Senior Manager for the presentation.

UK GOVERNMENT - SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Ayrshire Executive Group which advised members of the submission of Investment Plans by the three Ayrshire Councils in respect of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The respective Investment Plans identified a number of important proposals which would be taken forward (subject to funding being secured) across Ayrshire in support of strategic objectives.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note and endorse the submission of SPF Investment Plans by East, North and South Ayrshire Councils;
- (ii) to note that all three Investment Plans articulated a common need to protect established projects that were currently funded via European Structural Funds and would ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements;
- (iii) to note that the Investment Plans were designed to reflect a regional consistency in approach, and that this would be further embedded with the forthcoming launch of the Regional Economic Strategy;
- (iv) to note that a progress report would be submitted to the Economic Partnership Board to illustrate progress of the 2022/23 programme of investment; and
- (v) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

The meeting terminated at 1434hrs.