

North Ayrshire Council

## **Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission – Lead Officer Working Group**

### **Note of Meeting of Lead Officer Working Group held on 15 November 2023**

#### **Attendees**

Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service Economic Development and Regeneration, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)

Emma McMullen, Senior Manager, Economic Policy, North Ayrshire Council

Mhairi Paterson, Economic Policy Manager (CWB), North Ayrshire Council

Ian Burgoyne, Depute Head of Education (Equity, Inclusion & Employability), East Ayrshire Council

Paul Blackwood, Group Commander Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council

David Davidson, Assistant Principal – Human Resources and Organisational Development, Ayrshire College

Graham Saunders, Interim Strategic Manager and Programme Manager, Ayrshire Growth Deal

Jude King, Programme Manager (Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Programme), North Ayrshire Council

Mark Greaves, Local Places Coordinator, South Ayrshire Council

Raymond Higgins, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

#### **Apologies**

Kirstin Dickson, Director of Transformation and Sustainability, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Carol Nisbet, East Ayrshire CVO

David Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement, South Ayrshire Council

Lynn Sproat, Senior Programme Manager Community Wealth Building, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland

Angela McWhinnie, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)

Kaileigh Brown, Executive Director, The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT)

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the Lead Officer Working Group (LOWG) for the Ayrshire Community Wealth Building Commission and noted apologies submitted.

## **2. Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 30 August 2023 were approved with no amendments.

## **3. Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy Delivery Plan**

Emma McMullen gave an update on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Delivery Plan and alignment with CWB. CWB is a cross-cutting theme which runs throughout the RES. A mapping exercise was undertaken to cross-reference RES themes with the CWB pillars and outline the connections to work already underway through the RES workstreams and CWB Commission. There are three CWB cross-cutting actions for delivery in year 1 which includes a review of regional CWB work via the CWB Commission and AGD CWB Programme; coordination of a regional response to any requirements of forthcoming CWB legislation; and refresh the CWB Anchor Charter and promote adoption of the pledges.

Attendees were asked to consider ways to further align RES actions to the CWB Commission in order to streamline activities and avoid duplication. The following points were raised during discussion:

- There was a question regarding the process for undertaking a review of regional governance which would include the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board, Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee and CWB activities. It was advised that consideration would need to be given to statutory reporting requirements which include AGD reporting and would be undertaken in coordination with legal services.

## **4. Fair Employment workstream update – East Ayrshire Council**

Ian Burgoyne provided an update on the Fair Employment workstream. An in-person workstream meeting was held on 29 September in Kilmarnock and included presentations from NHS Lanarkshire as well as SAC, EAC, NAC and Third Sector organisations. The meeting provided an opportunity for partners to share good practice examples, learn from each other and build networks.

Paul Blackwood (SFRS) advised the group of an opportunity for NHS to be involved in conversations around employment opportunities within uniformed services. Support was offered to join up with relevant individuals in NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

## **5. Procurement workstream update – South Ayrshire Council**

An update was provided on behalf of David Alexander:

SAC are attending a Supported Business event on the 29th November at The Studio in Glasgow run by Scotland Excel. The event focuses on how local government and supported businesses can work further together to support this vital sector. Supported Businesses are a key element of Community Wealth Building and Scotland Excel have invited Tom Arthur, Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance, to speak at the event.

The next data update will take place in August/September 2024 once all anchors have submitted their 2023-24 spend data. Comparison of 2021/22 and 2022/23 data showed a general increase in local supplier spend for all anchors which is recognised as good progress however any further analysis on categories etc will have to be resourced in order to drill down to more detail.

## **6. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Programme update**

Jude King provided an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB Programme. A pan-Ayrshire CWB Gathering was held in Troon, South Ayrshire at the end of September. There were a total of 160 attendees from across Ayrshire including from the public, private and Third sector. Feedback from the event praised the quality of speakers and networking opportunities during the event.

The programme has supported 956 unique enterprises which surpasses the programme target of supporting 900 enterprises. Ownership was noted to be the most challenging pillar with workshops planned to support activity.

## **7. Ayrshire Growth Deal update**

Graham Saunders noted that an extension is being considered for the CWB Programme and a decision on this is due in coming weeks.

The wider AGD is facing financial pressures due to rising costs and a report is due to be submitted to the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee to review AGD capital projects. This will help inform the activities underway in the new financial year 2024/25.

It was noted that the Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund continues to support local enterprises in line with CWB. A report is due to be commissioned which will support the skills investment fund going forward.

## **8. Next Steps and future agenda items**

- The Land and Assets workstream is due to recommence with a lead appointed from North Ayrshire Council. Updates will be provided at future LOWG meetings.
- The alignment of RES actions and Delivery Group may inform future updates to the CWB LOWG.
- There was a previous ask to provide an update on Ayrshire College Green Skills Programme. It was agreed to wait until clarity had been received regarding the need / capacity for a climate focussed workstream.

## **9. AOB**

None.