

Councillor Allard moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

That the Council agree the recommendations; and

- 2.8 appoint 3 Partnership members (Councillors Allard, Yuill and McLellan), 1 Partnership sub (Councillor Radley) and 1 Labour and 1 Conservative sub (names to be confirmed).

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Watson:-

That the Council -

- (1) note the recommendations contained within the report;
- (2) note with disappointment that, at the Steering Group meeting on 27th November 2024, the Aberdeen City Council representative abstained from the vote, thus embarrassing the Council as it had not yet had the option to review the models. Noting the report does not confirm the determination of the vote or who voted for which option;
- (3) agree Option C which all other Steering Group Members attending the meeting, including the Aberdeenshire Council representative, agreed was the preferred option;
- (4) agree that, if Option B (and not Option C) is agreed by this Council and not Option C, we are at an impasse with Aberdeenshire Council supporting model C and Aberdeen City Council voting model B, meaning the work required to bring about investment to the North East is put on hold until such time as the governance arrangements are agreed; and
- (5) agree to instruct the Chief Executive to ask the North East Scotland Investment Zone Programme Board, once formed, to give serious consideration to inviting one of the Trade Unions to be an active participant without voting rights on the Programme Board.

Councillor Brooks moved as a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Kuszniir:-

That the Council -

- (1) notes the report, containing three options: A (Council led JC), B (IZ signatories led JC) or C (IZ Signatories Plus ETZ Ltd);
- (2) notes the strong brand of public and private partnership-working which has always served the North East well;
- (3) notes that Aberdeenshire Council, in September 2024, approved a Regional Partner Joint Committee model with delegation on the composition of the Joint Committee delegated to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council Group Leaders;
- (4) notes that all stakeholders voted in favour of Option C at the Investment Zone Steering group on 27th November and that the Aberdeen City Council Co-Leader did not vote, noting that this was a decision for Aberdeen City Council to vote on. The remaining members of the Steering Group unanimously preferred option was C;
- (5) notes that embarrassingly, this item will not be determined by full council until today (5 February 2025);
- (6) notes that there is no indication or justification in the report as to why members should vote contrary to all the other partners in the Investment Zone Steering Group; and

- (7) agrees Option C, as per all other Steering Group stakeholders, as the option to be progressed thus yielding a unanimous endorsement by the Steering Group.

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the amendment by Councillor Malik and the amendment by Councillor Brooks.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (12) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor Brooks (9) - Councillors Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Kuszniir, McLeod, Massey and Nicoll.

Declined to vote (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Houghton.

The Council then divided between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Malik.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (15) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Boulton, Bonsell, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

Declined to vote (6) - Councillors Brooks, Cross, Farquhar, Kuszniir, McLeod and Massey.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Houghton.

The Council resolved:-

to adopt the motion.