

**DRAFT****FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of RE-CONVENED MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2007 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT:** Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

**CONVENER:** Provost Reid

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Fry

**ATTENDING:** Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Heads of Economic Development and of School Improvement; Services Manager (Strategic Development) Housing and Social Work Services and Democratic Services Manager

**OPENING REMARKS**

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, the Provost and Members expressed condolences following the recent death of Councillor Goldie's mother and in respect of the recent sudden death of former Councillor David Speirs. Members observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to both.

**FC38. NOTICES OF MOTION****(b) Graduate Work Experience Scheme**

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved as follows:-

"The My Future's in Falkirk Strategy has been the most successful economic development program ever within the Falkirk Council area, particularly in relation to providing opportunities for young people.

However, despite our successes there remain outstanding issues affecting the long term viability of the Falkirk economy, one of which is the loss of university graduates, particularly to the south.

One reason for this is the general insistence on the requirement of experience for graduates within their field of educational achievement.

Council therefore resolves to seek to establish a graduate work experience scheme both within the local authority itself and within our wider area through the recently established Business Panel.

Council therefore resolves to approve the principle of a Graduate Work Experience scheme and calls on officers from both Economic Development and Education to bring forward a joint report on the details required to establish this scheme locally”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved as follows:-

Council recognises that there is a need to increase the level of graduates in the Falkirk Council area, which is currently 15.6% compared to 23.6% in Scotland. Council also notes that the number of pupils entering higher education in the Falkirk Council area is currently 24% - 6% lower than Scotland and a 5% drop in 3 years.

Council resolves, therefore, to investigate how current national developments, such as existing Scottish Executive graduate schemes, the “Closing the opportunity gap” initiative and the work being done at a national level on workforce planning for local authorities, due to be considered soon by CoSLA, can be developed further in our area. Council recognises that working primarily within national schemes has the advantage of access to national funding and economies of scale.

Council resolves to have early discussions with the Falkirk Business Panel and the Council’s other relevant partners in order to consider the means to improve the level of qualifications in the Falkirk area workforce and to recruit and retain graduates in our area.

Council resolves further that relevant officers bring forward to the Economic Development Committee a report on the outcome of the discussions and on the proposal for dealing with this issue by national and local initiatives.

On a division 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 voted for the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

### (c) **Local History Teaching**

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved as follows:-

“Council note with satisfaction the recent erection of two community led monuments to important areas of local history and heritage.

The monument to the Scottish patriots who died for Scottish independence at the first battle of Falkirk is one in a link of significant sites and memorials to Falkirk’s important role in this period of our history.

The last land battle fought on Scottish soil was the 1820 uprising where the Weavers sought to rise against the state under the slogan “Scotland Free or a Desert” and took place at Bonnymuir, recently recognised by the 1820 Society.

During the period of the last Administration with Falkirk Council the teaching of local history was driven up the educational curriculum with various initiatives. There is currently scope within the parameters of the development of the local history curriculum for further such initiatives such as the teaching of the history of the Radical Movement of 1920 in local schools.

Council therefore calls on the Education Committee of Falkirk Council to bring forward a report that ensures the teaching of Falkirk’s role in the Scottish Wars of Independence and the Radical Movement of 1820”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved as follows:-

“Council notes with satisfaction the recent erection of two community led monuments to important areas of local history and heritage. Council undertakes to open immediate discussions with the relevant organisations to examine the feasibility of the Council taking responsibility for the future maintenance of both monuments.

Council notes with satisfaction that all children in Falkirk schools study the Wars of Independence at some point in their primary or secondary curriculum.

Council proposes that Education Services bring forward a cross curricular project covering the transition years of p7/s1. The material and content of the course will be centred on local resources and tailored to the local area of the High School cluster. Most schools will choose appropriate subjects relevant to the pupils’ experience and the local environment of the area e.g. they may choose to consider local topics, such as the Redding Pit Disaster, the building of the Charlotte Dundas in Grangemouth or the Radical Movement from 1820 and its later development into the Scottish Trade Union Movement”.

The meeting adjourned for a short time at this point to consider the terms of the Amendment.

On reconvening, and in terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of roll call, there being 31 Members present with Members voting as undernoted

For the Motion (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

For the Amendment (17) Provost Reid and Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

Councillor Spears entered the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

### **FC39. EXECUTION OF DEEDS**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 September 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

**AGREED** to note the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the deeds specified in the appendix attached to the Report.

### **FC40. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

### **FC41. RENT DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME - FUNDING**

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Spears.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Spears moved as follows:-

- (1) that the department has failed to make the Best Value case in terms of the contract for a Falkirk wide Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme;
- (2) that Council awards the contract to the lowest bidder, and
- (3) refers the matter to the Best Value and Audit Forum for further consideration.

Councillor Coleman gave notice of a further amendment. Following debate the meeting adjourned for a short time to enable Members to discuss matters with Officers and to receive advice.

On reconvening, and with the consent of all Members, **AGREED** to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Best Value and Audit Forum for further discussion and then to Policy and Resources Committee for determination.