

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2013 at 9.55 AM.

<u>COUNCILLORS:</u>	David Alexander	Linda Gow	Malcolm Nicol
	David Balfour	Gordon Hughes	Alan Nimmo
	Stephen Bird	Steven Jackson	Martin Oliver
	Allyson Black	Charles MacDonald	Baillie Joan Paterson
	Jim Blackwood	Brian McCabe	Depute Provost John
	Baillie William Buchanan	John McLuckie	Patrick
	Steven Carleschi	John McNally	Provost Pat Reid
	Colin Chalmers	Adrian Mahoney	Ann Ritchie
	Thomas Coleman	Craig Martin	Robert Spears
	Dennis Goldie	Dr Craig R Martin	Sandy Turner
	Gerry Goldie	Cecil Meiklejohn	

<u>OFFICERS:</u>	Margaret Anderson, Director of Social Work Services
	Robin Baird, Waste Strategy Co-ordinator
	Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
	Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement
	Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
	Julie Cole, Transport Planning Manager
	Chris Cox, Public Transport Officer
	Douglas Duff, Head of Economic Development & Environmental Services
	Nigel Fletcher, Acting Director of Education Services
	Gary Greenhorn, Acting Director of Education Services
	Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
	Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
	Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
	Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
	Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

FC61. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Provost indicated that he had received notice that Councillor Alexander had resigned from the Planning Committee and stated that he would allow the matter to be dealt with as part of the discussion at item FC73. (Membership of the Licensing Board and Civic Licensing Committee).

In terms of Standing Order 14.2(i), the Provost varied the order of business from that detailed on the agenda for the meeting. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

FC62. SEDERUNT

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call. An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Rosie Murray.

FC63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

FC64. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 25 September 2013.

Decision

The minute of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 was agreed as a correct record.

- (b) Special meeting of Falkirk Council held on 30 September 2013.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 30 September 2013 was agreed as a correct record.

- (c) Special meeting of Falkirk Council held on 7 October 2013.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 7 October 2013 was agreed as a correct record.

- (d) Special meeting of Falkirk Council held on 24 October 2013.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 24 October 2013 was agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of Item FC56 to read “Members of Council declared the following interests in item FC57”.

- (e) Volume of Minutes – Volume 3 2013/2014.

Decision

The Volume of Minutes – Volume 3 was noted.

(c) Information Bulletin – Volume 3 2013/2014

Decision

The Information Bulletin – Volume 3 2013/2014 was noted.

FC65. QUESTIONS

In terms of Standing Order 32.1, 10 written questions had been submitted to the Leader of the Council and/or the portfolio holders. All were answered at the meeting. The answers are recorded at appendix 1.

FC66. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INTERIM REVIEW 2013/14

Council considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer presenting, as part of the Treasury Management Code of Practice requirements, a mid year review of the Treasury Management function of the Council.

The report had been previously considered by the Executive on 19 November and it had been referred to Council for consideration.

Decision

Council noted the report.

FC67. WEB CASTING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing further information on the costs and technical requirements of implementing a web streaming package for all principal Council meetings including the facility to access streamed webcasts at a later date from the Council's website.

Council had previously, on 9 June 2013, requested a report on the likely costs to web cast and access archived recordings of all principal meetings. A report had been considered by Council on 25 September and further information had been requested.

The report set out in detail the technical issues and costs involved in establishing a webcasting service and highlighted issues in regard to resources, training and data protection.

In light of the indicative costs for webcasting set out in the report, Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson moved that “the Chief Executive be asked for a future report on the costs and technical implications of audio recording Council meetings.”

By way of an amendment Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved in substitution that:-

“Council recognises the benefits to the general public of Council meetings to be recorded and being accessible on the Web and therefore agrees to initiate a senior schools competition, the remit of which would be to design a recording methodology for Council meetings that would enable them to be placed in the public domain following conclusion of which, the winning design would be implemented and the School given a monetary prize for example £5,000.”

Councillor G Goldie gave notice of a further amendment.

Following discussion, Council adjourned at 11.05 a.m. to allow members to consider the motion and amendment and reconvened at 11.20 a.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Martin, with the consent of the Provost and of Baillie Paterson, as his seconder, adjusted the terms of his motion to read:

The Chief Executive is requested to bring forward a report on the audio recording of Council meetings, the report to include as one of the options, the potential to initiate a competition for senior schools to design such a system, the report be discussed with Group Leaders so that if agreed it can be implemented without delay.”

In terms of Standing Order 22.4.1, a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, Martin, Dr CR Martin, Nicol and Nimmo.

Against for the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

The adjusted motion was agreed and became the substantive motion.

Having given notice of a further amendment, Councillor Goldie stated that he would not move an amendment.

Councillor McCabe then gave notice of a further amendment, and moved, in substitution for the motion, with Councillor Spears as his seconder, that “Council agrees to the implementation, as soon as possible, and in time for the next scheduled council meeting **(in March 2014)** of audio recording of all Council meetings.”

On a division 15 members voted for the amendment and 16 voted for the motion.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- 1) to request the Chief Executive to bring forward a report on the audio recording of Council meetings, the report to include as one of the options, the potential to initiate a competition for senior schools to design such a system, and
- 2) that the report be discussed with Group Leaders so that, if agreed, it can be implemented without delay.

FC68. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2013/14

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting a revised polling scheme for use at elections, by elections and referendums.

The Council is required by section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to keep its polling districts under review. The last full review had been undertaken during 2010/11 with a revised polling scheme being agreed in October 2011.

Details were given of a review of the current scheme which was undertaken in 2013. The report detailed feedback received during the consultation stages of the review of polling places and polling districts and highlighted proposed options for consideration.

The Provost proposed that Council consider the proposals as set out in paras 4.3.1 – 4.3.9 of the report on a ward by ward basis and that Council would be guided by the views of the local members in each case.

Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

The proposals were acceptable to the local members.

Ward 2 – Grangemouth

The proposal for no change was acceptable to the local members

Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock

The local members expressed a preference to retain Fankerton Village Hall as a polling place for the current electorate and for those voters taking up residence in the new housing developments situated within the FW310 polling district with, in due course, consideration being given to moving all of Stoneywood to FW310.

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

The minor amendment in regard to FE406 (to include two properties currently within FE411) was accepted. The local members agreed to discuss the remaining proposals with officers during an adjournment.

Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

The local members expressed a preference that the status quo was retained in regard to polling district FW515 where voting currently takes place in a mobile unit situated at the old Torwood Primary School site, and the retention of polling districts FW525 (Bonnybridge Community Centre) and FW530 (Antonine Primary School) as per the current scheme with a mobile polling place located at Antonine Primary School while the school is being refurbished. The local members also asked that consideration be given in future to the potential for voters in Greenhill to use Antonine Primary School and for voters in the Inches to use Kinnaird Primary School.

Ward 6 – Falkirk North

No changes were proposed; however the local members requested that further consideration be given to establishing a polling station within New Carron Village and agreed to discuss the location of polling places with officers during an adjournment.

Ward 7 – Falkirk South

The local members recommended no change to the current scheme and requested that a mobile polling place be located at the junction of Parkhead Road and Hallglen Terrace.

Ward 8 – Lower Braes

The local members recommended no change to the current scheme.

Ward 9 – Upper Braes

The local members recommended no change to the current scheme.

The Provost, mindful that those local members representing wards 4 and 6 had agreed to discuss issues relating to their wards during the adjournment for lunch, and that the feasibility of siting the mobile polling unit requested in ward 7 was still to be checked, proposed that deliberation on this item be continued after the adjournment.

FC69. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer detailing those deeds that had been signed by her since the last meeting.

Decision

Council noted the report.

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.45 p.m. and reconvened at 1.45 p.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

FC70. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2013/14 – CONTINUED

Ward 7 – Falkirk South

The Chief Executive confirmed that there was no impediment of siting the mobile polling unit in Glen Village as requested.

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

The local members recommended no change to the current scheme other than the minor amendment referred to above.

Ward 6 – Falkirk North

The local members were in agreement that a temporary polling station should be provided for the New Carron Village area and their preference was that Council delegate to local members and the Chief Executive to determine its location. Should an agreement not be reached the status quo would prevail.

Decision

Council agreed to:-

- 1) adopt the revised Polling Scheme subject to the comments of local members set out in the minute, for use at elections, by-elections and referendums held between this review and the next, in five years, subject to ad hoc changes being reported to Council in the interim period, the adjusted polling scheme being attached as appendix 2 to this minute, and**
- 2) to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with local members, to determine the feasibility preferred, location and electorate for a polling place serving the New Carron Village area (Ward 6 – Falkirk North).**

FC71. SUSTAINABLE WASTE COLLECTION

Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the outcome of a review of its waste collection service and outlining 3 options in regard to the collection frequency.

Council had agreed its Zero Waste Strategy 2012-2022 in 2012 and had agreed, in January 2013, to review its waste collection service.

Local Authorities are required in terms of the national Zero Waste Plan and the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 to meet specific targets in regard to the recycling/composting and preparation for reuse of both household waste and all wastes.

A review of the Council's waste collection services had been undertaken by Zero Waste Scotland on behalf of Falkirk Council. The review set out 3 options aimed at improving recycling efficiency within the area and reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill. No changes were proposed to the fortnightly collection of garden waste and black box textiles or the weekly collection of food waste. However options were presented in regard to residual (non recyclable) collection and co-mingled recycling collection. The options were:-

Option 1: Residual waste collection reduced from fortnightly to 3-weekly, co-mingled recycling collection to remain fortnightly

Option 2: Residual waste collection reduced from fortnightly to 3-weekly and co-mingled recycling collection increased from fortnightly to weekly

Option 3: Residual waste collection reduced from fortnightly to 4-weekly

The benefits in terms of the likely impact on the Council's recycling routes and the cost of the service were set out for each option.

Councillor Dr C R Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council adopts option 1 in regard to its waste collection service and instructs the Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Development Services to develop a detailed implementation plan for approval at a future meeting.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor McNally, moved, in substitution for the motion, that Council:-

- 1) endorses the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Strategy and notes the outcomes of the collection service review with concern, and
- 2) notes that the report raises more questions than it answers and therefore calls for a further report to the March meeting which addresses the issues and concerns of members. Council also calls for a further report in March which will provide clarity on how we will seek to become a Zero Waste Town by 2025.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4.1, a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, Martin, Dr CR Martin, Nicol and Nimmo.

Against for the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed to:-

- 1) adopt a 3 weekly residual waste collection frequency, as set out as option 1 in the report, and
- 2) instruct the Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Development Services to develop a detailed implementation plan for approval at a future meeting.

Councillor Coleman left the meeting following consideration of the previous item of business.

FC72. REPRESENTATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS ON THE COMMUNITY PLANNING LEADERSHIP BOARD

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive setting out the current membership of the Community Planning Leadership Board and inviting Council to nominate members to the Board.

Details were given of the current membership of the Community Planning Partnership Leadership Board. Following the abolition of the Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue and Police Boards and the introduction of the Council's new decision making structure, nominations were sought for the Council's representatives on the Board. In terms of the Board's terms of reference, the Leader of the Council was the chair of the Board.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- 1) that the Leader of the Council would continue as chair of the Community Planning Leadership Board;
- 2) to appoint, in addition, Councillors Blackwood, Meiklejohn and Nimmo to the Leadership Board, and
- 3) to receive regular updates on the work of the Community Planning Partnership and its Leadership Board.

Councillor Coleman rejoined the meeting following the previous item of business.

FC73. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING BOARD AND CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer summarising options should it wish to reduce the size of the Licensing Board and the Civic Licensing Committee.

As indicated by the Provost at the start of the meeting, Council also considered the appointment of a member to the Planning Committee following the resignation of Councillor Alexander.

(i) Licensing Board and Civic Licensing Committee

Council had previously noted the resignations of a member each from the Licensing Board and Civic Licensing Committee and had requested a report on the membership of said bodies, should Council wish to reduce their size. Options in regard to the size of each body were provided together with information on the attendance at meetings since June 2012.

Decision

Council agreed to maintain the current constitution and membership of the Licensing Board and Civic Licensing Committee.

(ii) Planning Committee

Council had appointed Councillor Alexander to the Planning Committee in May 2012 as one of the SNP group's positions on the Committee. Provost Reid confirmed that Councillor Alexander had now resigned from the Committee and sought nominations to the vacant post which, in accordance with the decision on political proportionality agreed by Council on 18 May 2012, fell to the SNP Group.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, nominated Councillor McCabe.

Following discussion, Provost Reid, in terms of Standing Order 20.11, determined that there was not a general agreement in regard to the nomination of Councillor McCabe and as such put the nomination to the vote.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4.1, a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For (14) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Against (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, Martin, Dr CR Martin, Nicol and Nimmo.

Abstention (1) – Councillor McCabe

Accordingly the nomination was not accepted. Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Carleschi, then nominated Councillor McNally.

Decision

Council agreed to appoint Councillor McNally to the Planning Committee.

Councillors Alexander and Spears left the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

FC74. MOTIONS

Six motions had been submitted – (i) Council Structures, (ii) Bonnybridge Social Club, (iii) Discretionary Housing Payment, (iv) Scottish Welfare Fund, (v) Business Support and (vi) 2014 – 700th Anniversary.

The Provost stated that as motion (i) Council Structures had been considered at the Special meeting of Council on 9 December 2013, it could not be considered at this meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 35.1. The remaining motions related to matters within the remit of the Executive and, having consulted with the Council Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, he was not of the opinion that special circumstances existed requiring an exception to be made to that general rule. Consequently the motions stood referred to the Executive.

Councillor Meiklejohn withdrew notices (iii) Discretionary Housing Payment, and (iv) Scottish Welfare Fund.

Councillor McCabe withdrew notion (vi) 2014 – 700th Anniversary.

Councillor Spears withdrew motion (v) Business Support.

With no movers for these motions, they were, in terms of Standing Order 29.9, dropped.

Decision

Council referred motion (ii) Bonnybridge Social Club to the Executive.

Motion (i) Council Structures fell; and motions (iii) Discretionary Housing Payment; (iv) Scottish Welfare Fund; (v) Business Support and (vi) 2014 – 700th Anniversary were dropped.

Councillor Spears rejoined the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

Standing Order 32 enables Councillors to put questions to the Leader of the Council or the relevant portfolio holder on matters transacted at a meeting of the Executive or the Education Executive during the preceding cycle. The table below details the questions asked and answered at the meeting.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
1	EXECUTIVE – 8 October 2013 REF EX71	Consultation on Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill What additional powers does the Administration wish to have in improving bus operation throughout the local area? Question by Councillor Stephen Bird	The portfolio holder for the Environment advised that some powers which could help the Council included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • franchising of profitable and non-profitable routes • the ability to set minimum service levels • the ability to set routes, frequencies and fares, and • the ability to introduce cheaper multi-journey ticketing 	Given that the Leader of the Scottish Labour Party has said that she wants to get away from the “something for nothing culture”, can the portfolio holder guarantee that the free bus pass scheme will remain in place if Labour return to power in the Scottish Parliament.	The portfolio holder said that he couldn’t give that commitment which was a matter for the Scottish Parliament.
2	EXECUTIVE – 8 October 2013 REF EX71	Consultation on Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill What representations have been made to Prof Arthur Midwinter’s review of the “something for nothing” culture? Question by Councillor Stephen Bird	The portfolio holder for Environment advised that he had been in touch with Professor Midwinter’s office who had advised that he was not involved in such a review.	Councillor Bird referred again to comments by the Leader of the Scottish Labour Party and advised that Professor Midwinter had been asked what “something for nothing” meant for bus services in Scotland in response to	The portfolio holder asked whether the review to which Councillor Bird was referring was the Scottish Public Spending review being led by Professor Midwinter. The major aim from this was the Council tax freeze. The main point

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
				which he had stated that he would review everything and that nothing was off the table.	is that £1 billion of targeted spend has disappeared from budgets.
3	EXECUTIVE – 8 October 2013 REF EX73	Financial Position 2013/14 Council notes that the Authority, as 31 August, is predicting an underspend this year of almost £1.5m. Can the Resources Portfolio Holder advise what the estimated figure is to the end of October 2013? Question by Councillor David Alexander	The portfolio holder for Resources advised that in terms of the Scheme of Delegation this question fell within the remit of the Leader of the Council and that he would answer. The Leader of the Council advised that the projected position remains stable with a £1.5m projected underspend which was approximately 0.5% of the Council budget. A report setting out the most up to date position was scheduled to be reported to the January meeting of the Executive.	With two thirds of the year passed, only ½ and 1/3 respectively of the Welfare Fund discretionary housing payments fund has been spent. Why is the Leader of the Council deliberately targeting the most vulnerable in our society for savings which are then put into reserves.	The Leader of the Council advised that the discretionary housing payments fund and the welfare reform fund had an underspend as there is a limit to what these can be spent on. Money was added to these funds by the UK and Scottish Governments. He said this wouldn't be being discussed if the Scottish Government had properly funded the discretionary payments.
4	EDUCATION EXECUTIVE – 29 October 2013 REF EE23	School/College Partnership The partnership with Forth Valley College has been a long standing and positive part of the Educational process and Vocational Education is a desirable element of a rounded Educational Service. Another important element in the transition to full adulthood is understanding the issues behind next	The portfolio holder for Education advised that the Council had a close relationship with Forth Valley College. The SCOTS course is only run at Forth Valley College on a Tuesday afternoon. The other consortium courses are run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The remaining time was spent at their own	A few weeks ago the portfolio holder was quoted in the local press attacking the Yes Scotland campaign for their presence at the Grangemouth Youth Forum. Inaccurate statements were made concerning invitations to the event, taking photographs without permission etc.	The portfolio holder said that that no formal invitations had not been issued to any political party.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
		<p>September's Referendum and I would ask what efforts will be made to ensure that young adults who may be eligible to vote in the Referendum do not lose out on school based education because they are on vocational courses.</p> <p>Question by Councillor David Alexander</p>	schools where they will be able to take part in all relevant agreed information surrounding the forthcoming referendum.	Education Services have since apologised for their erroneous statements. Will the portfolio holder make a similar apology?	
5	<p>EDUCATION EXECUTIVE – 29 October 2013</p> <p>REF EE23</p>	<p>School/College Partnership</p> <p>Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit testing the core skills in numeracy and literacy of all Scots students:-</p> <p>What skills in relation to Literacies are being tested?</p> <p>Question by Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>	<p>The portfolio holder for Education advised that the testing which had taken place was called the Tribal Skills Gold which, through a set of tests, assesses the literacy skills of the young people at an appropriate SCQF level. This would show the young people involved where their reading, interpretation and analysis skills could be improved. It would also produce relevant material to help the young person improve those skills.</p> <p>The young people involved would have those skills reassessed at the end of the year to see where improvements had been made.</p>	Once all the testing is complete and looked at over a period of time, trends appear in relation to literacy. Which skills have been highlighted as needing assessment?	The portfolio holder advised that skills would need to be assessed and tested to identify which require to be improved.
6	EDUCATION EXECUTIVE –	School/College Partnership	The portfolio holder for Education advised that the	In relation to benefits for employers, what do	The portfolio holder advised that he would

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
	29 October 2013 REF EE23	As potential workers, what benefits are expected by the Training Unit for the learners and employers? Question by Councillor Gordon Hughes	<p>Tribal Skills gold assessment process was also used by Forth Valley College and was part of the Local Employability partnership approach to improving consistent and equitable assessment of young people.</p> <p>The Core Skill results were used as part of a wider assessment process by the ETU to help determine where on the “Employability Pipeline” the young person would be best suited.</p> <p>For instance, if the results were at SCQF level 4 then this information, along with performance at interview, school academic performance, and SDS referral input where applicable, would allow them to make sure that the vocational training programme was best suited to the young person’s needs and abilities at that point in time, and to serve as a baseline for monitoring improvements over the duration of their training period.</p>	employers value most?	respond to Councillor Hughes in writing.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
7	EDUCATION EXECUTIVE – 29 October 2013 REF EX23	<p>School/College Partnership</p> <p>Has the Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit developed a Literacy Action Plan appropriate to the needs of the learners?</p> <p>What are the key aspects of this action plan?</p> <p>Question by Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>	<p>The portfolio holder for Education advised that as the young people in question were currently school pupils it continued to be the responsibility of the school, working directly with Forth Valley College Tutors from the SCOTS course, to identify and support literacy needs where applicable, and to monitor progress throughout the delivery period.</p> <p>The aim of the SCOTS course was to encourage continued engagement in Further Education opportunities, in which case any literacy needs would also be supported by Forth Valley College at each stage of the delivery, working jointly with the School contacts in each case.</p> <p>Those pupils who may elect to apply for vocational training opportunities and were assessed to be at risk of negative destination would be identified through the joint 16+ Transition groups established with in each</p>	What specific measures are put in place to support those pupils whose first language is not English?	The portfolio holder advised that he would respond to Councillor Hughes in writing.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
			<p>school.</p> <p>All relevant information relating to Core Skill levels and literacy, numeracy and any other support needs were shared with the partners as part of the decision making in regard to destination groups. As one of those partners, the Employment Training Unit would interview and assess the young person, utilising the background information provided from the 16+ Transition meetings as part of this process. All successful Employment Training Unit recruits would then work to an Individual Training Plan, drawn up by their Employment and Training Co-Ordinator at the start of their training, and this was regularly reviewed and updated throughout their engagement with the Employment Training Unit.</p>		

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
8	EDUCATION EXECUTIVE – 29 October 2013 REF EX23	<p>School/College Partnership</p> <p>In relation to the wider aspect of Literacy within the partnership, new drivers for the development of Adult Literacies are: – Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020: Strategic Guidance and the Literacy Action Plan</p> <p>What strategic approach has the partnership agreed in developing progress in relation to literacy?</p> <p>Has each school through consultation with parents and partners developed a Literacy Strategy.</p> <p>Question by Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>	<p>The portfolio holder for Education advised that the Literacy Strategy was informed by the Scottish Government's Literacy Action Plan and shared the Scottish Government's vision of zero tolerance of illiteracy.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with a variety of stakeholders in relation to Falkirk Council's Literacy Strategy including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS • Education Scotland • Learning Differences Team • School Librarians <p>The agreed approach is to produce a strategy statement, which is inclusive, developing a culture of literacy from pre-birth to adulthood supported by an on-line literacy strategy tool. This on-line tool offers practitioners and parents practical information relating to literacy and provides an overview of how services and agencies contribute to literacy.</p>	In relation to Curriculum for Excellence, which skills are associated with political literacy and having also looked at school literacy action plans which political literacy skills need more resources to address?	The portfolio holder advised that he would respond to Councillor Hughes in writing.
9	EDUCATION	Children & Young People Bill	The portfolio holder for	In the current economic	The portfolio holder

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN	COMMITTEE / MINUTE REFERENCE	TITLE OF REPORT AND QUESTION	ANSWER	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	ANSWER
	EXECUTIVE – 29 October 2013 REF EX26	Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 600 Hours per Annum Falkirk Council has a policy of co- operation and joint working with the 3 rd sector; can the portfolio holder please advise of what part the 3 rd sector will play in helping to deliver the expansion of early learning and childcare? Question by Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn	Education advised that the 3 rd Sector would continue to play a part in helping to deliver the additional hours of early learning and childcare. Initial conversations had already taken place with private partner nurseries, as that plan to deliver the increased hours is developed, the nurseries would continue to be involved in the discussions.	climate demand for wrap around services has increased. As most of that care is provided by the 3 rd sector, what are the barriers to partnership?	advised that the consultation of the additional hours nursery provision had ended on 30 November 2013 and that a report would be submitted to the Education Executive in February 2014 so the position should be known then.
10	EXECUTIVE – 19 November 2013 REF EX86	Autism Strategy This Council appears to propose to adopt a social work centred approach to providing a service to people with ASD. I would be much obliged if the portfolio holder would provide the rationale underpinning his approach to this matter? Question by Councillor Tom Coleman	The portfolio holder for Health and Social Care advised that this was not a Social Work centred approach. The strategy had been developed in partnership involving Education, Social Work, NHS Forth Valley and the voluntary sector. The report had been strongly influenced by the consultation with families affected by ASD. It was implicit in the strategy that no single service was responsible for providing solutions and that a multi agency approach was needed overseen by a multi-agency improvement team.	Could the portfolio holder provide figures for the number of persons under 18 years of age who have been diagnosed with ASD and are still requiring treatment. Also can information be provided on the number of those who are in the 16 – 18 year old bracket and are receiving post school attention from Social Work Services, the information previously having requested from the service but not provided. .	The portfolio holder advised that she was happy to ensure that the information requested by Councillor Coleman was provided to him.

APPENDIX 2

Final Council approved scheme

Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE101	Carriden	Cowdenhill Community Centre	2,184	No
LE106	Bo’ness South East	Bo’ness Recreation Centre	2,882	No
LE111	Blackness	Blackness Community Hall	319	No
LE121	Bo’ness Centre	Salvation Army Hall	1,006	Merge LE120 and part LE116
LE127	Maidenpark	Kinneil Primary School	2,420	Merge LE126 and part LE116
LE131	Deanfield	Kinneil Bowling Club	1,058	No
LE135	Deanburn	Deanburn Primary School	1,951	No
Total number of electors			11,820	

Ward 2 - Grangemouth

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE200	Dalgrain	Dalgrain Community Hall	667	No
LE205	Newlands	Newlands Community Centre	3,416	No
LE211	Grangemouth Centre	Grangemouth Town Hall	3,239	No
LE215	Bowhouse	Bowhouse Community Centre	3,467	No
LE221	Inchyra	Dundas Resource Centre	1,630	No
FE230	Skinflats	Bothkennar Community Hall	253	No
Total number of electors			12,672	

Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock

		Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		Whether amended
FW300 Dunipace	Dunipace Church Hall	2,064	No
FW305 Denny Centre	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2,288	No
FW310 Fankerton	Fankerton Village Hall	402	No
FW316 Denny South	Nethermain Primary School	4,085	No
FW321 Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead	Archibald Russell Centre	2,704	No
FW325 Banknock	Banknock (Bankier) Community Centre	2,461	No
FW330 Allandale	Allandale Bowling Club	273	No
Total number of electors		14,277	

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

		Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		Whether amended
FE400 Airth	Airth Community Hall	1,793	No
FE407 Carronshore	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	2,474	Minor change
FE412 Carron	Carron Primary School	3,123	Minor change
FE416 Carron Dams	Stenhouse & Carron Church Hall	2,407	No
FE421 The Valley	Tryst Community Centre	1,882	No
FW426 Tryst	Stenhousemuir Primary School	2,277	No
FW431 Bellsdyke	Kinnaird Primary School	976	No
FW436 Carronvale Road	Dobbie Hall	5	No
Total number of electors		14,937	

Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

Polling District	Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FW500 Inches	Kinnaird Primary School	1,120	No
FW506 South Broomage	Dobbie Hall	1,985	No
FW511 Larbert	Larbert Village Primary School	2,797	No
FW515 Torwood	Torwood Primary School site - mobile	250	No
FW520 North Bonnybridge	Bonnybridge Primary School	2,980	No
FW525 South Bonnybridge/Greenhill	Bonnybridge Community Centre	2,341	No
FW530 High Bonnybridge	Antonine Primary School - mobile	676	No
Total number of electors		12,149	

Ward 6 – Falkirk North

Polling District	Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FW600 Rosebank	Bantaskin Primary School	739	No
Grahamston and Dollar			
FW605 Park	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	1,437	No
FW611 New Carron	Co-op New Carron Village – mobile unit	1,868	New PD
FW612 Bainsford	Bainsford Community Centre	2,075	Remainder of FW610
FW615 Dawson	Dawson Centre	1,561	No
FW620 Victoria	Thornhill Community Centre	3,369	No
FW625 The Bog	Westfield Community Centre	1,747	No
FW630 Callendar Park	Leishman Tower Club Room	1,281	No
FW635 Howgate	Woodlands Games Hall	356	No
LW640 West Mains	Westfield Community Centre	0	No
Total number of electors		14,433	

Ward 7 – Falkirk South

			Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place		Whether amended
FW701	Camelon West	Easter Carmuir Primary School	1,808	No
FW705	Camelon East	Carmuir Primary School	1,137	No
FW710	Tamfourhill	Tamfourhill Community Centre	1,048	No
FW715	Summerford	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	494	No
FW721	Bantaskin	Bantaskin Primary School	1,394	No
FW726	Camelon North East	Camelon Education Centre	1,093	No
FW731	Woodlands	Woodlands Games Hall	3,355	No
		Parkhead Rd/Hallglen Terr –		
FW740	Glen Village	mobile	260	No
FW746	Hallglen/Lionthorn	Hallglen Sport Centre	2,943	No
FE750	Falkirk rural	Hallglen Sports Centre	68	No
Total number of electors			13,600	

Ward 8 – Lower Braes

			Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place		Whether amended
FE801	Laurieston North	Laurieston Community Hall	1,133	No
FE806	Laurieston South	Laurieston Primary School	955	No
FE811	Westquarter	Westquarter Community Centre	1,357	No
FE816	Polmont South	Polmont Sports Centre	2,597	No
FE820	Polmont	Greenpark Community Centre	2,777	No
FE826	Brightons	Grange Community Centre	521	No
LE826	Overton/Brightons	Grange Community Centre	897	No
LE830	Beancross and Newlands	Laurieston Community Hall	3	No
LE836	Reddingmuirhead	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	639	No
LE840	Battock	Maddiston Community Centre	3	No
Total number of electors			10,882	

Ward 9 – Upper Braes

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE900	Whitecross	Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	590	No
LE905	Maddiston South	Maddiston Old Folk's Hall	829	No
LE911	Wallacestone	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	1,171	No
LE916	Rumford	Brightons Community Centre	1,492	No
LE921	Maddiston	Maddiston Community Centre	1,898	No
LE925	California	California Community Centre	642	No
LE930	Standburn	Drumbowie Primary School	206	No
LE935	Avonbridge	Avonbridge Community Hall	555	No
LE940	Limerigg	Limerigg Community Hall	200	No
LE945	Slamannan	Slamannan Community Centre	1,182	No
FE950	Lathallan	Brightons Community Centre	0	No
FE955	Brightons South	Brightons Community Centre	981	No
FE960	Shieldhill	Shieldhill Welfare Hall	1,917	No
Total number of electors			11,663	
TOTAL ELECTORS IN THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA			116,433	