

Councillor Jackson noted that while he was an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions he did not consider that this gave rise to a declarable interest under the Code of Conduct.

FC48. WELFARE REFORM

There was submitted Report (circulated) by the Chief Executive (a) summarising the potential impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012; (b) highlighting key change dates for local authorities; (c) outlining the proposed way forward for the Council, and (d) setting out proposals to utilise the Fairer Falkirk Fund to tackle the root causes of poverty.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that:-

- (1) a report is presented to members in December that sets out proposals for the models of delivery and gives specific proposals for:
 - The Scottish Community Support Fund from April 2013 (formerly Social Fund); and
 - The face-to-face service for Universal Credit from October 2013.
- (2) further briefings are organised for Members on Welfare Reform.
- (3) Council approves the allocation of funding as noted in paragraphs 5.6 – 5.10 of the report and notes that the detailed use of this funding will be presented to Council in December along with a detailed proposal for arrangements for Discretionary Housing Payments.

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

- (1) Council condemns the current actions of the UK Government's policy in welfare reform believing this is a cynical exercise in cuts to the welfare budget which will put vulnerable, elderly and disabled people further into poverty;
- (2) a report is presented to members in December that sets out proposals for the models of delivery and gives specific proposals for:
 - The Scottish Community Support Fund from April 2013 (formerly Social Fund); and
 - The face-to-face service for Universal Credit from October 2013.
- (3) further briefings are organised for Members on Welfare Reform.
- (4) Council approves the allocation of funding as noted in paragraphs 5.6 – 5.10 of the report and notes that the detailed use of this funding will be presented to Members in December along with a detailed proposal for arrangements for Discretionary Housing Payments.

In accordance with Standing Order 19.7 and with the consent of the Provost, and Councillor Nimmo as his seconder, Councillor Martin altered the text of his motion to include the following:-

- (4) the Leader of the Council will write to the UK Government condemning the timing of the changes to the welfare system and enclosing a copy of the report.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i), 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; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol, Nimmo and Paterson.

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

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) that a report is presented to Council in December that sets out proposals for the models of delivery and gives specific proposals for:
- The Scottish Community Support Fund from April 2013 (formerly Social Fund); and
 - The face-to-face service for Universal Credit from October 2013, and
- (2) that further briefings are organised for members on Welfare Reform;
- (3) the allocation of funding as noted in paragraphs 5.6 – 5.10 of the report and that a report on the detailed use of this funding will be presented to Council in December along with a detailed proposal for arrangements for Discretionary Housing Payments; and
- (4) the Leader of the Council will write to the UK Government condemning the timing of the changes to the welfare system and enclosing a copy of the report.