

FC25. KINSHIP CARE

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 31 May 2011; and (b) Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services submitted to the said meeting (a) presenting an update on developments in Kinship Care, and (b) proposing an increase to the allowances paid to Kinship Carers of looked after children and to other linked payments.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) to approve the Kinship Care Procedures as amended;
- (2) that the 8 week payment in lieu of benefits be aligned with the Kinship Care Allowance;
- (3) that the Residence Allowance rate be set at £10 above the approved Kinship Carer weekly allowance;
- (4) that the Kinship Care Allowance is increased to £40 per week, effective from 1st July 2011; and
- (5) to request that the Acting Director of Social Work update Members on developments in this area as appropriate.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor McNally, moved the terms of the Motion, with the following substituted for paragraphs (4) and (5) thereof:-

- (4) to instruct the Acting Director of Social Work Services to bring forward a report to Committee benchmarking Falkirk Council's level of payment against other authorities; and
- (5) to set as a policy position that Council will pay either the Scottish average or the rate contained within the paper, whatever is the greater figure, and this be reflected in the report to be brought back by the Acting Director of Social Work Services.

On a division, 15 Members voted for the Motion and 14 Members voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED**:-

- (1) to approve the Kinship Care Procedures as detailed in the Report;
- (2) that the 8 week payment in lieu of benefits be aligned with the Kinship Care Allowance;
- (3) that the Residence Allowance rate be set at £10 above the approved Kinship Carer weekly allowance;

- (4) that the Kinship Care Allowance is increased to £40 per week, effective from 1st July 2011; and
- (5) to request that the Acting Director of Social Work update Members on developments in this area as appropriate.