

## **FC60. REVENUE BUDGETS 2011/12 – 2014/15**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 6 October 2010 (Paragraph FC38 refers), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 24 November 2010 by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance presenting an update on the preparatory work being undertaken on the next four years' budgets taking account of information now available following the UK Comprehensive Spending Review published on 20 October 2010 and the Scottish Government's Budget, as announced on 17 November 2010.

Councillor C Martin seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved that:-

“Council condemns the SNP Finance Secretary's late introduction of the disgraceful draconian sanctions, which were imposed on Councils if they do not accept the budget settlement as produced in the Finance Secretary's letter dated 17 November 2010.

Council criticises the SNP Finance Secretary for failing to produce a 4 year spending review but instead proposing a 1 year election budget, resulting in the Council being unable to plan ahead financially for local communities.

Council further criticises the SNP Finance Secretary for breaking yet another SNP manifesto promise by re-introducing a form of financial ring fencing to local authorities.

Council therefore agrees under protest to conditionally accept the SNP Finance Secretary's budget settlement grant with the caveats that come with it and instructs the Leader of Falkirk Council to write to the SNP Finance Secretary advising him of this decision”.

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved:-

“Council agrees to accept the government package and commends CoSLA leaders for negotiating a favourable package protecting local government's share of the shrinking Scottish budget.

Council also welcomes the commission set up by the government to review the shape of public services under the chairmanship of Campbell Christie”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 members present, with voting undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (13) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly;

**NOTED** the latest update report on preparing the Revenue Budgets 2011/12 – 2014/15.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) to condemn the SNP Finance Secretary's late introduction of the disgraceful draconian sanctions, which were imposed on Councils if they do not accept the budget settlement as produced in the Finance Secretary's letter dated 17 November 2010;
- (2) to criticise the SNP Finance Secretary for failing to produce a 4 year spending review but instead proposing a 1 year election budget, resulting in the Council being unable to plan ahead financially for local communities;
- (3) to further criticise the SNP Finance Secretary for breaking yet another SNP manifesto promise by re-introducing a form of financial ring fencing to local authorities; and
- (4) under protest to conditionally accept the SNP Finance Secretary's budget settlement grant with the caveats that come with it, and
- (5) to instruct the Leader of Falkirk Council to write to the SNP Finance Secretary advising him of this decision".