

FC88. REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2008

There was submitted (circulated) (a) report dated 9 December 2008 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services outlining the decisions taken by the Housing and Social Services Committee at its Special meeting on 9 December 2008; and (b) Reports by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, submitted to the said meeting summarising the stakeholders' consultations on the draft Allocations Policy and on the draft Homelessness Strategy and setting out, respectively, a revised Policy and a revised Strategy.

(a) Housing Allocations Review Update

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations in the Report.

By way of an amendment Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that in place of recommendation 7.5 of the Report, the following should be substituted:-

“refer the Report to a special meeting of Falkirk Council in the near future for further consideration”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as 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 (14) – Councillor Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the outcome of the consultation with stakeholders set out in Section 3 of the Report;
- (2) note the proposals to minimise any impact on the promotion of race, disability, age and gender equalities set out in Section 5 of the Report.
- (3) accept the proposal to bring further reports to Members setting out a timetable for transition to the new policy subject to the implementation of an IHMS as discussed in Section 6.1 for the Report; and
- (4) adopt the allocations policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

(b) Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeil moved the recommendations in the Report.

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

“The Homeless Strategy must dovetail with such as the Council’s Corporate Plan, the Housing Strategy, the New Build Strategy and Affordable Housing Strategy yet their appears to be little in the way of joined up thinking.

Council has been rightly criticised by Audit Scotland for failing in scrutiny processes and therefore agrees to the following:-

1. establish a timetable for the completion of the Homeless Strategy and put in place a timetable of events leading up to that date which includes full participation by Council members;
2. arrange a full session of the committee to debate and discuss the problems of homelessness and the possible solutions;
3. bring forward at the policy session referred to in para 2, a full report on the available assistance from central government to tackle the problems of homelessness and how that fits with Falkirk Council’s proposals, and
4. seek consensus on a whole council basis to bring about a joined up strategy to be put to an appropriate meeting of Falkirk Council for approval.

On a division 18 Members voted for the Motion and 13 for the Amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED:-**

- (1) the revised Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 incorporating the changes to the Visions, Goals and Outcomes set out in Section 3 and in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Report; and
- (2) to request that the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services withdraws 15 tenancies from each area office from the mainstream letting pool for use as temporary homeless accommodation and reviews the position in April 2009.

NOTED:-

- (1) that a Best Value Service Review of homelessness services will be carried out in 2009-10, and
- (2) that the Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 will be formally launched in Spring 2009.