

## **FC38. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **(b) Graduate Work Experience Scheme**

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved as follows:-

“The My Future’s in Falkirk Strategy has been the most successful economic development program ever within the Falkirk Council area, particularly in relation to providing opportunities for young people.

However, despite our successes there remain outstanding issues affecting the long term viability of the Falkirk economy, one of which is the loss of university graduates, particularly to the south.

One reason for this is the general insistence on the requirement of experience for graduates within their field of educational achievement.

Council therefore resolves to seek to establish a graduate work experience scheme both within the local authority itself and within our wider area through the recently established Business Panel.

Council therefore resolves to approve the principle of a Graduate Work Experience scheme and calls on officers from both Economic Development and Education to bring forward a joint report on the details required to establish this scheme locally”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved as follows:-

Council recognises that there is a need to increase the level of graduates in the Falkirk Council area, which is currently 15.6% compared to 23.6% in Scotland. Council also notes that the number of pupils entering higher education in the Falkirk Council area is currently 24% - 6% lower than Scotland and a 5% drop in 3 years.

Council resolves, therefore, to investigate how current national developments, such as existing Scottish Executive graduate schemes, the “Closing the opportunity gap” initiative and the work being done at a national level on workforce planning for local authorities, due to be considered soon by CoSLA, can be developed further in our area. Council recognises that working primarily within national schemes has the advantage of access to national funding and economies of scale.

Council resolves to have early discussions with the Falkirk Business Panel and the Council’s other relevant partners in order to consider the means to improve the level of qualifications in the Falkirk area workforce and to recruit and retain graduates in our area.

Council resolves further that relevant officers bring forward to the Economic Development Committee a report on the outcome of the discussions and on the proposal for dealing with this issue by national and local initiatives.

On a division 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 voted for the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.