

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EXECUTIVE held within the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2014 at 12 noon

COUNCILLORS:

Jim Blackwood
Dennis Goldie
Gerry Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Alan Nimmo

OFFICERS:

Karen Algie, Head of Human Resources & Customer First
John Angell, Head Of Planning & Transportation
Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy Technology & Improvement
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

EX72. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Nicol and Spears.

EX73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EX74. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of meeting of the Executive held on 30 September 2014 was approved.

Councillor Blackwood joined the meeting following the previous item.

EX75. REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND PARKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Executive considered a report by the Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Development Services recommending that the submission of an open space strategy and parks development plan is deferred to allow the policy development panel, currently reviewing both, to complete its work plan.

The Executive had, on 19 August 2014 (ref EX45), established a policy development panel to review the open space strategy and to include the parks development plan within the content of this review. It had been intended that a draft strategy would be submitted to the Executive by December 2014. However the panel's workplan set out a timescale for submission of the draft strategy in January/February 2015 with the final recommendations submitted by May/June 2015. The panel's scoping document which set out its work plan was provided for information.

Decision

The Executive agreed the rescheduling of the presentation of the consultative draft review of the open space strategy and parks development plan as noted in the timetable set out in the appendix to the report.

Councillor Gow joined the meeting during the previous item.

EX76. FINANCIAL POSITION 2014/15

The Executive considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer presenting the Council's projected year end financial position.

An overspend of £3.173m was projected in the General Fund. This was due in the main to overspends within the Education and Social Work Services' budgets. In both cases the overspend was attributed to an increase in demand for services. A summary was provided of the major deviations from budgets.

The General Fund balance was projected, at 31 March 2015, to be £7.102m. This was within the Council's reserves strategy range of £7m-10m, albeit at the lower end. However it was anticipated that the balance would decrease significantly below the lower limit over the next 2 years as reserves are utilised. A review of the reserves strategy would be reported to the Executive in January 2015.

The projected year end positions in regard to the Trading Account, Housing Revenue Account and General Fund reserves were also provided, together with details of movements on the Repairs and Renewals Fund.

Decision

The Executive noted :-

- 1) the Council's projected year-end financial position for 2014/15;**
- 2) transfers to the Repairs & Renewals Fund and Earmarked Reserves as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report; and**
- 3) the position on the General Fund Reserve as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report.**

Councillor D Goldie withdrew from the meeting following the previous item.

EX77. CCTV PROVISION IN THE FALKIRK AREA

The Executive considered an update report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on the future provision of CCTV services in the Falkirk Council area.

A report on the future provision of CCTV services within the Falkirk Council area had been considered by the Executive on 30 September 2014 (ref EX64). The Executive had agreed that, in light of decisions by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils to withdraw from the Forth Valley CCTV partnership, a managed monitoring service was the preferred option for the future delivery of CCTV provision in the Falkirk area subject to a more detailed report being submitted on this option, including an overview of the justification for, and viability of, CCTV provision in the area.

The report summarised the current CCTV provision in the Falkirk area and detailed the Council's share of the cost of the service currently provided by Forth Valley CCTV Partnership. In the Falkirk Council area 88 cameras are monitored under the arrangements, with 2448 incidents recorded during 2013/14.

The cost of establishing a Falkirk Council managed service, consistent with the Executive's decision of 30 September 2014, were set out. It was estimated that the annual cost of a managed service would be £249,120. However, it was anticipated that Police Scotland will provide £50,000 annually towards the service.

Decision

The Executive :-

- 1) noted the information provided in section 2 of the report highlighting the number of incidents recorded by CCTV in the Falkirk Council area; and**
- 2) agreed to implement a managed CCTV service in the Falkirk Council area.**

EX78. WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services summarising actions undertaken to bring added flexibility to the workforce to assist the Council in achieving sustainable savings through methods which avoid compulsory redundancies where possible.

The report summarised action taken in regard to :-

- Voluntary service
- Vacancy Management
- Redeployment
- Contractual matters

Decision

The Executive noted the report.

Councillor D Goldie rejoined the meeting during the previous item.