

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL****MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2007 at 10.30 AM.**

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Thomson and Waddell.

APOLOGY: Councillor Spears.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance, of Housing and Social Work Services and Acting Director of Law and Administration; Heads of Policy and Performance Review, of Services (Children and Families/Criminal Justice); Service Manager (Strategic Support), Service Manager (Tenancy), Housing and Social Work Services; and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

Item 16(b) – Notice of Motion - Installation of Sprinkler System in the new Hospital, Larbert. In terms of Standing Order 14.2 and paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors Alexander and Kenna declared non-financial interests in relation to this item on the basis of support that they have received by way of election expenses from the Fire Brigades Union; Provost Reid and Councillor Goldie also declared non-financial interests in this matter on the basis of members of their family being members of the FBU. The members further declared that, in terms of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the said Code of Conduct they had concluded that no member of the public acting reasonably would consider that they might be influenced by their interest in their role as a Councillor.

Councillor Gow declared a non-financial interest in this same item by virtue of her appointment by the Council to the Forth Valley NHS Board. It was noted that as the non-financial interest related to an appointment made by the Council and as this had been entered in Councillor Gow's register of interest, the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission in respect of such interests applied.

Provost Reid; Councillors Alexander, Goldie, Gow and Kenna therefore participated in the discussion and decision on the item.

FC42. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 3 October 2007.
- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Reconvened Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 22 October 2007.
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes - Volume 3 2007/2008.
- (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 3 2007/2008.

FC43. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 15.2 (i), Provost Reid advised of variations to the order of business from that detailed on the Agenda for the meeting. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

FC44. THE DENNIS CANAVAN SCHOLARSHIP

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 27 November 2007 by the Chief Executive outlining proposals developed by a Council Working Group that was established to consider ways in which former MP and MSP Mr Dennis Canavan could be recognised within the Falkirk Council area.

AGREED:-

- (1) to approve, in principle, the proposals presented by the Member/Officer Working Group to recognise publicly the service given by former MP and MSP, Mr Dennis Canavan, in the Falkirk Council area;
- (2) to approve the financial and legal aspects of the proposals, as detailed within the Report; and
- (3) to delegate authority to relevant officers to proceed with establishing “The Dennis Canavan Scholarship Fund”, applying financial and legal procedures as required.

Councillor McNally entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

FC45. SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Carleschi, Coleman and Hughes.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 30 October 2007, and (b) Report by Head of School Improvement submitted to the meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 30 October 2007.

Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Education and Leisure Committee be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Carleschi, moved that the practice of appointing individual Headteachers with responsibility for each school should be continued.

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 (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely that the Director of Education should begin consultations on the principle of appointing Headteachers with responsibility for more than one school in the primary sector.

FC46. REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR CHILDREN: UPDATE ON CONSULTATION

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Housing and Social Services Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2007 be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that the Council notes the failure to carry out full and proper consultation with the community of Brightons and Reddingmuirhead and believes this is in direct conflict with the recently signed up to National Standards for Community Engagement requirements. Council therefore instructs the Housing and Social Works Department to carry out a full consultation with the wider community on all aspects of the proposed development including all issues raised by the community and local members.

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 (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely:-

- (1) the outcome of the consultation that has taken place, to date, involving residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises in Wallace Crescent, Polmont, be noted; and
- (2) to approve the development of the provision of a short term residential unit for children in the Falkirk Council area in premises formerly occupied by the Braes Housing Office, Brightons.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was **AGREED** to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit with a view to completing the business, following a short adjournment for lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1.15pm and reconvened at 2.00pm with all Members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor McNally.

FC47. SHARED SERVICES

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2007 be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Council agree to:-

- (1) note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;
- (2) submit a statement giving details of the work already carried out that demonstrated shared services had little, if any, benefit to Falkirk Council but has the potential to cause significant disruption to already efficiently run services;
- (3) call on the Scottish Government to ensure that all of the case studies being undertaken are fully circulated to all local authorities, and
- (4) receive regular updates on the matter from officers and the council leaders who are part of the COSLA leadership.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) to note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;
- (ii) to agree that the Council submit an application for funding; and
- (iii) that Committee receive further reports on this matter in due course.

FC48. BO'NESS FORESHORE FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the recommendations as detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2007 be approved and that the lowest economically advantageous tender received be accepted.

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor H Constable, moved that the recommendations as detailed in the Report be supplemented with the following recommendation:-

That the Director of Development Services be requested to undertake a survey to determine if Blackness coastal defence works would meet the cost benefits analysis criteria, failing which an assessment be undertaken at an early stage to determine the estimated cost of reinstatement of the sea wall/road at West Terrace, Blackness given the importance of the village setting to a historical visitor attraction of local and national significance.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to allow Members to receive advice on the terms of Standing Orders 18.1 to 18.3 relating to rules of debate.

On reconvening, and in terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 30 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED**:-

- (1) that the Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme proceed in its present form; and
- (2) that the tender submitted by Lagan Construction in the sum of £5.2m being the lowest economically advantageous received, be accepted.

FC49. REFERRAL FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE BETTER HEALTH BETTER CARE – RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007, and (b) joint Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services and Development Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved acceptance of the recommendations that had been approved by the Community Health and Safety Committee at its meeting on 23 October 2007.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved that Paragraph 1.4 of the Report submitted to the Community Health and Safety Committee be replaced with the following wording:-

That Council supports the principle of democratically elected Health Boards as a means of improving accountability and transparency in delivering the people's health service to the people. We view this as a clear statement of intent in allowing people access to the decision making process.

Provost Reid gave notice of a further amendment.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Motion and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Provost Reid, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved by way of a further amendment that the Council's response to the Better Health, Better Care Consultation be further amended to note that the Council supports the principle of having an element of democratically elected members in the membership of NHS Boards in addition to local authority members and medical professionals.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to allow Members the opportunity to consider the terms of the further amendment proposed by Provost Reid.

On re-convening, the further Amendment was unanimously accepted.

FC50. REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Housing and Social Work Services Committee be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved that the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion, and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to note the proposal for the redesign of the posts of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Children and Families) and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) to establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget, and

- (3) to establish the Practice Learning Assessor/Co-ordinator post by utilising existing funding within the Specific Grant for Social Work Training and the income generated by the provision of social work practice learning opportunities.

**FC51. REFERRAL FROM JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE –
ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPION OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND CARE**

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 27 September 2007 (Paragraph JCC9 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 November 2007 by the Director of Corporate and Commercial Services seeking the nomination of an elected member Champion for Health, Safety and Care.

AGREED to appoint Councillor Nimmo as the Council's Champion for Health, Safety and Care.

**FC52. REFERRAL FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL
SERVICES COMMITTEE – HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 3 December 2007 (Paragraph HSS25 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 4 December 2007 by the Director of Housing and Social Work Services relating to Housing Allocations.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Special Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee with the following additional recommendation:-

That Council authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council's concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations to the Report be substituted with the following:-

Members note the work of the Allocations Review Group and the management decision to temporarily increase by 38 properties the Council's stock of temporary accommodation to homeless applicants with some concern. Previous reports approved by Council and committee and practices undertaken by the department have always contained consultation with the Local Member as well as a commitment to evenly spread the burden across geographical areas. Council noted with disappointment that not only were Local Members not consulted on this exercise but were not even informed of the outcome. Council agrees that this is unacceptable and in breach of previous agreements and the principal of openness and accountability.

Members agree to the following steps:

- i. Call on officers to bring forward a report within 6 weeks outlining the impact on the housing of homeless applicants with an increase of points within the existing system.
- ii. The number of offers made to existing applicants remains at its current level.
- iii. The level of Social Points be awarded to large families to reflect the number of bedrooms deficient within an application to be the equivalent of the removal of the cap on the amount of Overcrowding Points Due.
- iv. Applicants be able to change their top five areas at any time.

Council notes that the Allocations Review Group, unlike the previous Allocations Review Group does not contain any Elected Members. Council recognises the important role that members play in their community and agrees that the Allocations Review Group contain cross party representation of groups represented within the Council membership.

The remit of the group will be to:

- Review the findings of the Communities Scotland Report when this becomes available.
- Review best practice and guidelines in relation to housing allocations
- Consult with the relevant stakeholders including Elected Members.
- Take account of local housing needs and affordability issues.

Once the extended review group has concluded, specific proposals will be presented to a seminar organised for all Members before being placed on an agenda for the Housing and Social Work Committee.

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

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council's concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation;
- (2) From 1 Jan 2008 for a period of six months or until a revised allocations framework is implemented, allocations be made only to applicants in "reasonable preference" groups as set out in Section 4.1 of the report;

- (3) The number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers;
- (4) Social Points be awarded to large families to reflect appropriately the degree of overcrowding experienced, and
- (5) Applicants be permitted to change their Top 5 areas at any time.

FC53. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 November 2007 by the Chief Executive advising on the outcomes of a review of polling districts and polling places carried out in terms of Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

AGREED:-

- (1) To note the terms of the Report and the comments received in response to the public consultation process; and
- (2) To authorise relevant officers (a) to address the issues raised, as summarised in Appendix 2 to the Report, taking necessary action and reporting back to Council with the final proposals in relation to the current review, and (b) to take action in relation to the issues requiring further consideration, as identified in paragraphs 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 of the Report with a report back to members for consideration and approval at a future meeting as appropriate.

FC54. FIRST PERIODICAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 November 2007 by the Chief Executive providing information on the Boundary Commission for Scotland's Review of Constituency Boundaries for the Scottish Parliament and the likely implications for the Council area.

AGREED to note:-

- (1) the terms of the Report and the implications of the first periodical review of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland, and
- (2) that further update reports will be submitted to Council as the review progresses.

FC55. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 - 2011

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 26 November 2007 by the Chief Executive presenting a new Draft Corporate Plan for the Council covering the period from 2008 until 2011.

AGREED:-

- (1) to approve the Draft Corporate Plan 2008-2011, and
- (2) that a report be considered in March 2008 on the outcome of the consultation process and progress made in relation to the single outcome agreement.

At this point the Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment for dinner. The meeting adjourned at 5.15pm and reconvened at 6.15pm with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillors McNally and Waddell.

FC56. THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 (LICENSING OF SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING) ORDER 2006

With reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 27 June 2007 (Paragraph FC12 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 29 November 2007 by the Director of Development Services providing members with an assessment of the fee structure for the licensing of skin piercing and tattooing.

AGREED to note the contents of the Report.

FC57. FALKIRK HIGH STATION; SLAMANNAN ROAD PROPOSED CAR PARK; GROUND STABILISATION

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 29 November 2007 by the Director of Development Services advising of tenders received in respect of a contract for ground stabilisation works at the proposed car park, Falkirk High Station, Slamannan Road, Falkirk.

AGREED to approve acceptance of the tender submitted by Forkers Ltd, Golds Green House, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands in the sum of £590,147.50 in respect of Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation works.

FC58. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 November 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

AGREED to note the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds specified in the appendix attached to the Report.

FC59. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Northern Rock and Farepak

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved that:-

Council notes with concern the difference in the treatment of Farepak savers with those of the Northern Rock Building Society by the UK Labour government.

Council believes that both sets of savers should receive the same government protections and calls on the UK government to match the assurance offered to North Rock Savers for those of Farepak.

Council also agrees to ask both Falkirk MP's to support this stance and take this matter up with the appropriate government Ministers and report back to council the results of approaches to our local MPs and their actions in seeking equality of treatment for Farepak customers.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that:

This Council notes with disappointment the recent announcement by the liquidator for Farepak that the likely amount of compensation for customers would be 5p in £1. Falkirk Council commends Falkirk East & Linlithgow MP, Michael Connarty for the work he has done in the campaign to win fair compensation for Farepak customers and his work in trying to get fair recompense from HBOS who held onto £30m of money paid into the bank by unsuspecting Farepak agents. Council further commends those MP's of all political persuasions who signed the early day motion condemning HBOS after the collapse of Farepak. Council agrees to urgently write to both Falkirk MP's asking them to urge the liquidators to pay the compensation to customers before Christmas so they do not have to go through another festive season without at least some of their savings returned.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

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

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

(b) Installation of Sprinkler System in the new hospital, Larbert

Councillor Kenna, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that:-

Council notes with concern the decision of the NHS Forth Valley Board not to install a sprinkler system in the new acute hospital being built at Larbert.

All new schools being built by Falkirk Council contain a sprinkler system and council believes that such a system not only saves lives but protects property.

Council therefore supports the Fire Brigade Union's campaign to have a sprinkler system installed at Larbert and urges NHS Forth Valley to comply.

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

Council recognises the important role sprinkler systems play in the fight against fire and in the saving of lives. Council believes that fire safety within the new hospital at Larbert for patients, staff and visitors is of vital importance. Council therefore calls upon NHS Forth Valley, its Health and Safety advisors including Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service to heed the campaign by the Fire Brigade Union and consider the installation of sprinklers within the areas of the hospital where appropriate.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to consider the terms of the amendment moved by Councillor Gow.

On reconvening, in terms of Standing Order 19.7 and with the consent of the Provost and the seconder, Councillor Gow altered the text of her motion, namely:-

Council recognises the important role sprinkler systems play in the fight against fire and in the saving of lives. Council believes that fire safety within the new hospital at Larbert for patients, staff and visitors is of vital importance. Council therefore calls upon NHS Forth Valley, its Health and Safety advisors including Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service to heed the campaign by the Fire Brigade Union and Council calls for the installation of sprinklers within the areas of the hospital where appropriate.

In terms in Standing Order 33.3(ii), Council **AGREED** unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to hear from Mr Gordon McQuade, on behalf of the Fire Brigades Union, in explanation of the Union's campaign for the installation of sprinklers in the new hospital, Larbert.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 voted for the Motion.

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

(c) Scrutiny Committees

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved that:-

Council believes that in order to fully implement the wider community planning agenda we must restructure our committees to be more inclusive and outward looking.

Council therefore resolves to agree to the principle of following the example of the Education Committee in appointing outside representatives to each of the scrutiny committees.

Council therefore agrees to bring a report to each committee that will recommend the inclusion of relevant representatives from interest groups and community planning partners.

Examples of these could be:-

Economic Development

- A representative from local small businesses selected from the Falkirk Business Panel
- A representative from local large businesses selected from the Falkirk Business Panel
- A representative from the Town Centre Management Company
- A representative from the Enterprise Network
- A representative from FEAT
- A representative from Forth Valley College

Housing and Social Work

- Two representatives from a local residents and tenants group
- A representative from a carers group
- A representative from a Housing Association
- A representative from the criminal justice authority
- A representative from Foster Parents Groups

Community Health & Safety

- A representative from Central Scotland Police
- A representative from Central Scotland Fire Service
- A representative from NHS Forth Valley
- Two representatives from relevant community groups
- A representative from SEPA

Environment and Heritage

- A representative from Friends of the Earth
- A representative from the voluntary sector re-cycling groups
- A representative from local history and heritage groups
- A representative from community based museum support groups
- A representative from Historic Scotland or Scottish Natural Heritage
- A representative from countryside access groups

All external appointments will be conducted in an open and transparent manner following the deliberations of the Scrutiny Committees.

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

Council agrees to consider the membership of Committees, and the principle of community engagement, during a review of committee structures.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 voted for the Motion.

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

(d) Service and Committee Structures

Councillor Gow moved, Councillor C MacDonald seconded and Council **AGREED** the following:-

Council, recognising that the existing structures are outdated, resolves to commence the process of reviewing its service and committee structures, with an initial report on the options for the means of carrying out the review being submitted to the January 2008 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

FC60. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

Councillor H Constable left the meeting during consideration of following item.

FC61. REFERRAL FROM BEST VALUE AND AUDIT FORUM- TENDER FOR PROVISION OF A RENT DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Best Value and Audit Forum held on 9 November 2007 (Paragraph BV19 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated

21 November 2007 by the Director of Housing and Social Work Services enclosing a Report considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum regarding the tender for the provision of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that Council agree to accept the tender from the Cyrenians in respect of the provision of a rent deposit guarantee scheme for a period of 18 months from 1 April 2008.

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

The Council believes that the entire tender process has been compromised by mistakes, errors of judgement and a significant time lapse since this tender was received. The Council therefore resolves to re-tender for this particular service for contract beginning 1 April and, in the meantime, instructs officers to work with the Falkirk Homeless Project to continue this service until that date.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 28 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (11) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

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