

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the EXECUTIVE held within the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015 at 11.00 a.m.

COUNCILLORS:

Jim Blackwood
Dennis Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo
Robert Spears

OFFICERS:

Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Robert McMaster, Head of Roads & Design
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager

EX115. APOLOGIES

No apologies were intimated.

EX116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors D Goldie, Gow, Mahoney and Nicol each declared a non-financial interest in item EX117 as directors of Falkirk Community Trust, but did not consider that this required them to recuse themselves from consideration of the item, having regard to the specific exclusions contained in the Code of Conduct.

EX117. THE HELIX: VISITOR BUILDING

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services proposing that the contract for the provision of the Helix visitor centre is varied to allow design changes to the building to be carried out.

The Executive had, on February 2014 (ref Ex122), awarded a contract to Balfour Beattie to build a visitor centre in the Helix. In December 2014, following the withdrawal of this contractor, the contract was awarded to Maxi Construction Limited.

Work started on site in January 2015 with an anticipated opening date of early August 2015. It was proposed that the visitor building is extended, as a consequence of higher than expected visitor numbers at the Helix and Kelpies in their first year. It was anticipated that annually the sites will attract over 700,000 visitors against initial estimates of 350,000. The extension of the facility would allow enhanced retail and circulation space to be provided at an additional cost of £160,000 which can be met from the Falkirk Community Trust's Helix budget. Extending the contract would add approximately seven weeks to the build programme with the visitor centre opening in October 2015.

Decision

The Executive agreed to vary the contract for the Helix visitor building to allow the extension of the building at a cost of £160,000.