

FC70. THREE YEAR GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 – 2017/18

Council considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer presenting the proposed capital investment programme for the financial years 2015/16 - 2017/18 on all areas of service delivery with the exception of Council Housing.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that Council approves the General Services Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in appendix 1 to the report and notes the prudential indicators set out in appendix 2 of the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Coleman, moved the terms of the motion subject to the following adjustment in regard to the Capital Programme:-

At the time of approving the draft Trust Budget not all information regards the whole council budget was available to members. Therefore on reflection Councils therefore agreed to reduce the capital spend to the Trust, while a new ticketing system would be nice and is desirable it is not essential as there is an existing system in place and would not provide an additional revenue stream for the Council. Therefore remove £280k for the ICT project and reallocate as follows:-

New Rail Stations

Council recognised that the previous proposal for Bonnybridge and Grangemouth Railway Stations, as a result of the electrification, time tabling impediment to progressing them has now been removed.

This project would enable the station building to be leased to Network Rail creating an income stream to the Council. This would create economic benefits to each of the towns of Bonnybridge and Grangemouth and in turn to the wider council area.

Council therefore agrees to allocate £100k for STAG reports to be carried out, a business case produced as well as architectural designs developed. It is noted that there is an opportunity for a funding bid to Scottish Government through Transport Scotland Stations Development Fund, and instructs officers to urgently seek a meeting with civil servants to discuss. The revenue costs flowing from these proposals will be able to be accommodated within the capital charges provision.

Synthetic Pitches

£100k to be used for a staff resource by the Council as the lead agency to support and assist the junior football Clubs to become Community Clubs in the preparation of bids and develop the ethos similar to that used by Stenhousemuir FC. The revenue costs flowing from these proposals will be able to be accommodated within the capital charges provision.

Carriden Cemetery

£35k to be allocated to provide a secure and discrete boundary around Carriden Cemetery, recognising that the location is at a busy industrial access, the current boundary does not provide a respectful atmosphere fitting to relatives paying their last respects to their loved ones.

Dobbie Hall

£35k to progress the necessary repairs that are required to maintain this well used local facility.

Councillor D Goldie rejoined the meeting at this point.

The Provost having confirmed that the first paragraph of the amendment was contrary to Standing Order 35, the decision on the budget for Falkirk Community Trust having been taken within the previous 6 months, Councillor Coleman substituted that paragraph with the following:-

“The Capital Programme requires to be refreshed as there are a number of projects that have been within the programme for some time but have not been progressed. This has been demonstrated by the £13m slippage. Following the re-profiling of the capital programme”.

The amendment as adjusted was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Councillors McCabe and Gow gave notice of further amendments.

Council then adjourned at 2.45 p.m. to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened at 3.20 p.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (17) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Spears.

Councillor McCabe then presented his amendment. Provost Reid ruled the amendment to be not competent in terms of Standing Order 30.1 because notice of the alternative budget had not been submitted to the Chief Finance Officer by noon on the second last day before the meeting.

Councillor Gow, having also given notice of a further amendment, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved the following as an addendum to the motion:-

Council agrees that the Leader of Falkirk Council and Leader of the Opposition write to the relevant Scottish Government Minister requesting his support for railway stations at both Grangemouth and Bonnybridge. On receipt of written support from the Scottish Government Minister, Council officers to bring forward a report requesting a STAG report to Falkirk Council for both stations.

Following further discussion, and in terms of Standing Order 26.2 (ii), Councillor D Goldie, seconded by the Provost moved that “the question now be put”.

On a division, 25 members voted for the motion, 3 voted against with 3 abstentions.

Councillor C Martin, as mover, and with the consent of the Provost, and Councillor Nimmo as his seconder, agreed to adjust the motion to incorporate the proposed addendum.

There being no general agreement on the adjusted motion a vote was taken in accordance with Standing Order 20.11.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), the vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol, Nimmo and Spears.

Against the adjusted motion (13) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Ritchie.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) the General Services Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18 set out in appendix 1 of the report;**
- (2) to request that the Leader of Falkirk Council and the Leader of the Opposition write to the relevant Scottish Government Minister requesting his support for railway stations at Grangemouth and Bonnybridge and on receipt of written support from the Scottish Government Minister, instructs officers to bring forward a report to Council requesting a STAG report, for both stations, and**
- (3) to note the Prudential Indicators as set out in appendix 2 of the report.**