

FC88. SERVICE RE-DESIGN

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting a proposed Service Structure.

Council agreed on 12 November 2014 (ref FC47) that consideration should be given to the remaining Services of the Council as a result of the creation of the Children's Service and instructed the Chief Executive, on 11 February 2015 (ref FC69), to present a proposal to review the number of services in order to achieve savings.

The report set out the background to the review, which did not include the newly created Children's Service and the main considerations underpinning it, namely:-

- any revised structure must enable the Council to continue to meet its statutory requirements;
- structure arrangements must be efficient and effective. Given the Council's current budgetary position, and the financial savings of £46m which require to be achieved over the next 3 years, if the Council is to consider reviewing its structure, any revised arrangements must result in savings, as agreed by Council on 11 February 2015;
- structure arrangements should avoid duplication, whilst ensuring that effective services are delivered for the people of Falkirk;
- the structure design should be logical and customer friendly; and
- the structure should be designed in a way which enables the Council to continue to deliver its Corporate Plan.

The report provided detail, in an appendix, of the functional structure of the Council as it currently exists together with a proposal to rationalise those functions into 3 Services. It was proposed that, should the structure be agreed, in principle, consultation would take place on the appropriate senior officer structure.

Councillor Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) to note the work undertaken to review the Service structure arrangements;
- (2) in principle to the proposed functional structure attached at appendix 2 of the report, for further consultation with relevant employees and Trade Unions with particular views being sought on the most appropriate location for the Grounds Maintenance function; and
- (3) to receive a further report on the outcome of the consultation exercise together with a senior officer structure to support this which generates appropriate savings.

As an amendment Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved, in substitution for the motion, that Council:-

- (1) notes the work undertaken to review the Service structure arrangements;
- (2) requests that the Chief Executive brings forward a fully worked up and costed proposal for decision by members to the June Council meeting in order that members are fully informed of potential savings and staff implications; and

(3) agrees to initiate consultation with relevant employees and Trade Unions.

Councillor Alexander gave notice of a further amendment.

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

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Having given notice of a further amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved, in substitution for the motion, that Council:-

- (1) notes the report; and
- (2) agrees that all members will be involved at all stages of the review of management structures, in its entirety, and will be involved in the preparation of the report to Council in June.

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

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.