

FC51. thinkWhere – PROPOSAL FOR INVESTMENT

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer providing further information on the services provided by thinkWhere and setting out an appraisal of the options available to Council including investing in the company.

Council had continued consideration of a report on thinkWhere at its meeting on 8 October 2014 (ref FC42) to allow for further information to be made available.

thinkWhere provides the Council with a service for the management, development and interrogation of geographical information. The company has three shareholders – Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk Councils. Clackmannanshire Council decided in June 2014 not to invest in the company. Stirling Council will consider the same proposal as is before Council on 13 November 2014.

The report set out three options for Council:-

- to invest in the company;
- to not invest in the company; or
- to bring back the service in-house

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

- (1) the investment in thinkWhere of £238,000 in November 2014, £200,000 in April 2015 and £62,000 in April 2016 as detailed in paragraph 4.9 of the report to Council on 8 October 2014 subject to the same financial commitment being made by Stirling Council;
- (2) to authorise officers to continue to negotiate and agree with Clackmannanshire Council on a payment from them for their shareholding and liabilities;
- (3) to note that thinkWhere are required to take forward necessary actions to secure the future of the company as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report to Council on 8 October 2014;
- (2) that officers monitor and review progress against the business plan prior to the 2015 and 2016 phases of investment being made; and
- (3) to consider plans for its shareholding in the company as part of that review process.

As an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved in substitution for the motion that:-

The current information does not give members a full range of options in order to make an informed decision.

It is therefore proposed that the matter should be continued to the full Council meeting scheduled for 17 December 2014, provide costs which would demonstrate an in house option of service provision as well as any potential of establishing collaborative working with other agencies or organisations such as other local authorities to provide this service.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that having continued consideration of the matters to this meeting, and as Stirling Council was to determine its position the following day, it was necessary that Council agreed its position at this meeting.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillie Paterson; Councillors Black , Blackwood, Buchanan, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

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

Decision

Council agreed the motion.