

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EXECUTIVE held within the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 at 9.30 a.m.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander	Dr Craig R Martin
Jim Blackwood	Malcolm Nicol
Tom Coleman	Alan Nimmo
Dennis Goldie	Robert Spears
Linda Gow	
Craig Martin (Convener)	

OFFICERS:

Bryan Douglas, Licensing Co-ordinator
Douglas Duff, Head of Economic Development and Environmental Services
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer
Amanda Templeman, acting Depute Chief Finance Officer

EX69. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors G Goldie and Mahoney.

EX70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EX71. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 20 October 2015 was approved.

EX72. JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2015

- **TIME OFF FOR TRADE UNION DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES POLICY**
- **LONE WORKING POLICY**
- **POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENCE & UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS AT WORK**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the Time Off for Trade Union Duties and Activities Policy, the Lone Working Policy and a Policy and Procedure for the Management of Violence and Unacceptable Actions at Work for consideration.

The policies had been considered by the Joint Consultative Committee on 11 November 2015 and were referred to the Executive for immediate implementation.

Decision

The Executive approved the immediate implementation of the Time off for Trade Union Duties and Activities Policy, the Lone Working Policy and the Policy and Procedure for the Management of Violence and Unacceptable Actions at Work.

Councillors D Goldie and Gow joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

EX73. GROWTH : INVESTMENT : INCLUSION FALKIRK ECONOMIC STRATEGY – FINAL DRAFT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the Economic Strategy for approval.

The Executive had agreed, on 29 September 2015 (ref EX48), to consult on a draft Economic Strategy and that the policy development panel would consider feedback from the consultation before submitting a final draft strategy to the Executive for approval.

A consultation exercise was carried out between 2 October and 6 November 2015. The policy development panel considered the responses on 16 November 2015.

A final draft Strategy was appended to the report for consideration.

The strategy, which is for the period 2015-2025, sets targets in regard to growth, investment and inclusion. The Strategy will be formally reviewed every five years to ensure that it remains relevant and dynamic.

Councillor D Goldie, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved that the Executive agrees the final Economic Strategy document as developed by the policy development panel and its publication.

As an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved the terms of the motion and, in addition, that the Executive agrees:-

- (1) to instruct officers to carry out a formal review of the strategy every 3 years; and
- (2) to carry out a comprehensive survey of the local business community by directly contacting a minimum of 300 local businesses to get their views on the strategy between now and March 2016.

On a division 7 members voted for the motion and 3 voted for the amendment with voting as follows:-

For the motion (7) – Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, Gow, C Martin, C R Martin, Nimmo and Nicol.

For the amendment (3) – Councillors Alexander, Coleman and Spears.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.

EX74. CAPITAL PROGRAMMES UPDATE REPORT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the Housing and General Services Capital Programmes for 2015/16.

The projected outturn for the 2015/16 Housing Capital Programme was £29.3m, representing a £1.1m underspend on the 2015/16 programme. An outturn of £28.3m had been reported on 29 September 2015 (ref EX51). The report detailed the spend and movement across the programme since then.

The projected outturn for the General Services Capital Programme for 2015/16 was £29.2m (compared to the September figure of £28.9m). The report set out the main areas of spend for 2015/16. It was anticipated that the programme would break even at year end.

The report also set out the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16.

The Executive noted:-

- (1) the budget and forecast position for the General Fund and Housing Capital Programmes for 2015/16; and**
- (2) the Prudential Indicators as set out in appendix 3 of the report.**

EX75. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INTERIM REVIEW 2015/16

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the mid-term review of the Treasury Management function.

Council approved its Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 on 13 May 2015 (ref FC8)

A summary of the mid-term review was provided together with the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

The report provided an update in regard to:-

- the economic and interest rate outlook;
- the borrowing strategy;
- the investment strategy;
- the Scottish Government's review of local authority borrowing; and
- elected member training.

In regard to the Investment Strategy, Council has been granted authority to borrow to on-lend to Registered Social Landlords to fund investment in new affordable housing. The loan can be funded by prudential borrowing or cash backed reserves.

The Scottish Government's loans fund review will require a change to the methodology for calculating the debt repayment chargeable to the Revenue Budget and will come into effect in 2021/2022.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16;**
- (2) noted the potential to on-lend to Registered Social Landlords;**
- (3) noted the potential revenue impact of the loans fund review;**
- (4) noted that the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee in regard to training had been agreed by Council; and**
- (5) agreed to refer the report to Council for consideration.**

Councillor D Goldie left the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

EX76. REVIEW OF TAXI SCALES AND OTHER CHARGES

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services recommending a scale of fares and charges for the hire of taxis licensed by the Council.

The Council is required to fix the scale of fares and other charges for the hire of taxis at 18 monthly intervals. The current tariff came into effect on 30 September 2013. The report set out the process by which Council must review and set its tariffs together with the recommended tariff.

Following consultation with the Falkirk Taxi and Private Hire Car Forum, it was recommended that the tariff remain unchanged, with the review coming into formal effect on 29 February 2016. Should the Executive agree the proposal, Council is required to give notice of their intention by advertisement in a local newspaper and to consider any representations made before reaching a final decision. Operators of taxis can appeal against a licensing authority's decision in regard to its tariff.

Additionally the report confirmed that all operators would be advised of forthcoming holiday rates. It is the responsibility of operators to have these dates programmed into their respective meters at the conclusion of every review.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to maintain the fare scales and charges at their current levels;**
- (2) to instruct the Chief Governance Officer to advertise the fare scales and charges to take effect from midnight on 29 February 2016;**

- (3) in the event of any written representations being received in respect of the published proposals, a further report will be submitted to the Executive to allow them to be considered; and
- (4) in the event that no written representations are received the proposals will be held as confirmed and formally notified to the consultees.