

**RECORD OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF FALKIRK COUNCIL  
ON 17 FEBRUARY 2016**

Councillors in attendance: 31

David Alexander	Tom Coleman	John McLuckie	Martin Oliver
David Balfour	Paul Garner	Adrian Mahoney	Joan Paterson
Stephen Bird	Dennis Goldie	Craig Martin	John Patrick
Allyson Black	Linda Gow	Dr Craig R Martin	Pat Reid
Jim Blackwood	Gordon Hughes	Cecil Meiklejohn	Ann Ritchie
William Buchanan	Steven Jackson	Rosie Murray	Robert Spears
Steven Carleschi	Charles MacDonald	Malcolm Nicol	Sandy Turner
Colin Chalmers	Brian McCabe	Alan Nimmo	

Councillor not in attendance – Gerry Goldie

Agenda Item: 5	Subject: REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17
<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>Council agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the Draft Budget for 2016/17 as proposed in the report;</li> <li>(2) to levy a Council Tax for 2016/17 as follows:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Council Tax Valuation Band D of £1,070, representing a nil increase;</li> <li>ii) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other Council Tax Valuations Bands in accordance with Section 74 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as set out in paragraph 14.3 of the report);</li> </ol> </li> <li>(3) the Business Plans and Savings proposals for Falkirk Community Trust as set out in Section 8 of the report and the Service Payment for 2016/17 of £11.795m;</li> <li>(4) the content of Section 9 of the report and a sum of £58.939m to be made available to the Integration Joint Board;</li> <li>(5) that any shortfall in savings proposals flowing from the Equality &amp; Poverty Impact Assessment process, together with other necessary consultations and reviews, will be covered by alternative actions within Services' Budgets;</li> <li>(6) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to issue a statutory notice to the Trade Unions in respect of the workforce implications of the budget proposals, which meets the statutory requirements and enables officers to implement compulsory redundancies if all other voluntary options are exhausted, to achieve a balanced budget;</li> <li>(7) that the £1.5m savings which were to be achieved from terms and conditions, is taken from reserves, with discussions continuing with Trade Unions to find a solution to achieving such savings in workforce costs as soon as possible;</li> <li>(8) to give Cosla a further period of notice of one year and to return to the issue in next year's Budget by which time matters, and notably the legal position, will have been clarified;</li> <li>(9) to instruct Chief Officers to deliver Services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorises them to take such actions as may be required within Council policy to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in sections 7, 8, 9 &amp; 11 of the report and related appendices and annexes; and</li> <li>(10) to consult further on the proposals in regard to the Dial-a-Journey contract.</li> </ol> <p><b>Moved by: C Martin</b> <b>Seconded by: J Paterson</b></p>	

## **AMENDMENT**

In substitution for the motion, Council agrees:

- (1) the Draft budget of 2016/17 as set out in the appendix to this note
- (2) the level of Council Tax as set out in the budget paper
- (3) to fund the FCT
  - i) to the level of £11.795m with the addition of the sum of £93,000 for the retention of the Mobile Library Service.
  - ii) Council also recognises that the Community Trust's operation is no longer fit for purpose and has not achieved what it was set out to do therefore should be the subject of a full Best Value Review.
- (4) to adjust payment to the IJB in line with the amended draft budget;
- (5) that any shortfalls in savings proposals or issues that arise from the Equality & Poverty Impact assessment process are reported back to members for consideration;
- (6) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to issue a statutory notice to the Trade Unions in respect of the workforce implications of the budget proposals, which meets the statutory requirements and enables officers to implement compulsory redundancies if all other voluntary options are exhausted, to achieve a balanced budget, subject to the proviso that should compulsory redundancies be required, they would be subject to a prior report to Council;
- (7) with regards to terms and conditions, it is very disappointing to note that the Trade Unions will not be in a position to enter into a collective agreement. In these circumstances, I would propose that the £1.5m savings which were to be achieved from terms and conditions, is taken from reserves, with discussions continuing with Trade Unions to find a solution to achieving such savings in workforce costs as soon as possible;
- (8) to follow through on its intention to withdraw from Cosla, as we believe as a membership organisation, members should be free to decide what is in the best interests of their own residents and stakeholders;
- (9) to instruct Chief Officers to deliver Services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorises them to take such actions as may be required within Council policy to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in sections 7, 8, 9 & 11 of the report and related appendices and annexes; and
- (10) that reserves be consolidated in to a single fund to which services would require to prepare a business case and place bids in order to access additional funds.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**

**Seconded by: S Jackson**

### VOTE

#### For the motion (16)

A Black	C Martin
J Blackwood	Dr C R Martin
W Buchanan	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	J Paterson
A Mahoney	P Reid

#### For the amendment (15)

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner
G Hughes	

**DECISION: Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item: 6**

**Subject: THREE YEAR GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 – 2018/19**

#### **MOTION**

Council agrees the General Services Capital Programme for 2016/17 – 2018/19 and notes the prudential indicators.

**Moved by: C Martin**

**Seconded by: J Paterson**

#### **AMENDMENT**

##### **Dobbie Hall**

In addition to the motion, Council agrees to carry forward the £54,000 commitment for 2015/16 capital programme to the Dobbie Hall. Add £87, 000 from the 2016/17 programme to make the property wind and water tight. Full works to be carried out if by the summer of 2016 sufficient external funds have not been drawn down.

**Moved by: S Carleschi**

**Seconded by: T Coleman**

### VOTE

#### For the motion (15)

A Black	Dr C R Martin
J Blackwood	R Murray
W Buchanan	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	J Paterson
A Mahoney	P Reid
C Martin	

#### For the amendment (14)

D Alexander	G Hughes
D Balfour	S Jackson
S Bird	B McCabe
S Carleschi	C Meiklejohn
C Chalmers	M Oliver
T Coleman	A Ritchie
P Garner	S Turner

#### Abstention (1)

D Goldie
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**DECISION: Motion carried**

**MOTION**

Council agrees the Draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2016/17, with the following specific recommendations:-

- (1) rent increase of 3.6% to be applied from 1 April 2016. The average fortnightly charge would therefore increase from £129.34 to £134.00, based on the 24 fortnightly periods with no rent being charged during the fortnightly periods commencing 27 June 2016 and 26 December 2016;
- (2) lock-up garage rentals to increase from an average of £5.93 per week to £6.14 per week;
- (3) garage site rentals to increase from £78 per annum to £79 per annum;
- (4) Castings Hostel rentals increase from £153.10 per room per week to £158.61 per week (excluding fuel charges);
- (5) homeless property rentals increase from an average of £177.49 per week to £183.88 per week, and
- (6) to note the indicative budgets and rent increases for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as representing the best information available at this time.

**Moved by: C Martin**

**Seconded by: J Paterson**

**AMENDMENT**

The terms of the motion with paragraph (1) substituted with:-

- (1) Rent increase to be 1% applied from 1 April 2016 helping those hard pressed working families who are being hit hardest by the current Westminster's austerity agenda. The average fortnightly charges to be adjusted accordingly with the balance to be drawn from reserves and efficiency savings.

**Moved by: C Chalmers**

**Seconded by: C Meiklejohn**

**VOTE****For the motion (16)**

A Black	C Martin
J Blackwood	Dr C R Martin
W Buchanan	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	J Paterson
A Mahoney	P Reid

**For the amendment (14)**

D Alexander	G Hughes
D Balfour	S Jackson
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner

**DECISION: Motion carried.**

<b>Agenda Item: 8</b>	<b>Subject: HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016/17 – 2018/19</b>																														
<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>Council agrees to approve the expenditure proposals outlined in the 2016/17 to 2018/19 Housing Investment Programme detailed at appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p><b>Moved by: C Martin</b>  <b>Seconded by: J Paterson</b></p>																															
<p><b>AMENDMENT</b></p> <p>In addition, Council notes that it is not meeting the target set of 150 additional homes per year. It therefore instructs officers to bring forward an accelerated housing building programme including a review of potential new build sites.</p> <p><b>Moved by: C Chalmers</b>  <b>Seconded by: T Coleman</b></p>																															
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VOTE</u></b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>For the motion (16)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>A Black</td><td>C Martin</td></tr> <tr><td>J Blackwood</td><td>Dr C R Martin</td></tr> <tr><td>W Buchanan</td><td>R Murray</td></tr> <tr><td>D Goldie</td><td>M Nicol</td></tr> <tr><td>L Gow</td><td>A Nimmo</td></tr> <tr><td>C MacDonald</td><td>J Patrick</td></tr> <tr><td>J McLuckie</td><td>J Paterson</td></tr> <tr><td>A Mahoney</td><td>P Reid</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>For the amendment (14)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>D Alexander</td><td>G Hughes</td></tr> <tr><td>D Balfour</td><td>S Jackson</td></tr> <tr><td>S Bird</td><td>C Meiklejohn</td></tr> <tr><td>S Carleschi</td><td>M Oliver</td></tr> <tr><td>C Chalmers</td><td>A Ritchie</td></tr> <tr><td>T Coleman</td><td>R Spears</td></tr> <tr><td>P Garner</td><td>S Turner</td></tr> </table> </div> </div> <p><b>DECISION: Motion carried.</b></p>		A Black	C Martin	J Blackwood	Dr C R Martin	W Buchanan	R Murray	D Goldie	M Nicol	L Gow	A Nimmo	C MacDonald	J Patrick	J McLuckie	J Paterson	A Mahoney	P Reid	D Alexander	G Hughes	D Balfour	S Jackson	S Bird	C Meiklejohn	S Carleschi	M Oliver	C Chalmers	A Ritchie	T Coleman	R Spears	P Garner	S Turner
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#### Notes

1. This voting record is subject to approval of the formal minute at the next meeting of Council on 9 March 2016.
2. Only those items where a vote was taken are recorded here. For information about decisions reached on any other items considered at this meeting, please contact Brian Pirie on 01324 506110.

**Appendix (with reference to paragraph (1) of the amendment to the Revenue Budget 2016/17)****Additional Income**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Income</b>
From part year savings on the establishment of the Living Wage from October, half year costs, with the remainder being available to local authorities to meet pressure areas including the £70k on page 53	<b>£2.27m</b>
Addition transfer from to IJB funds to cover the delivery of Social Care as per the advice from the Scottish Government, the papers allow £1m, the advice is that this is predominately local authority areas and so the funding the second tranche Integration Board be increased by	<b>£1.25m</b>
2015/16 projected underspend to be carried forward to 16/17 as occurs in Holyrood	<b>£2.1m</b>
Rebasing of budgets to recognise recurring sections of 15/16 underspend, to be shared pro-rata amongst all council budgets	<b>£200k</b>
Changing in advertising policy including advertising on roundabouts, publications such as the council newspaper and council vehicles	<b>£175k</b>
Charge to supermarkets for returning trolleys or their scrap metal value if refused by their owners	<b>£20k</b>
Introduction of flexibility in pricing to allow local companies and residents to pay a realistic fee for designated car parking spaces in places such as Kemper Ave, Meeks Road and the Municipal Buildings	<b>£10k</b>
Reconfigured bus routes efficiencies working in partnership to protect services	<b>£25k</b>
Review of aids and adaptations procedures to transfer more responsibility from Social Services to Housing	<b>£35k</b>
Reduction of SRA's to match 3 service model plus convenors of Planning, Licensing and Scrutiny, the latter two at the reduced rate	<b>£20k</b>
Charge of £10 registration fee for Garden Aid Service, HRA to meet cost of council tenants participation	<b>£30k</b>
Reduction in overtime from the £3m budget, an additional £70k by reorganisation and continued moves to weekend working	<b>£70k</b>
Building Maintenance profits are estimated to drop this year for no apparent reason, restore target and add 3%	<b>£50k</b>
Procurement savings	<b>£35k</b>
Targets for council tax collection unrealistically low	<b>£150k</b>
	<b><u>£6.440,000</u></b>

Description	Cost
<b>Children's Services</b>	
Delete cut in Learning Assistant Posts	£763k
Delete cuts to Community Learning	£300k
Delete hall closure plan pending the outcome of Community Empowerment Bill	£190k
Retain Family Support Service pending a review of how this service will fit with the new integrated Children's Services	£300k
	<b><u>£1.553,000</u></b>
<b>Corporate &amp; Housing</b>	
Retain the Garden Aid Service	£275k
Delete the cut in Customer First staff	£136k
Delete the proposal to centralise Registrars	£100k
	<b><u>£511k</u></b>
<b>Development Services</b>	
Delete cut to Employment Training Unit	£200k
Delete proposed charges for waste collection for charities	£50k
Maintain ground maintenance levels	£190k
Additional works to build towards a STAG Report in to the possible railways stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth as well as other strategic public transport issues in those areas	£70k
Restore small business grants	£89k
Retain existing winter gritting routes	£150k
Retain the existing Roads Budget	£200k
Maintain Dial a Journey Service	£141k
Maintain existing funding of Town Centre Management Co	£75k
Retain the existing Community Safety budget	£100k
	<b><u>£1.265,000</u></b>
<b>Social Work Adult Services</b>	
Delete funding cuts to FDAMH & Caledonian Clubhouse until after a full review has been completed into the manner in which Mental Health Services are organised	£35k
Delete cut for reprofiling of eligibility criteria pending a full review to be carried out for 2017/18	£500k
Delete cuts in care home provision until a full review of need has taken place including the need to retain staff given the shortage of staff in homecare	£300k
Additional investment in Respite Care to compensate for the loss of the Meadows	£83k
	<b><u>£918k</u></b>

<b>General</b>	
Leave Unallocated reserves at current level	<b><u>£2.100,000</u></b>
<b>Falkirk Leisure Trust</b>	
Maintain Mobile Library Service	<b><u>£93k</u></b>
	<b><u>Total additional investment £6.440,000</u></b>