

## FC84. REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the Administration's Revenue Budget proposals for 2016/17. A proposed Council Tax for 2016/17 was also presented. The report set out Falkirk Community Trust's Business Plan for 2016/17 which had been revised following a decision of Council on 16 December 2015 (ref FC69) and proposed an allocation of funds to the Integration Joint Board.

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

- (1) *the draft Budget for 2016/17 as proposed in the report;*
- (2) *to levy a Council Tax for 2016/17 as follows:-*
  - 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;*
  - 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);*
- (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;*
- (4) *the content of section 9 of the report and a sum of £58.939m to be made available to the Integration Joint Board;*
- (5) *that any shortfall in savings proposals flowing from the Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment process, together with other necessary consultations and reviews, will be covered by alternative actions within Services' budgets;*
- (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;*
- (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;*
- (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;*
- (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) *to consult further on the proposals in regard to the Dial-a-Journey contract.*

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) *the draft budget of 2016/17 set out in the report subject to the adjustments (set out in the appendix to this minute);*
- (2) *the level of Council Tax as set out in the report;*
- (3) *to fund the Falkirk Community Trust*
  - 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 Integration Joint Board 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) *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;*
- (7) *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;*
- (8) *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*
- (9) *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.*

Council then adjourned at 12 noon to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened at 3.40 pm with members present as per the sederunt.

Following discussion, Councillor Meiklejohn, with the consent to the Provost and Councillor Jackson as her seconder, adjusted the terms of her amendment by inserting the following with the numbering of subsequent paragraphs changed accordingly:-

- (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;*

At 5.00 pm, in accordance with Standing Order 34, the Provost, seconded by Councillor C Martin, moved that the meeting continue to allow the remaining business to be concluded. There was unanimous support for the motion.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken on the motion and amendment 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, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr CR Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

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

## **Decision**

### **Council agreed:**

- (1) the draft Budget for 2016/17 as proposed in the report;**
- (2) to levy a Council Tax for 2016/17 as follows:-**
  - 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;**
  - 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);**
- (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;**
- (4) the content of section 9 of the report and a sum of £58.939m to be made available to the Integration Joint Board;**
- (5) that any shortfall in savings proposals flowing from the Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment process, together with other necessary consultations and reviews, will be covered by alternative actions within Services' Budgets;**
- (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;**
- (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;**

- (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;
- (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) to consult further on the proposals in regard to the Dial-a-Journey contract.

**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>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>	
Delete cut in Learning Assistant Posts	<b>£763k</b>
Delete cuts to Community Learning	<b>£300k</b>
Delete hall closure plan pending the outcome of Community Empowerment Bill	<b>£190k</b>
Retain Family Support Service pending a review of how this service will fit with the new integrated Children's Services	<b>£300k</b>
	<b><u>£1,553,000</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	<b>£35k</b>
Delete cut for reprofiling of eligibility criteria pending a full review to be carried out for 2017/18	<b>£500k</b>
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	<b>£300k</b>
Additional investment in Respite Care to compensate for the loss of the Meadows	<b>£83k</b>
	<b><u>£918k</u></b>
<b>Development Services</b>	
Delete cut to Employment Training Unit	<b>£200k</b>
Delete proposed charges for waste collection for charities	<b>£50k</b>
Maintain ground maintenance levels	<b>£190k</b>
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	<b>£70k</b>
Restore small business grants	<b>£89k</b>
Retain existing winter gritting routes	<b>£150k</b>
Retain the existing Roads Budget	<b>£200k</b>
Maintain Dial a Journey Service	<b>£141k</b>
Maintain existing funding of Town Centre Management Co	<b>£75k</b>
Retain the existing Community Safety budget	<b>£100k</b>
	<b><u>£1,265,000</u></b>
<b>Corporate &amp; Housing</b>	
Retain the Garden Aid Service	<b>£275k</b>

Delete the cut in Customer First staff	<b>£136k</b>
Delete the proposal to centralise Registrars	<b>£100k</b>
	<b><u>£511k</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>