

The background of the slide is the coat of arms of the City of Vancouver. It features a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a prominent tower. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with large antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on the water. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. Below the shield is a banner with the motto "A NE FOR A".

AGENDA ITEM

3

Minute

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

Councillors:	David Alexander	Adrian Mahoney
	Tom Coleman	Dr Craig R Martin
	Dennis Goldie	Craig Martin (Convener)
	Linda Gow	Robert Spears

Officers: John Angell, Head of Planning and Transportation
Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement
Julie Cole, Transport Planning Manager
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Iain Henderson, Legal Services Manager
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Pete Reid, Growth and Investment Manager
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

EX94. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Blackwood, G Goldie, Nicol and Nimmo.

EX95. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EX96. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 29 November 2016 was approved.

EX97. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 29 November 2016 was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX98. Motion referred to the Executive under Standing Order 31

The following motion was referred to the Executive from the special meeting of Falkirk Council on 19 December 2016.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor D Goldie, moved that:-

- (1) officers be instructed to obtain estimated costs of relevant STAG / appraisal work that would be required to investigate transport issues in the Bonnybridge area and possible solutions, including a potential railway station in High Bonnybridge, and report back, and
- (2) the Leader of the Council write to the relevant Minister asking that if a STAG report was produced that was favourable to a station being reinstated in Bonnybridge if the Scottish Government would positively consider this.

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

- (1) record this committee's appreciation of the research on the Bonnybridge station project undertaken by the Bonnybridge Rail Group over the past year;
- (2) note the information and figures provided by Mr Angel to elected members between the 29th October and 14th December 2016 regarding his section's efforts at establishing indicative STAG costs.
- (3) re-affirm the leader of the council's statement at the 2016 February Special full Council, when voting with his colleagues against commissioning a STAG report, that "the administration was still committed to the reopening of a Bonnybridge station and continue to support investment to re-open", and
- (4) instruct officers to develop a STAG report on the Bonnybridge station project and on completion bring this to Executive for analysis.

Councillor Spears gave notice of a further amendment.

The Chief Governance Officer highlighted the terms of Standing Orders 30.2 and 30.3 which deal with the financial implications of motions and amendments.

The Executive adjourned at 11.35am and reconvened at 12.10pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Following discussion, and having received advice from the Chief Finance Officer in accordance within Standing Order 30.3, Councillor Coleman, as the mover of the amendment, with the consent of Councillor Alexander as his seconder and Councillor C Martin, as Convener, altered the text of the amendment by replacing paragraph (4) as follows:-

- (4) instruct officers to develop a pre-appraisal and stage 1 STAG report on the Bonnybridge station project at a maximum cost of £42k (from reserves) and on completion bring this to Executive for analysis.

The Executive then debated the terms of the motion and adjusted amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4 (i), the vote was taken by roll call, there being 8 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (5) – Councillors D Goldie, Gow, Mahoney, C Martin and Dr C R Martin.

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

Councillor Spears then moved his further amendment which the convener ruled as not competent standing the terms of Standing Order 30.2.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.

EX99. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Executive considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting information on some of the processes which have been developed to help the Council, and its partners where relevant, meet the new obligations brought into force by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The Act requires that each community planning partnership (CPP) sub-divides its area into localities. These must be either a council ward or have a population no greater than 30,000. After defining each locality the CPP must identify areas in which people experience significantly poorer outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage, than people living in other localities in the council area or Scotland more generally. Where such a

locality is identified, the CPP must prepare and publish a locality plan for that area.

In order to ensure compliance with the requirement to publish locality plans Community Action Plans (CAPs) would be developed. These CAPs will focus on specific areas where there are identified outcome deficits. CAPS will not be developed for every locality.

A summary of the process which would be followed when dealing with an asset transfer request was also set out in the report as was information about participatory budgeting.

Decision

The Executive:

- (1) approved the proposed Locality Planning Framework and the proposed split of the Council area into 3 localities based on multi member wards;**
- (2) asked that officers report back on the outcomes of the first Community Action Plan process in Bo'ness and the Participatory Budgeting exercise in due course;**
- (3) asked the Chief Executive in conjunction with relevant community planning partners to establish the necessary officer groups to facilitate the locality planning process outlined in the report; and**
- (4) approved the Asset Transfer Request Process set out in section 6 of the report.**

EX100. SEStran Consultation on Proposal to move to a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services setting out a response to a consultation by SEStran on moving from a Model 1 Regional Transport Partnership to a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership.

SEStran is a Regional Transport Partnership (RTP), created in 2005 under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. It is made up of eight member Councils (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders).

Currently SEStran is a Model 1 RTP. At present local authorities hold a wide range of transport powers and duties and transferring some of these to the regional level is an option which requires the RTP to move to a Model 2 or 3. Model 3, Passenger Transport Authority (PTA), is an enhanced method of

partnership such as Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Among other functions they procure local bus services.

Depending on the functions transferred to them from Councils (or operated concurrently) PTAs could:-

- plan and fund socially necessary bus routes;
- work in partnership with private operators to improve bus services through bus priority schemes or quality partnerships;
- plan and implement investment in local public transport networks including new bus, rail or active travel stations/hubs;
- provide comprehensive public transport information services or regional integrated ticketing schemes; and
- manage and maintain bus interchanges, bus stops and shelters.

For Falkirk Council this might mean that the bus services budget (currently £1.2m) would transfer to SEStran (probably via a levy) and that SEStran would control and tender the Falkirk area local bus services along with those of the other seven SEStran member Councils.

The report noted that in the absence of a convincing case for centralising the Council's current public transport functions, the principle of subsidiarity should apply and the functions should be retained by the Council.

Decision

The Executive agreed to inform SEStran that the case for a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership had not been made and therefore Falkirk Council does not support the proposal.

EX101. Tourism 2020 Update on Progress

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the Council's tourism activity since the launch of the Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 and seeking agreement to participate in the formation of a VisitFalkirk partnership.

The Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy – *Tourism Falkirk 2020* sought to make Falkirk a destination of choice with high quality, value for money and world-class attractions offering memorable customer experience delivered by skilled and passionate people. There were three key targets:-

- increase visitor expenditure in the Falkirk area by over 20% over the next five years to 2020;
- increase overnight visitor accommodation (serviced bedrooms and self-catering units) in the Falkirk area by 20% over the next five years to 2020, and

- to develop a Falkirk Area Tourism Partnership to take ownership of, to review and to implement the strategy.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor C Martin, moved that:-

The Executive:

- (1) notes the contents of the report in relation to tourism growth in the Falkirk area, as presented in the 2015 STEAM report;
- (2) notes that an application had been submitted to the Visit Scotland Growth Fund, seeking support for marketing activity, and
- (3) agrees in principle to the formation of a new Visit Falkirk organisation to take forward marketing activities jointly with key partners, with a further report to be supplied on the details of this proposal.

Councillor Alexander asked the mover of the motion to expand it by agreeing to investigate the feasibility of providing enhanced access to tourist information in Falkirk town centre.

Following discussion, Councillor Mahoney, as mover of the motion with the consent of Councillor C Martin, as his seconder and Convener, altered the text of the motion accordingly.

Decision

The Executive:

- (1) **noted the contents of the report in relation to tourism growth in the Falkirk area, as presented in the 2015 STEAM report;**
- (2) **noted that an application had been submitted to the Visit Scotland Growth Fund, seeking support for marketing activity.**
- (3) **agreed in principle to the formation of a new Visit Falkirk organisation to take forward marketing activities jointly with key partners, with a further report to be supplied on the details of this proposal, and**
- (4) **agreed to investigate the feasibility of providing enhanced access to tourist information in Falkirk town centre.**

EX102. Accounts Commission “Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16”

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the key messages from the Accounts Commission’s report “Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16”.

The Accounts Commission's report looked at the overall financial position of Scottish local authorities and collated the data to provide a national picture. Spending on providing services remained lower than in 2011/12, but showed an increase in social care due to the rising demand from an aging population. Many councils overspend in this area. Falkirk Council was specifically mentioned alongside Clackmannanshire and Dundee councils for reporting overspends relating to fostering services and residential school placements.

Councils are raising an increasing proportion of their income through fees and charges and this represented the largest growth area in council income. The most significant increase was in social work and social care services. The report noted that councils must be clear about the impact of their charging policies. Falkirk Council would address this through the Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment process.

Decision

The Executive noted the key messages from the Accounts Commission report entitled "Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16".

EX103. Projected Financial Position 2016/17

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the financial position of the Council for 2016/17 including the position with Reserves.

Net expenditure at year end was forecast to be £328.8m which is £2.025m (0.6%) below available resources. This represented a movement of £0.112m (0.03%) from the position reported in August and was mainly due to favourable movements in Children's Services and Corporate & Housing Services.

The report set out the reasons for significant overall deviations from budget in the following areas:-

- Children's Services – under budget by £0.194m;
- Social Work Adult Services – under budget by £0.258m;
- Development Services – over budget by £0.191m;
- Corporate & Housing Services – under budget by £1.317m.

From 1 April 2016 the Integration Joint Board (IJB) assumed responsibility for the delivery of adult health and social care services. The IJB was responsible for managing its expenditure and the projected overspend had reduced to £0.789m. £0.896m from the Integration Fund had been set aside to cover any projected overspends.

The Housing Revenue Account was projected to breakeven in 2016/17 with no planned application of reserves. At 1 April 2016 the reserves stood at £50.93m which is in line with the Scottish average of c10% of annual expenditure.

It was projected that there would be a general fund reserve balance of £9.080m at March 2017. On 19 December 2016 Council had taken two decisions with implications for the general fund reserve. Firstly relating to equal pay settlements and secondly relating to the new Council HQ which may require fees paid to date to be treated as revenue and thus met from the general fund reserve.

Decision

The Executive noted:

- (1) the Council's projected year-end financial position for 2016/17; and**
- (2) the position with respect to Reserves.**

EX104. Exclusion of Public

The Executive agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

EX105. Sale of 6.1 Acres at South Bridge Street, Grangemouth

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services seeking approval for the disposal of a site at South Bridge Street, Grangemouth.

The site forms part of the disposal phase of the Council's Portfolio Management Plan. The proceeds of sale are re-invested in the Council's business property portfolio in order to supply quality, modern, fit for purpose business space that will help fulfil its economic development objectives. The site is currently zoned for business use and is identified as a development site in the Falkirk Tax Increment Finance initiative.

Decision

The Executive agreed to the disposal of the site at South Bridge Street, Grangemouth to John Mitchell (Grangemouth) Ltd or such nominee company at a price of £760,000 subject to any adjustments for abnormal costs.