

EX112. Falkirk Tax Incremental Finance Initiative and Falkirk Gateway

The Executive considered an update report by the Director of Development Services on the Falkirk Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) Initiative and Falkirk Gateway.

The Falkirk TIF Initiative, of which the Falkirk Gateway project is a key element, was agreed by the Executive on 18 June 2013 (ref EX29) and is designed to increase development actively throughout the area by creating enabling infrastructure. The TIF development programme was agreed by the Executive on 15 March 2016 (ref EX103).

The Economic Strategy for 2015-2025 sets out a vision for the economy in the area and includes a proposal to establish an investment zone to realise opportunities in chemicals, logistics and manufacturing. The report set out proposals to develop an Investment Zone business case with Scottish Enterprise at a cost of £40,000. The business case will also consider opportunities for redevelopment of canal side areas and tourism.

In regard to the Falkirk Gateway, the report set out a proposal to establish a land ownership agreement with Callendar Estates, which along with Falkirk Council owns land on the Gateway site. The benefits in doing so, particularly in regard to State Aid, were set out.

A revised schedule, incorporating these proposals and amendments to the programme including delivery of Junction 5 phase 1 works and the delivery of the Westfield roundabout, was presented for approval.

It was proposed that the temporary post of Economic Development officer (TIF) is extended for a further 5 years to assist in the delivery of the Falkirk TIF and Investment Zone business case. The post, which had initially been for a period of 2 years, would be funded through TIF.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the update of progress of the Falkirk TIF Initiative;**
- (2) to authorise the Director of Development Services to commission a business case for the investment zone project, to include canal corridor opportunities, at an anticipated cost of £140,000, to be joint funded by Scottish Enterprise and Falkirk TIF;**
- (3) to progress the transfer of land between Falkirk Council and Callendar Estate relating to Falkirk Gateway sites 1 and 2 as identified in appendices 1 (existing ownership) and 2 (proposed ownership) of the report;**
- (4) to establish a five year temporary position of Economic Development Officer (TIF), Grade J, as part of the Growth Investment Unit team for the project's delivery; and**

- (5) the revised implementation schedule for TIF projects as outlined in appendix 3 to the report.**