



Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings,
Falkirk on Tuesday 19 February 2019 at 9.30 a.m.**

Councillors: David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Gary Bouse
Joan Coombes
Jim Flynn
Paul Garner
Nigel Harris
Gordon Hughes
Cecil Meiklejohn
Malcolm Nicol

Officers: Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement
Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Gary Neil, Area Roads Engineer
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

EX112. Appointment of Convener

Following the resignation of Councillor Goldie as Convener of the Executive the Chief Governance Officer sought nominations for the role of Convener for the meeting.

Councillor Garner nominated Councillor Meiklejohn. There being no further nominations Councillor Meiklejohn assumed the Chair.

EX113. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Goldie and Nimmo.

EX114. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicol declared the financial interest of a family member in item EX122 as the owner of a business in Grangemouth town centre which may be affected by the report's proposals. He stated that he would recuse himself from consideration of the item with regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

EX115. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 January 2019 was approved.

EX116. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 15 January 2019 was provided. Item 458 – Motion – Universal Credit was the subject of a report on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX117. Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 14.2 the Convener advised of a change of order to the business. The following items have been recorded in the order they were considered at the meeting.

EX118. A Risk Based Approach to Road Asset Safety Inspections

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval of a revised policy on road safety inspections. The revised policy was intended to ensure that the Council's approach complied with the "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice" which recommended that a risk based approach to managing all aspects of the road network was taken.

Implementation of the risk based approach was a move away from the previous prescriptive model which focussed on worst case scenario thinking when assigning categories of response. The revised approach utilised a risk matrix tool to evaluate hazard in terms of likelihood and most probable consequence. The risk posed was then categorised and the corresponding level of response determined.

Decision

The Executive agreed the adoption of the revised road safety inspection policy to fulfil the requirements of the Code of Practice in implementing a risk based approach to the maintenance and management of the road network.

EX119. Towards a Fairer Falkirk 2019 – 2024

The Executive considered a report by the Chief Executive which sought approval of the poverty strategy 'Towards a Fairer Falkirk 2019 - 2024'. The strategy and action plan were based on the following four themes:-

- (1) Fairer Access to Services
- (2) Fairer Money
- (3) Fairer Culture
- (4) Fairer Childhood

The report also set out five commitments for Falkirk Council which were to:-

- Make it everyone's job to do their bit to mitigate the impact of poverty across the Falkirk Council area
- Make food and activities available to families in need during the school holidays
- Work with lone parents to understand their needs and what we can do to address these
- Help people maximise their income by supporting people to claim all the benefits that they are entitled to
- Work together with partners to help people to make their house a home.

At its meeting on 15 January 2019 the Executive (ref EX99) had requested that the Chief Executive:-

- (1) conduct a review of how services were delivered across the council area with particular emphasis on sustainability of tenancies, income maximisation and inequalities, so that the poverty strategy was fit for purpose, and
- (2) report back to the Executive on the outcome of the review.

The report advised the Executive on the outcome of the review and highlighted where those outcomes were incorporated in the strategy.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the strategy 'Towards a Fairer Falkirk 2019 -2024';**
- (2) the five commitments for Falkirk Council; and**
- (3) to recommended to Council that that £40k is allocated at the budget setting to continue the Holiday Food Initiative for 2019/20.**

EX120. Falkirk Local Development Plan – Revised Supplementary Guidance SG 10 Education and New Housing Development

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval of public consultation on the revised Supplementary Guidance on Education and New Housing Development (SG 10). Supplementary Guidance expanded on the policies and proposals of the Falkirk Local Development Plan to help applicants understand the Council's development requirements at an early stage.

SG10 set out specific rates for houses and flats to calculate the required level of contribution for an eligible housing development. The rates were based on typical construction costs per pupil and pupil product ratios (PPRs). PPRs were the average number of nursery or school age children generated by a new dwelling. SG10 required revision to account for updated PPRs and updated school construction costs. The rates would be index linked.

It was proposed that the revised SG10 be subject to a statutory six week consultation period.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) the publication of the draft revised supplementary guidance attached as Appendix 1 as a basis for public consultation;**
- (2) delegate authority to the Director of Development Services to submit a finalised version of the guidance to Scottish Ministers for approval if no significant objections are received during the public consultation, and**
- (3) receive a further report on the guidance, if significant objections are raised during the public consultation.**

EX121. Revised Core Paths Plan

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for consultation of the revised Core Paths Plan. The Core Paths Plan identified a network of paths and waterways that provided people with reasonable (non-motorised) access throughout the area.

The path network had grown and benefited from over £6m of investment from 2014 to 2018. As a result a number of new routes were considered suitable for inclusion in the Core Paths Plan. The change to the total length of the path network was from 431km in 2010 to 617km in 2018.

It was proposed that a 12 week consultation was undertaken on the revised Core Paths Plan between March and May 2019.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the Revised Core Paths Plan (draft) and the criteria used to identify core paths (shown at table 2) for consultation;**
- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Development Services to finalise the draft plan if no significant objections are received during the public consultation, and**
- (3) to receive a further report on the draft plan, if significant objections are raised during the public consultation.**

In line with his earlier declaration of interest Councillor Nicol left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

EX122. Tax Incremental Finance Initiative/Falkirk Gateway – Update Report

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on the Falkirk Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) initiative and the results of the marketing of the Falkirk Gateway.

The Gateway development sites were marketed by the Council's agent, GVA. The Council received two stage 2 bids. Each bid was assessed by an assessment panel comprising Council officers from Planning, Legal, Finance and Economic Development assisted by GVA. The assessment panel considered each submission against a set of key criteria. Following the appraisal it was recommended that Fintry Estates/Hargreaves be selected as the preferred developer.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) the appointment of Fintry Estates Limited/Hargreaves as preferred developer for the Falkirk Gateway site;**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development Services to progress negotiations on detailed heads of terms including the joint commission of a report on retail impact;**
- (3) request a report back to Members in due course, and**
- (4) recommend to Council that any capital receipts from the Gateway site are ring-fenced to the Town Centre Regeneration Programme.**

Councillor Nicol re-joined the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

EX123. Capital Programmes Update 2018/19

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided details of the forecast position for the General Fund Services and Housing Capital Programmes along with the Prudential Indicators.

The General Fund Services and Housing Capital Programmes were approved by Council on 7 March 2018. The 2018/19 budgets for both programmes were part of a three year plan and as such there would be movement in spend across the years. The approved 2018/19 budget for the General Fund had been revised to £39.3m. The forecast spend for the General Fund was £32.883m, which was £6.380m less than budget. The forecast spend for the Housing Capital Programme was £34.4m, which was £4.1m less than the budget.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the forecast spend for both the General Fund Services (£32.9m) and Housing Capital Programmes (£34.4m)**
- (2) noted the Prudential Indicators**
- (3) noted the reduction in the external borrowing requirement for Capital Programme purposes**

- (4) authorised officers to enter into negotiations to transfer the property at 85 Grahams Road, Falkirk from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account.**

EX124. Land Exchange at Meeks Road, Falkirk and Earls Road, Grangemouth

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to exchange areas of land at Meeks Road, Falkirk and Earls Road, Grangemouth with Network Rail. The acquisition of the land at Earls Road depot would give the Council complete ownership of the site.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to declare 434.59sqm of land at Grahamston Station, Meeks Road, Falkirk surplus to requirements and agree to its disposal to Network Rail;**
- (2) to an acquisition by the Council of 3,370.2sqm of land at Earls Road Depot, Grangemouth, and**
- (3) that the Director of Development Services shall be authorised to conclude the transaction by way of a land exchange with Network Rail.**