

AGENDA ITEM 1 (d)**DRAFT****FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2009 at 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fry and Spears.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Head of Human Resources and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

FC97. NOTICE OF MOTION**Committee Structures**

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

1. Council agrees to accept the Scrutiny Committee structure as detailed in Appendix 1, with effect from the March/April 2009 meetings cycle.
2. Council further agrees that the Regulatory Committee be renamed the Planning Committee.
3. Council agrees also that the Chief Executive bring a report to the meeting of Council on 4 March on proposals for a revised service structure which –
 - (i) take into account the proposed changes in the committee structures so as to ensure that the Council's decision-making processes are open and transparent, with members accountable for Council decisions
 - (ii) examine the management structure with a view to achieving a reduction in bureaucracy, greater efficiency and a greater concentration on the delivery of frontline services

- (iii) examine the possibility of further integration of services and an expansion of use of internal shared services, and
- (iv) take into account the Council policy, governmental and societal changes which have taken place since the last major review

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that:-

Council notes the failure to convene any meetings of the Structures Working Group established by the Council since May of 2008 and views this as indicative of the failure of the current Labour/Tory Administration to properly scrutinise the entire restructuring process. Council therefore agrees the following,

1. Agree the structure listed below in principle for four scrutiny committees aligned along departmental basis thus ensuring continuity of the policy and service development and the best use of officer and member time.
2. Amend the Council's scheme for the payment Senior Councillors Allowances and note that the restructuring will save the council taxpayers money which should be re-directed to front line services.
3. Work with officers to review the management structure of the relevant departments to ensure Best Value for council taxpayers. This process should involve members acting openly and not just behind the closed doors of the Administration, as has been the case to date. Council therefore agrees that the council instruct the group leaders of all groups to establish a diary of meetings of the Structure Working Group established in December 2007 to meet and bring back detailed proposals to the earliest meetings of Falkirk Council.
4. That officers be instructed to begin roll out changes in the committee structures in line with other changes within management required to accommodate these.

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Early Years Education • Other Educational items referred from Policy and Resources • Community Education & Lifelong Learning • Other Education items referred from Policy and Resources
Housing, Health & Social Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Children's Services • Elderly Persons Services • Health • Criminal Justice • Community Care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare & Social Services • Community Safety • Other Housing Health & Social Wellbeing items referred from Policy and Resources
Community Regeneration & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Business Support • Community Regeneration • Parks & Open Space • Leisure • Inward Investment • Tourism • Other Community Regeneration & Leisure items referred from Policy and Resources
Environment & Strategic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning • Carbon Reduction • Waste Management • The Environment • Heritage • Consumer Protection, environmental health and trading standards • Transport Infrastructure & Roads matters • Other Environment & Strategy Development items referred from Policy and Resources

There then followed a 15 minute adjournment to allow Members to consider the terms of the amendment. The meeting reconvened with all Members present as per the sederunt.

On a division 17 Members voted for the Motion and 13 for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – RESTRUCTURING

Committee	Policy Areas
Education (Where required for any statutory purposes, this Committee will be the Council's Education Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's education functions • Early years' education • Lifelong learning • Other education matters referred from Policy and Resources Committee
Environment and Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community health, safety and wellbeing • Crime reduction and criminal justice • Consumer protection, environmental health and trading standards • Road safety, traffic management and lighting • Sustainability • Waste • Other environment and community safety matters referred from Policy and Resources Committee
Leisure, Tourism and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries, museums, arts and community festivals • Parks, open spaces and countryside • Community development, support, regeneration and investment • Sport, community and leisure facilities and participation • Conservation and built heritage • Tourism • Cemeteries and crematoria • Other leisure, tourism and community matters referred from Policy and Resources Committee

Economic Strategy and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic regeneration and development • Strategic transport and infrastructure planning • Business advice • Inward investment • Employment training • Town centre commercial and economic development • Development of structure and local plans and planning policy, generally • Other economic strategy and development matters referred from Policy and Resources Committee
Housing and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Social policy • Community care • Welfare and social services • Child care • Equal opportunities • Opportunities and services for older people • Other housing and social care matters referred from Policy and Resources Committee