

DRAFT**MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2009 at 10.30 AM.**

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

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors H Constable, J Constable and J Patrick.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance Services and of Social Work Services; Head of Human Resources; Service Manager, Social Work Services and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Nicol declared a non-financial interest in Items 2 and 5 as a family member was an owner of a local business, and took no part in the discussion and decision in either item.

Depute Provost Black declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 as a tenant of Falkirk Council and took no part in the discussion or decision.

Councillor Gow intimated that a family member was a craft employee but did not consider that this gave her a declarable interest in Item 13, standing the terms of the report.

Councillor McNeill declared a non-financial interest in Item 11 as a co-owner of a business referred to in the Minute of Renunciation contained in the appendix to the report, but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of this item, standing the terms of the Code of Conduct.

Provost Reid; Councillors Alexander, Jackson, Nimmo, C Martin, C R Martin and Meiklejohn each declared a non-financial interest in relation to Item 10 on the basis of their regular attendance at matches involving Falkirk Football Club and further declared that, in terms of Paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the Code of Conduct, they had concluded that no member of the public acting reasonably would consider that they might be influenced by their respective interests in their roles as Councillors. Each Member, therefore, participated in the discussion and decision.

FC104. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 1 December 2008;
- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 10 December 2008;
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 12 December 2008;
- (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 29 January 2009;
- (e) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 11 February 2009, subject to the following amendments:-
Page 36, Item FC99 paragraph 5 Item 6 to read:- “Additional resources for Community Services to be targeted at the regeneration of smaller settlements centres in light of the SNP Government’s £60m town centre regeneration fund. Officers are asked to bring forward Development Plans for each of these centres of population not covered by the District Centres Initiative for wider community consultation. Cost **£100,000**”

Page 38 Item FC101 to read “With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 February 2009 (Paragraph PR107 refers), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 3 February 2009 by the Directors of Finance and of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) presenting a draft Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2009/2010; (b) making recommendations on the level of council house and garage rents for 2009/10, and (c) showing indicative rent levels for the years 2010/2011 to 2011/2012.
- (f) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2008/2009; and
- (g) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2008/2009.

Councillor Nicol withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC105. REVIEW OF BUSINESS SUPPORT DELIVERY STRUCTURES

In terms of the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Kenna.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2009, and (b) Report (circulated) by the

Director of Community Services proposing a revised business support delivery model for local businesses.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Fry, moved the recommendations in the report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor A MacDonald seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that Council:-

- (1) “approves the creation of a single business support organisation through the “merging” of FEAT and FDBP and the transferring of property back to the Council;
- (2) authorises the Director of Community Services to progress the establishment of the new model on suitable terms including 2 elected members, one of which must be a member of the opposition, and 2 officers of Falkirk Council, with the Directors of Law & Administration, Finance and Development Services and the boards of FEAT and FDBP;
- (3) refers the overseeing of the establishment, future operations and performance of the new business support arrangements to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee; and
- (4) notes the small minimal investment made by Falkirk Council in business support areas and calls for a report back to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee on how this can be supplemented”.

On a division 16 members voted for the motion and 12 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to:-

- (1) approve the creation of a single business support organisation through the “merging” of FEAT and FDBP and the transferring of property back to the Council;
- (2) authorise the Director of Community Services to progress the establishment of the new model, on suitable terms, in consultation with the Directors of Law & Administration, of Finance and of Development Services and the boards of FEAT and FDBP; and
- (3) refer the overseeing of the establishment, future operations and performance of the new business support arrangements to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee.

Councillor Nicol rejoined the meeting following conclusion of the foregoing item of business.

FC106. PROVISION OF CARE AT HOME & HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE AS PART OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (C/N:SW/024/09)

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Kenna.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Director of Social Work Services (a) referring to the formal tendering process for the Care at Home and Housing Support Services Contract, and (b) attaching as Appendix 1 a list of tenders selected for the provision of care at home and housing support services as part of the Framework Agreement.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Fry, moved the recommendations in the Report.

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

- (1) "Committee notes the real cuts in services being delivered to some of the most vulnerable within our communities and believes these are unacceptable in a civilised society; and
- (2) Committee therefore rejects the report until there has been a proper assessment carried out into the levels of service actually being delivered within these service areas. In the meantime the status quo both in terms of service level agreements and budgetary amounts remains in place".

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to approve acceptance of the tenders submitted as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report with an estimated annual spend of approximately £7,500,000 in respect of a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Care at Home and Housing Support Service to Falkirk Council from 6 April 2009 to 31 March 2011; and
- (2) that a further Report be submitted to the Housing and Social Care Committee to provide information on the first six months of activity under the Framework Agreement.

FC107. DRUMBOWIE RESERVOIR

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Kenna.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Director of Community Services (a) recommending that the Council does not proceed with the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir, and (b) seeking approval for the provision of a loan to Bonnybridge Angling Club in order to allow the Club to purchase the Reservoir from Scottish Water.

The Director of Finance also reported that, since the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in January, a Following the Public Pound assessment of Bonnybridge Angling Club's ability to repay the proposed loan from Falkirk Council had been carried out, and that it was now recommended that the payback period be extended from 5 to 10 years.

AGREED:-

- (1) not to proceed with the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir and to instruct the Director of Community Services accordingly;
- (2) to approve in principle the option to make a loan advance of £30,000 to be repaid over 10 years to Bonnybridge Angling Club to facilitate the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir; and
- (3) to instruct the Director of Community Services in conjunction with the Acting Director of Law & Administration and the Director of Finance Services, that arrangements be put in place to provide a financial loan to Bonnybridge Angling Club in order to allow them to purchase the Drumbowie Reservoir directly from Scottish Water.

Depute Provost Black and Councillor Nicol withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC108. ECONOMIC DOWNTURN - ACTION PLAN

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Provost Reid and Councillor Gow.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Chief Executive (a) summarising additional measures aimed at ameliorating the impact of the economic downturn in the local area, and (b) attaching as an appendix, the approved Action Plan detailing the support packages for local businesses.

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Council:-

- (1) “Notes comments and intended actions for the suggested additional items of business support covered by this report and agrees to make the following changes to the existing recommendations.
- (2) Agrees the Action Plan as outlined in the report with the following amendments:
 - 2.1 To include non VAT rated businesses in all areas of business support.
 - 2.2 To instruct officers to bring a report back to Committee as soon as possible on the establishment of a council loan fund along similar lines as the BP loan fund that will provide short term opportunities for new and existing companies.
 - 2.3 That the Council’s Economic Strategy and Development Committee must alter its membership and role to recognise the challenging times we live in. It has to become a Committee of entrepreneurial challenge containing the best of the best with representatives of local businesses large and small, those entrusted with the provision of business support and any other relevant stakeholder if we are serious about tackling the problems we have within the local economy.
 - 2.4 To note the concerns expressed by the Grangemouth Independent Retailers Association and agree to investigate these concerns accordingly, reporting back to the first available meeting of the Economic Strategy and Development Committee. In particular officers are asked to produce a comparator between public and private sector ground rents/lease costs and report findings and proposals back to members”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor Fry moved the recommendations contained in the Report.

On a division 12 members voted for the motion and 15 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly:-

NOTED the comments and intended actions for the suggested additional items of business support covered by the Report; and

AGREED that the existing business support services together with the Action Plan provide a positive range of support for local businesses in the current financial climate.

Council then adjourned for lunch at 1.15 pm and reconvened at 2.15 pm with all members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillors Goldie and C Martin.

FC109. REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2009
DESIGNATION OF A LITTER CONTROL AREA, MAIN STREET, AIRTH

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Report dated 24 February 2009 by the Director of Development Services outlining the decisions taken by the Environment and Heritage Committee at its Special meeting on 17 February 2009; and (b) Report by the Director of Development Services, submitted to the said meeting, (a) on the sustained littering of the car park serving at the licensed grocers' premises at 47 Main Street, Airth; and (b) requesting the designation of a Litter Control Area in terms of Section 90 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended.

AGREED to approve the proposal to designate the car park area serving the business premises at 47 Main Street, Airth, as a Litter Control Area by way of the "Airth (number 1) Litter Control Area Designation Order 2009".

Councillor Goldie entered the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC110. COUNCIL SERVICE STRUCTURE

With reference to minute of meeting of Falkirk Council on 29 January 2009 (Paragraph FC97 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 February 2009 by the Chief Executive providing an update on progress on the development of a revised Service structure.

NOTED the progress to date in reviewing the Council structure.

AGREED to ask the Chief Executive to progress the consultation with employees and Trade Unions on options for a revised Service structure, and to report back to Council as soon as possible and in any event, prior to the summer recess.

FC111. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND REMUNERATION

Prior to consideration of this item the Acting Director of Law and Administration advised that she had received formal notice of the Provost's intention to resign from the Policy and Resources Committee with effect from 7 March 2009 and of Councillor McNeill's intention to resign as Convener of the Appeals Committee with effect from the same date. The Provost agreed to consider the vacancies created as a result of these resignations as competent business at this meeting.

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 February 2009 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services inviting Members to (a) confirm membership of the scrutiny committees and the Planning Committee; (b) appoint Conveners and Depute Conveners of the committees; (c) approve the programme of meetings; (d) agree the process for approving minutes; (e) confirm remuneration arrangements, and (f) agree changes to the Council's Standing Orders and to the Scheme of Delegation.

AGREED:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor Nimmo to the Policy and Resources Committee with effect from 7 March 2009;
- (2) to appoint Councillor McLuckie as Convener of the Appeals Committee.

Council then considered the report by the Acting Director of Law and Administration.

Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council:-

- (1) appoints Conveners and Deputy Conveners of the Scrutiny Committees as follows:-

Committee	Convener	Depute Convener
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor C Martin	Councillor J Lemetti
Education	Councillor A Waddell	Councillor J Patrick
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor C MacDonald	Councillor C R Martin
Housing and Social Care	Councillor G Goldie	Councillor A McNeill
Leisure Tourism and Community	Councillor A Mahoney	Provost P Reid

- (2) confirms the membership of the Planning Committee to be the same as the Regulatory Committee which it replaced.
- (3) notes the revised programme of meetings from 10 March to 31 December 2009.
- (4) approves the arrangements for approving the minutes of meetings in the final cycle of the former scrutiny committees as detailed in the report
- (5) notes the 2.5% increase in the levels of remuneration due to Councillors and the Leader of the Council under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2008
- (6) agrees to apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to senior councillors, with the remuneration framework being amended, as follows

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic

	Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

- (7) agrees not to apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to the post of civic head.
- (8) approves the revised Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 3 of the Report.

Council then adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened with all Members present as per the sederunt including Councillor C Martin who rejoined the meeting at this point.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that the motion be amended by substituting a revised remuneration framework namely:-

Senior Councillor (Level 1)	Senior Councillor (Level 2)
Depute Provost	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee	Depute Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Housing & Social Care Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group
Convener of Licensing Board	
Convener of Planning Committee	

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) appoint Conveners and Depute Conveners of the Scrutiny Committees as follows:-

Committee	Convener	Depute Convener
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor C Martin	Councillor J Lemetti
Education	Councillor A Waddell	Councillor J Patrick
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor C MacDonald	Councillor C R Martin
Housing and Social Care	Councillor G Goldie	Councillor A McNeill
Leisure Tourism and Community	Councillor A Mahoney	Provost P Reid

- (2) confirm the membership of the Planning Committee to be the same as the Regulatory Committee which it replaced.
- (3) note the revised programme of meetings from 10 March to 31 December 2009.
- (4) approve the arrangements for approving the minutes of meetings in the final cycle of the former scrutiny committees as detailed in the report
- (5) note the 2.5% increase in the levels of remuneration due to Councillors and the Leader of the Council under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2008
- (6) apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to senior councillors, with the remuneration framework being amended, as follows

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

- (7) not apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to the post of civic head.
- (8) approve the revised Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 3 of the Report.

NOTED:-

- (1) that the SNP members of the existing scrutiny committees would transfer to the new scrutiny committees as follows:-

Committee	
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor C Meiklejohn
	Councillor M Oliver
	Councillor G Thomson
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor M Oliver
Education Committee	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor J McNally
Leisure, Tourism and Community	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor J McNally
	Councillor C Meiklejohn
Housing and Social Care	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor J McNally
	Councillor C Meiklejohn

- (2) Membership from the remaining Groups will be confirmed to the Acting Director of Law and Administration, in accordance with the proportionality shown in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

FC112. APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 February by the Acting Director of Law and Administration inviting Council to appoint (1) a Member to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership, and (2) a Member each to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy Group and the BID Management Group.

Council considered nominations for the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that Council appoint Councillor Mahoney to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that Council appoint Councillor Spears to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

On a division 17 Members voted for the motion and 12 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to appoint Councillor Mahoney to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

Council then considered its nominations to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy group and to the Bid Management Group.

AGREED:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor C R Martin to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy Management Group
- (2) to appoint Councillor C Martin to the BID Management Group and to appoint Councillor J Lemetti as his substitute

FC113. FALKIRK COMMUNITY STADIUM LTD: DEMERGER PLAN

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 February 2009 by the Chief Executive detailing restructuring proposals for Falkirk Community Stadium Limited (FCSL) following a strategic review thereof.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Blackwood, moved the recommendations in the Report.

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

“The Falkirk Community Stadium was one of the key achievements of the My Future’s in Falkirk strategy that changed the economic development fortunes of the district in such a positive manner.

The stadium complex not only provided a new home for Falkirk Football Club but created leisure opportunities for thousands and employment for hundreds.

Just as importantly it sent out a strong message of innovative partnership working from the previous SNP/Independent Administration.

The stadium partnership was developed after all party, internal and external involvement in the working group established to take the issue forward.

Members believe that there is insufficient information contained in this report to justify the termination of the partnership approach to the community stadium concept and therefore agrees to the following:-

- (1) recall the multi agency working group including representatives of Falkirk Football Club and elected members of all groups to properly scrutinise the detail of the proposals
- (2) arrange a seminar for all elected members and invite partners to participate in the presentation and question and answer session

- (3) consult with the general public by way of three public meetings across the district
- (4) re-present the report with any modifications following this exercise”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black, Councillor Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED**:-

- (1) to approve the restructuring of FCSL to form 3 new companies and the subsequent transfer of assets to the new companies which will be wholly owned by Falkirk Football and Athletic Club (FFAC) or the Council;
- (2) that the company wholly owned by the Council retain the current FCSL Council directors as its company directors (i.e. Directors of Development Services, of Community Services and Head of Accountancy);
- (3) that a review of the new company be undertaken within a year of its formation and a further report be prepared in this regard for Members’ consideration;
- (4) to note that a further report will be presented on the issues associated with taking forward the proposed Heads of Terms with Henry Boot Developments Ltd; and
- (5) to authorise the Chief Executive to take such action and to agree the terms of such documentation as is required to give effect to the foregoing.

FC114. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 February 2009 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

NOTED the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

FC115. VALEDICTORY REMARKS – DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The Provost **NOTED** that the Director of Social Work Services would be retiring on 31 March 2009 and that this would be Mrs Birks’ last meeting. Provost Reid thanked Mrs Birks for the work she had undertaken and wished her well in her retirement. The Council then endorsed the sentiments of the Convener.

Council then adjourned for 10 minutes and reconvened with members present as per the sederunt.

FC116. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED in terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 11 & 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

FC117. SINGLE STATUS, EQUAL PAY AND CRAFT PAY AND CONDITIONS UPDATE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 February 2009 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services updating Members on the progress and discussions with Trade Unions at a local level in respect of pay and conditions for Craft workers.

AGREED:-

- (1) to extend the Single Status buy out arrangements for a 3 month period, as noted within the Report;
- (2) to note the continued negotiations with Trade Unions in pursuit of a collective agreement;
- (3) to note the continued negotiations in respect of settlement of outstanding equal pay claims and ask Officers to report back on progress;
- (4) to note the on-going discussions with Craft Trade Unions and request a further report where necessary to outline progress.