

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL****MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2007 at 10.30 AM.**

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

APOLOGY: Councillor Spears.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance, of Housing and Social Work Services and Acting Director of Law and Administration; Heads of Policy and Performance Review, of Services (Children and Families/Criminal Justice); Service Manager (Strategic Support), Service Manager (Tenancy), Housing and Social Work Services; and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

Item 16(b) – Notice of Motion - Installation of Sprinkler System in the new Hospital, Larbert. In terms of Standing Order 14.2 and paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors Alexander and Kenna declared non-financial interests in relation to this item on the basis of support that they have received by way of election expenses from the Fire Brigades Union; Provost Reid and Councillor Goldie also declared non-financial interests in this matter on the basis of members of their family being members of the FBU. The members further declared that, in terms of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the said Code of Conduct they had concluded that no member of the public acting reasonably would consider that they might be influenced by their interest in their role as a Councillor.

Councillor Gow declared a non-financial interest in this same item by virtue of her appointment by the Council to the Forth Valley NHS Board. It was noted that as the non-financial interest related to an appointment made by the Council and as this had been entered in Councillor Gow's register of interest, the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission in respect of such interests applied.

Provost Reid; Councillors Alexander, Goldie, Gow and Kenna therefore participated in the discussion and decision on the item.

FC42. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 3 October 2007.
- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Reconvened Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 22 October 2007.
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes - Volume 3 2007/2008.
- (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 3 2007/2008.

FC43. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 15.2 (i), Provost Reid advised of variations to the order of business from that detailed on the Agenda for the meeting. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

FC44. THE DENNIS CANAVAN SCHOLARSHIP

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 27 November 2007 by the Chief Executive outlining proposals developed by a Council Working Group that was established to consider ways in which former MP and MSP Mr Dennis Canavan could be recognised within the Falkirk Council area.

AGREED:-

- (1) to approve, in principle, the proposals presented by the Member/Officer Working Group to recognise publicly the service given by former MP and MSP, Mr Dennis Canavan, in the Falkirk Council area;
- (2) to approve the financial and legal aspects of the proposals, as detailed within the Report; and
- (3) to delegate authority to relevant officers to proceed with establishing “The Dennis Canavan Scholarship Fund”, applying financial and legal procedures as required.

Councillor McNally entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

FC45. SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 30 October 2007, and (b) Report by Head of School Improvement submitted to the meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 30 October 2007.

Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Education and Leisure Committee be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Carleschi, moved that the practice of appointing individual Headteachers with responsibility for each school should be continued.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i), a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (13) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely that the Director of Education should begin consultations on the principle of appointing Headteachers with responsibility for more than one school in the primary sector.

FC46. REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR CHILDREN: UPDATE ON CONSULTATION

In terms of 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 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Housing and Social Services Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2007 be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that the Council notes the failure to carry out full and proper consultation with the community of Brightons and Reddingmuirhead and believes this is in direct conflict with the recently signed up to National Standards for Community Engagement requirements. Council therefore instructs the Housing and Social Works Department to carry out a full consultation with the wider community on all aspects of the proposed development including all issues raised by the community and local members.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (13) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely:-

- (1) the outcome of the consultation that has taken place, to date, involving residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises in Wallace Crescent, Polmont, be noted; and
- (2) to approve the development of the provision of a short term residential unit for children in the Falkirk Council area in premises formerly occupied by the Braes Housing Office, Brightons.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was **AGREED** to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit with a view to completing the business, following a short adjournment for lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1.15pm and reconvened at 2.00pm with all Members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor McNally.

FC47. SHARED SERVICES

In terms of 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 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2007 be approved.

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

- (1) note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;
- (2) submit a statement giving details of the work already carried out that demonstrated shared services had little, if any, benefit to Falkirk Council but has the potential to cause significant disruption to already efficiently run services;
- (3) call on the Scottish Government to ensure that all of the case studies being undertaken are fully circulated to all local authorities, and
- (4) receive regular updates on the matter from officers and the council leaders who are part of the COSLA leadership.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) to note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;
- (ii) to agree that the Council submit an application for funding; and
- (iii) that Committee receive further reports on this matter in due course.

FC48. BO'NESS FORESHORE FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME

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 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the recommendations as detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2007 be approved and that the lowest economically advantageous tender received be accepted.

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor H Constable, moved that the recommendations as detailed in the Report be supplemented with the following recommendation:-

That the Director of Development Services be requested to undertake a survey to determine if Blackness coastal defence works would meet the cost benefits analysis criteria, failing which an assessment be undertaken at an early stage to determine the estimated cost of reinstatement of the sea wall/road at West Terrace, Blackness given the importance of the village setting to a historical visitor attraction of local and national significance.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to allow Members to receive advice on the terms of Standing Orders 18.1 to 18.3 relating to rules of debate.

On reconvening, and in terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 30 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Accordingly, **RESOLVED**:-

- (1) that the Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme proceed in its present form; and
- (2) that the tender submitted by Lagan Construction in the sum of £5.2m being the lowest economically advantageous received, be accepted.

FC49. REFERRAL FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE BETTER HEALTH BETTER CARE – RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

In terms of 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 November 2007, and (b) joint Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services and Development Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved acceptance of the recommendations that had been approved by the Community Health and Safety Committee at its meeting on 23 October 2007.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved that Paragraph 1.4 of the Report submitted to the Community Health and Safety Committee be replaced with the following wording:-

That Council supports the principle of democratically elected Health Boards as a means of improving accountability and transparency in delivering the people's health service to the people. We view this as a clear statement of intent in allowing people access to the decision making process.

Provost Reid gave notice of a further amendment.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Motion and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Provost Reid, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved by way of a further amendment that the Council's response to the Better Health, Better Care Consultation be further amended to note that the Council supports the principle of having an element of democratically elected members in the membership of NHS Boards in addition to local authority members and medical professionals.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to allow Members the opportunity to consider the terms of the further amendment proposed by Provost Reid.

On re-convening, the further Amendment was unanimously accepted.

FC50. REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

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 November 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Housing and Social Work Services Committee be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved that the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion, and 12 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to note the proposal for the redesign of the posts of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Children and Families) and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) to establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget, and

- (3) to establish the Practice Learning Assessor/Co-ordinator post by utilising existing funding within the Specific Grant for Social Work Training and the income generated by the provision of social work practice learning opportunities.

**FC51. REFERRAL FROM JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE –
ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPION OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND CARE**

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 27 September 2007 (Paragraph JCC9 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 November 2007 by the Director of Corporate and Commercial Services seeking the nomination of an elected member Champion for Health, Safety and Care.

AGREED to appoint Councillor Nimmo as the Council's Champion for Health, Safety and Care.

**FC52. REFERRAL FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL
SERVICES COMMITTEE – HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 3 December 2007 (Paragraph HSS25 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 4 December 2007 by the Director of Housing and Social Work Services relating to Housing Allocations.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations contained within the Report considered by the Special Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee with the following additional recommendation:-

That Council authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council's concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations to the Report be substituted with the following:-

Members note the work of the Allocations Review Group and the management decision to temporarily increase by 38 properties the Council's stock of temporary accommodation to homeless applicants with some concern. Previous reports approved by Council and committee and practices undertaken by the department have always contained consultation with the Local Member as well as a commitment to evenly spread the burden across geographical areas. Council noted with disappointment that not only were Local Members not consulted on this exercise but were not even informed of the outcome. Council agrees that this is unacceptable and in breach of previous agreements and the principal of openness and accountability.

Members agree to the following steps:

- i. Call on officers to bring forward a report within 6 weeks outlining the impact on the housing of homeless applicants with an increase of points within the existing system.
- ii. The number of offers made to existing applicants remains at its current level.
- iii. The level of Social Points be awarded to large families to reflect the number of bedrooms deficient within an application to be the equivalent of the removal of the cap on the amount of Overcrowding Points Due.
- iv. Applicants be able to change their top five areas at any time.

Council notes that the Allocations Review Group, unlike the previous Allocations Review Group does not contain any Elected Members. Council recognises the important role that members play in their community and agrees that the Allocations Review Group contain cross party representation of groups represented within the Council membership.

The remit of the group will be to:

- Review the findings of the Communities Scotland Report when this becomes available.
- Review best practice and guidelines in relation to housing allocations
- Consult with the relevant stakeholders including Elected Members.
- Take account of local housing needs and affordability issues.

Once the extended review group has concluded, specific proposals will be presented to a seminar organised for all Members before being placed on an agenda for the Housing and Social Work Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 30 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council's concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation;
- (2) From 1 Jan 2008 for a period of six months or until a revised allocations framework is implemented, allocations be made only to applicants in "reasonable preference" groups as set out in Section 4.1 of the report;

- (3) The number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers;
- (4) Social Points be awarded to large families to reflect appropriately the degree of overcrowding experienced, and
- (5) Applicants be permitted to change their Top 5 areas at any time.

FC53. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 November 2007 by the Chief Executive advising on the outcomes of a review of polling districts and polling places carried out in terms of Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

AGREED:-

- (1) To note the terms of the Report and the comments received in response to the public consultation process; and
- (2) To authorise relevant officers (a) to address the issues raised, as summarised in Appendix 2 to the Report, taking necessary action and reporting back to Council with the final proposals in relation to the current review, and (b) to take action in relation to the issues requiring further consideration, as identified in paragraphs 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 of the Report with a report back to members for consideration and approval at a future meeting as appropriate.

FC54. FIRST PERIODICAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 November 2007 by the Chief Executive providing information on the Boundary Commission for Scotland's Review of Constituency Boundaries for the Scottish Parliament and the likely implications for the Council area.

AGREED to note:-

- (1) the terms of the Report and the implications of the first periodical review of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland, and
- (2) that further update reports will be submitted to Council as the review progresses.

FC55. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 - 2011

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 26 November 2007 by the Chief Executive presenting a new Draft Corporate Plan for the Council covering the period from 2008 until 2011.

AGREED:-

- (1) to approve the Draft Corporate Plan 2008-2011, and
- (2) that a report be considered in March 2008 on the outcome of the consultation process and progress made in relation to the single outcome agreement.

At this point the Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment for dinner. The meeting adjourned at 5.15pm and reconvened at 6.15pm with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillors McNally and Waddell.

FC56. THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 (LICENSING OF SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING) ORDER 2006

With reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 27 June 2007 (Paragraph FC12 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 29 November 2007 by the Director of Development Services providing members with an assessment of the fee structure for the licensing of skin piercing and tattooing.

AGREED to note the contents of the Report.

FC57. FALKIRK HIGH STATION; SLAMANNAN ROAD PROPOSED CAR PARK; GROUND STABILISATION

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 29 November 2007 by the Director of Development Services advising of tenders received in respect of a contract for ground stabilisation works at the proposed car park, Falkirk High Station, Slamannan Road, Falkirk.

AGREED to approve acceptance of the tender submitted by Forkers Ltd, Golds Green House, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands in the sum of £590,147.50 in respect of Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation works.

FC58. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 November 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

AGREED to note the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds specified in the appendix attached to the Report.

FC59. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Northern Rock and Farepak

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved that:-

Council notes with concern the difference in the treatment of Farepak savers with those of the Northern Rock Building Society by the UK Labour government.

Council believes that both sets of savers should receive the same government protections and calls on the UK government to match the assurance offered to North Rock Savers for those of Farepak.

Council also agrees to ask both Falkirk MP's to support this stance and take this matter up with the appropriate government Ministers and report back to council the results of approaches to our local MPs and their actions in seeking equality of treatment for Farepak customers.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that:

This Council notes with disappointment the recent announcement by the liquidator for Farepak that the likely amount of compensation for customers would be 5p in £1. Falkirk Council commends Falkirk East & Linlithgow MP, Michael Connarty for the work he has done in the campaign to win fair compensation for Farepak customers and his work in trying to get fair recompense from HBOS who held onto £30m of money paid into the bank by unsuspecting Farepak agents. Council further commends those MP's of all political persuasions who signed the early day motion condemning HBOS after the collapse of Farepak. Council agrees to urgently write to both Falkirk MP's asking them to urge the liquidators to pay the compensation to customers before Christmas so they do not have to go through another festive season without at least some of their savings returned.

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 (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

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

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

(b) Installation of Sprinkler System in the new hospital, Larbert

Councillor Kenna, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that:-

Council notes with concern the decision of the NHS Forth Valley Board not to install a sprinkler system in the new acute hospital being built at Larbert.

All new schools being built by Falkirk Council contain a sprinkler system and council believes that such a system not only saves lives but protects property.

Council therefore supports the Fire Brigade Union's campaign to have a sprinkler system installed at Larbert and urges NHS Forth Valley to comply.

By way of an amendment Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that:-

Council recognises the important role sprinkler systems play in the fight against fire and in the saving of lives. Council believes that fire safety within the new hospital at Larbert for patients, staff and visitors is of vital importance. Council therefore calls upon NHS Forth Valley, its Health and Safety advisors including Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service to heed the campaign by the Fire Brigade Union and consider the installation of sprinklers within the areas of the hospital where appropriate.

At this point, Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment to consider the terms of the amendment moved by Councillor Gow.

On reconvening, in terms of Standing Order 19.7 and with the consent of the Provost and the seconder, Councillor Gow altered the text of her motion, namely:-

Council recognises the important role sprinkler systems play in the fight against fire and in the saving of lives. Council believes that fire safety within the new hospital at Larbert for patients, staff and visitors is of vital importance. Council therefore calls upon NHS Forth Valley, its Health and Safety advisors including Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service to heed the campaign by the Fire Brigade Union and Council calls for the installation of sprinklers within the areas of the hospital where appropriate.

In terms in Standing Order 33.3(ii), Council **AGREED** unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to hear from Mr Gordon McQuade, on behalf of the Fire Brigades Union, in explanation of the Union's campaign for the installation of sprinklers in the new hospital, Larbert.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 voted for the Motion.

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

(c) Scrutiny Committees

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved that:-

Council believes that in order to fully implement the wider community planning agenda we must restructure our committees to be more inclusive and outward looking.

Council therefore resolves to agree to the principle of following the example of the Education Committee in appointing outside representatives to each of the scrutiny committees.

Council therefore agrees to bring a report to each committee that will recommend the inclusion of relevant representatives from interest groups and community planning partners.

Examples of these could be:-

Economic Development

- A representative from local small businesses selected from the Falkirk Business Panel
- A representative from local large businesses selected from the Falkirk Business Panel
- A representative from the Town Centre Management Company
- A representative from the Enterprise Network
- A representative from FEAT
- A representative from Forth Valley College

Housing and Social Work

- Two representatives from a local residents and tenants group
- A representative from a carers group
- A representative from a Housing Association
- A representative from the criminal justice authority
- A representative from Foster Parents Groups

Community Health & Safety

- A representative from Central Scotland Police
- A representative from Central Scotland Fire Service
- A representative from NHS Forth Valley
- Two representatives from relevant community groups
- A representative from SEPA

Environment and Heritage

- A representative from Friends of the Earth
- A representative from the voluntary sector re-cycling groups
- A representative from local history and heritage groups
- A representative from community based museum support groups
- A representative from Historic Scotland or Scottish Natural Heritage
- A representative from countryside access groups

All external appointments will be conducted in an open and transparent manner following the deliberations of the Scrutiny Committees.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that:-

Council agrees to consider the membership of Committees, and the principle of community engagement, during a review of committee structures.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 voted for the Motion.

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

(d) Service and Committee Structures

Councillor Gow moved, Councillor C MacDonald seconded and Council **AGREED** the following:-

Council, recognising that the existing structures are outdated, resolves to commence the process of reviewing its service and committee structures, with an initial report on the options for the means of carrying out the review being submitted to the January 2008 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

FC60. 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

Councillor H Constable left the meeting during consideration of following item.

FC61. REFERRAL FROM BEST VALUE AND AUDIT FORUM- TENDER FOR PROVISION OF A RENT DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Best Value and Audit Forum held on 9 November 2007 (Paragraph BV19 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated

21 November 2007 by the Director of Housing and Social Work Services enclosing a Report considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum regarding the tender for the provision of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that Council agree to accept the tender from the Cyrenians in respect of the provision of a rent deposit guarantee scheme for a period of 18 months from 1 April 2008.

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

The Council believes that the entire tender process has been compromised by mistakes, errors of judgement and a significant time lapse since this tender was received. The Council therefore resolves to re-tender for this particular service for contract beginning 1 April and, in the meantime, instructs officers to work with the Falkirk Homeless Project to continue this service until that date.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 28 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, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Patrick.

For the Amendment (11) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Thomson.

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

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL****MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2008 at 10.30 AM.**

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, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fry

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Heads of Accountancy, of Treasury and Investment and of Service (Strategic Support); Accounting Managers (D Cairney, J Flannigan and B Heron) and Democratic Services Manager.

FC62. MINUTE

There was submitted (tabled) and **NOTED** Minute of Special Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2008.

FC63. REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 – 2010/11

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2008 (Paragraph PR108 refers), there was submitted joint report (circulated) dated 6 February 2008 by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance (a) providing details of the Local Government Finance Settlement for the financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11; (b) detailing draft Service Revenue Budgets for 2008/09 and proposed Council Tax levels for 2008/09, and (c) summarising Falkirk Council's position in relation to Band D Council Tax levels throughout Scotland.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved acceptance of the recommendations detailed in the Report with an additional recommendation that the budget to enhance rural bus services be used to finance the reintroduction of an evening bus service to Slamannan.

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

1. The proposed £150,000 for increased youth provision should be added to any Scottish Government Criminal Justice money for the provision of new youth activities. **Cost neutral**
2. Residents parking permits for properties within the vicinity of the Meeks Road and Kemper Avenue car parks should be valid for both car parks. **Cost neutral**
3. The proposals for providing community access to Braes and Larbert High Schools should be extended to also include Bo'ness and Graeme High Schools to ensure all communities are treated equally. **Cost £290,000**
4. Officers from Community Services bring forward proposals for the development of regeneration strategies for medium centres of population. **Cost £100,000**
5. A high profile freeze on admission charges at sports centres to encourage increased attendance with a target of 3% increase in usage to offset associated cost implications. However, based on current usage rates, the notional cost to the authority would be £34,000. **Cost £34,000**
6. An additional allocation of £150,000 to meet the backlog of vulnerable under 3s awaiting nursery places. **Cost £150,000**
7. The restoration of the bus concession ticket for disabled residents who lost this facility after one year of the national scheme. **Cost £82,000**
8. The allocation of £30,000 to support the MOD fringe activities. **Cost £30,000**
9. The allocation of resources for the development of flood prevention schemes and policies. **Cost £45,000**
10. The establishment of a fund for the purpose of using it to pump prime bids from local amateur sports clubs for additional external funding with Officers being requested to bring forward a report on the mechanism for establishing and managing such a fund. **Cost £70,000**
11. In respect of Homecare services, the abolition of charges for Meals on Wheels and Lunch Clubs. The cost of collection would result in approximately 50% of income received going towards collection with the budgeted gross charges being removed from the budget. **Cost £74,000**

Total cost £875,000

To be met from:-

Improved year-end financial position 25% of the average underspend estimated at £2.2m	£550,000
Increased income target for Commercial Services Trading Accounts	£200,000
Reduction in advertising budget	£25,000
Efficiency savings and improvements in procurement	£100,000

Council agreed to a short adjournment at this point to allow members to consider the terms of the amendment.

On reconvening, and in terms of Standing Order 21.4(i), a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) that Council accepts the Draft 2008/09 Budget as detailed in the Report;
- (2) that estimated Expenditure for the financial year 2008/09 be set at £329.3m, before specific Grants of £17.1m, leaving net expenditure of £312.2m;
- (3) that Council levies the following Council Tax for the year 2008/09;
 - (a) A Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Band D of £1,070, representing a nil increase in Council Tax;
 - (b) A Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other valuation bands in accordance with Section 74 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as set out in Paragraph 9.2 of the Report)
- (4) that Council accepts the Indicative Council Tax levels for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 at Band D of £1,070 a nil increase as detailed in the Report, representing the best information available at this time,
- (5) that Chief Officers be instructed to deliver Services within the Revenue Budget allocated to each Service, and
- (6) to the reintroduction of a bus service to Slamannan.

FC64. THREE YEAR GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 – 2010/11

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2008 (Paragraph PR109 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 6 February 2008 by the by Director of Finance setting out the Council's proposed capital investment plans for the next 3 financial years on all areas of service delivery, with the exception of Council Housing which was reported separately to this meeting of Council.

AGREED to approve the General Services Capital programme for 2008/09 to 2010/11, and the Prudential Indicators, as appended to the Report.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1, it was agreed to continue the meeting beyond the three hour limit.

FC65. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS 2008/09 – 2010/11

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2008 (Paragraph PR110 refers), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 6 February 2008 by the Directors of Finance and of Corporate and Commercial Services (a) presenting a draft Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2009/10; (b) making recommendations on the level of council house and garage rents for 2008/09, and (c) showing indicative rent levels for the years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

AGREED:-

- (1) that an average house rent increase of £72.72 per annum be applied from 1 April, 2008 (equivalent to £1.40 per week or £3.03 per fortnightly rent charge period). The new average fortnightly charge, based on the 24 fortnightly periods with no rent being charged during the fortnightly periods commencing 30 June 2008 and 15 December 2008 would therefore be £104.71;
- (2) that no tenant face an increase of more than £103.92 per annum (equivalent to £2.00 per week or £4.33 per fortnightly rent period);
- (3) to utilise £1.4m from the Housing Revenue Account reserves;
- (4) that lock-up garage rentals be increased by an average of 12 pence per week with effect from 1 April 2008;
- (5) that garage site rentals be increased by £1 to £40 per annum with effect from 1 April 2008;
- (6) that Castings Hostel rentals be increased to a charge of £124.55 per room per week;
- (7) that Homeless property rentals be increased to an average of £144.39 per week; and
- (8) that the indicative Budgets and Rent Increases for 2009/10 and 2010/11 as outlined in the Report be noted, as representing the best information available at this time.

FC66. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2008/2011

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2008 (Paragraph PR111 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 30 January 2008 by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services outlining expenditure proposals for the 2008 to 2011 HRA Investment programme.

AGREED to approve the expenditure proposals outlined in the report as the HRA Investment programme for 2008/2009 to 2010/2011.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: TENANTS' SATISFACTION SURVEY REPORT
WAITING LIST SURVEY REPORT**
MEETING: HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2008
AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members the findings of Falkirk Council's Tenant Satisfaction Survey and Waiting List Survey which were carried out during 2007. The aim of the surveys was to obtain an overall measure of tenant opinion with regard to key areas of service delivery and to identify priorities for service improvement.
- 1.2 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 has placed statutory responsibility upon the Council to ensure that we consult with tenants on all housing related issues and that they are able to influence how the Service is planned for improvement and delivery. These surveys will assist the Council in meeting this statutory obligation.
- 1.3 The survey was designed to provide information on:
- Satisfaction with Council as a landlord
 - Satisfaction with the housing service and quality of service provided
 - Satisfaction with our approach to customer care
 - Satisfaction with property maintenance and repairs services
 - Satisfaction with estate management services
 - Satisfaction with properties and neighbourhoods
 - Satisfaction with the Allocations Policy
 - Satisfaction with rent levels, Housing Benefit administration and rent collection
 - Priorities for Capital Investment – linked to SHQS and Standard Delivery Plan
 - Priorities for improvements and changes to the service
 - Ease of contact with the service
 - Awareness of opportunities for involvement (tenant and service user participation)
 - Collation of data on tenant profiles and equal opportunities information

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is important that the Council can demonstrate that the surveys were carried out in an open, impartial and transparent process. Therefore, in order to assure tenants of this independence, it was considered that external expertise would be required. Following a procurement process, a specialist research company, Research Resource, undertook the survey on behalf of the Council as it was considered they presented value for money and had the relevant skills and expertise required for this type of work.

- 2.2 Initially, a sample of tenants and other service users were involved in the development of the final questionnaires. Four geographically-based focus groups were held with tenants in Bo'ness, Grangemouth, Denny and Camelon. These meetings were held in June 2007.
- 2.3 The surveys were conducted using two methods. Firstly a questionnaire was issued to measure satisfaction with all aspects of the Council's Housing Service and Allocation Policy. Secondly, focus groups and detailed interviews were held to gain qualitative information from tenants and other service users. These allowed respondents to share their views and their priorities on the Housing Service.
- 2.4 Information on satisfaction with the Housing Service was collated after carrying out 1004 face to face interviews with a sample of tenants across all the office areas in line with the overall profile of tenants.
- 2.5 Information on the Council's Allocation Policy was collated after conducting 402 interviews through a telephone survey. These survey findings have contributed to the consultation process for the ongoing Allocation Review.
- 2.6 The information gained through the questionnaires, detailed interviews and focus groups will now be used to plan and design future service improvements.

3. QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY RESULT FINDINGS

- 3.1 An Executive Summary of the Tenants Satisfaction Survey and the Housing Waiting List Survey are attached as appendices. Copies of the full reports are available as background papers.
- 3.2 In general, the report findings are positive and encouraging with 93% of tenants stating that they are satisfied with the Council as their landlord. Very high satisfaction levels were returned from tenants regarding their neighbourhoods (96%), the quality of their environment (93%) and the design and layout of the properties (94%). These results reflect the high levels of investment that Falkirk Council has committed over the years to improving its housing stock and the quality of local environments.
- 3.3 Tenants indicated high satisfaction levels with the quality of service from all staff (e.g. helpfulness of reception staff 98%; attitude of tradesmen (97%). The survey also revealed high satisfaction levels with our communication resources (e.g. Tenancy Book 98%; newsletter 98%; website 97%).
- 3.4 Tenants also indicated high satisfaction with the financial services they receive. 98% state the service they receive when paying their rent is excellent, good or fair and 91% rated the housing benefit services excellent, good or fair.
- 3.5 The survey findings also identified areas for service improvement. Members had previously agreed to undertake an Allocation Review following a Committee Report in September 2007 which highlighted weaknesses with the current policy. The survey findings have confirmed that applicants do not fully understand the points system and generally do not perceive the Allocations Policy as fair.

- 3.6 The repairs service overall is considered to be satisfactory. However, satisfaction levels fall slightly on the length of time taken to complete repairs (78%) and the repairs follow-up service (76%). Whilst these satisfaction levels are still fairly high, BMD and Housing Services are continually striving to improve service delivery and a number of initiatives have been introduced as part of the ongoing Best Value Service Review (e.g. On the Spot Repairs and the Appointments System). These initiatives will continue to be developed and further work has been identified as part of the Best Value Service Review.
- 3.7 The survey has also highlighted the need for more publicity and awareness raising with certain aspects of the service. In particular we have identified that access to repairs reporting and the role of the Anti Social Behaviour Team need to be prioritised.

4. PUBLICATION OF THE REPORTS

- 4.1 It is intended to publish the survey report findings widely. This will be done in a number of ways, firstly the report findings will be published on the Council's website. Thereafter, there will be further publicity through the Tenants Newsletter "In the Neighbourhood", as well as reporting in Falkirk Council News and making information available in the One Stop Shops.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The survey has achieved its objectives as set out in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3. The Council has in-depth information on tenants' and service users' views on every aspect of the housing service. This information can now be used as a benchmark to measure future satisfaction levels and will act as a basis for planning and delivering future service improvements.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Members of Housing & Social Work Services Committee are asked to:

- 6.1 note the findings of the satisfaction survey

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Date: 18 January 2008

Our ref: AAL0208

Contact Officer: Elizabeth Hood, Divisional Manager on ext. 0787

List of Appendices

1. Executive Summary – Falkirk Council Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2007
2. Executive Summary – Falkirk Council Waiting List Survey 2007

List of Background Papers

1. Falkirk Council Tenant Satisfaction Survey Research Report – August 2007
2. Falkirk Council Waiting List Survey Research Report – August 2007
 3. Tenant Satisfaction Survey Questionnaire 2007
 4. Waiting List Survey Questionnaire 2007
5. Housing & Social Work Services Committee Report : Tenants Satisfaction Questionnaire Report on Survey Findings – 4 March 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Falkirk Council commissioned Research Resource to carry out the Council's first comprehensive face to face tenant satisfaction survey aimed at addressing the following objectives:

- to obtain a profile of tenants
- to obtain an indication of satisfaction levels with the services provided by the Council
- to identify satisfaction levels with the home and neighbourhood
- to investigate customers' views on participation and ways of influencing and feeding back to the Council, including membership and how this can be improved

The 'Tenant Satisfaction Survey' was undertaken using a face to face survey methodology with residents. All interviews were undertaken by Research Resource's highly trained and experienced field force utilising a quantitative survey questionnaire. A total of 1004 interviews were achieved with Falkirk Council tenants providing overall data accurate to +3.01%.

Key Highlights

Issue	Evidence
Satisfaction with the telephone service is high.	Aspects of the telephone service rated highest are with regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the helpfulness of reception staff (98% stating excellent/good or fair)▪ the length of time to answer the telephone (97%)▪ staff identifying themselves over the telephone (97%)
The majority of tenants are satisfied with the Council as a landlord.	93% of tenants stated the Council is excellent, good or fair in this respect.
The cleansing service within the Council is highly rated.	91% of tenants rated the cleansing service as excellent, good or fair.
The majority of tenants are happy with the quality of their environment.	93% of tenants rated the quality of environment as excellent, good or fair.
The service provided when paying rent at the area housing office is highly rated.	98% of tenants stated they believe the service they receive when paying their rent at their local housing office is excellent, good or fair.

The majority of tenants are happy with the Housing Benefit Service.	91% of tenants rated the housing benefit service excellent, good or fair.
The repairs service is considered overall to be satisfactory.	<p>Several aspects of the repairs service are highly rated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attitude of tradesmen involved (97% stating excellent, good or fair) ▪ Workmen tidying up (96%) ▪ Helpfulness of Council staff (95%) ▪ Helpfulness of Council staff (95%)
The majority of tenants were given notice in advance of major works being undertaken.	96% of tenants were given enough notice in this respect.
Satisfaction with major works is high.	<p>The following aspects of major works are most highly rated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helpfulness of Council staff (97% stating excellent, good or fair) ▪ Appointment system (97%) ▪ Workmen introducing themselves and showing ID (97%) ▪ Attitude of tradesmen involved (97%)
Awareness of out of hours repairs service is high.	93% of tenants are aware that the Council provides an out of hours repairs service for emergency repairs.
Tenants are happy with the information provided to them prior to becoming a tenant.	93% stated the information provided to them prior to tenancy was excellent, good or fair.
The majority of tenants feel the Council keeps them informed about its activities and services.	94% stated the Council was excellent, good or fair with regards to keeping them informed.
Communication sources are highly rated.	<p>The following communication sources were highly rated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tenants handbook (98% rated the handbook excellent, good or fair) ▪ Leaflets/ letters sent to the home (98%) ▪ Newsletter (98%) ▪ Website (97%) <p>The 'In Your Neighbourhood' newsletter provided to tenants was perceived as excellent, good or fair by 98% of tenants in terms of format and content.</p>
The design and layout of the home is	94% stated the design and layout of their

perceived as satisfactory.	home is excellent, good or fair.
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Key Issues

Issue	Evidence
Awareness of the Council's anti social behaviour team is low.	66% of tenants stated they were aware of this service.
Satisfaction with anti-social complaints is low.	50% of tenants who reported an anti-social complaint to the Council stated they found the outcome of the complaint excellent, good or fair and 69% stated the service received was excellent, good or fair.
Information provided by the Council to tenants regarding housing transfer is perceived as poor.	63% of tenants stated the information provided to tenants was excellent, good or fair.
Awareness of the Council's Allocations policy is low.	Less than 1 in 4 tenants know what Falkirk Council's Allocation Policy is.
Awareness of the repairs service opening hours is low.	43% of tenants are aware repairs can be reported at contact centre up to 9pm, 5 days a week.
The condition of the house when tenants moved in is poorly perceived	Just over half of tenants (54%) were happy with the condition of their home when they moved in
Tenants are less satisfied with the length of time to complete repairs and follow up service regarding repairs.	78% of tenants stated the length of time between reporting repair and finishing repair was excellent, good or fair 76% of tenants were happy with the follow up service on repairs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Falkirk Council commissioned a survey of housing applicants, including homeless applicants, waiting list applicants and applicants in temporary accommodation. The key aims of the survey were to:

- To obtain an overall measure of opinion with key allocations services
- To identify priority areas for service improvement

The survey methodology involved an initial exploratory phase comprising 2 focus groups, one with homeless applicants and another with wider waiting list applicants, to explore perceptions of, and satisfaction with, the Council's allocations services in order to fully involve them in the questionnaire design process. This was followed by a telephone survey with a representative sample of waiting list applicants was undertaken. A total of 402 interviews were achieved with all interviews undertaken by Research Resource's highly trained and experienced telephone interviewers utilising the quantitative survey questionnaire.

This executive summary provides detail on the key highlights and key issues raised within the survey:

Key Highlights

Issue	Evidence
The initial application procedure is easy and quick	91% agree that the application form is easy to fill in; 91% agree that the notes that came with the form were helpful; 87% agree that the form was quick to complete; 86% are satisfied overall with the application form. This was reinforced at the focus groups, with some focus group participants also stating that where additional help was required to complete the form, this was provided at the local office and that they were happy with the assistance received.
Satisfaction with telephone contact, whether to the One Stop Shop or ARC regarding their initial application is very good	Rating of satisfaction with a range of aspects relating to the telephone service received when the respondents initially made contact regarding the application was very highly rated across the board, with satisfaction levels well in excess of 90% across the board.

Respondents would like to see a choice based letting system introduced	71% feel that they should be able to choose the house they live in through an advertising system, rather than one where they were made an offer.
Awareness of mutual exchange opportunities amongst Falkirk Council tenants is reasonable	75% of current Falkirk Council tenants are aware of mutual exchanges
Overall satisfaction with the level of service received from staff dealing with the application is fair	75% of applicants stated that they are either very or fairly satisfied with the overall level of service received from the staff dealing with their application.

Key Issues

Issue	Evidence
Re-registration is not happening frequently or universally	Less than one third of those who have been on the waiting list more than one year (30%) gave been asked to fill out a re-registration form to confirm they wish to stay on the waiting list.
Personal contact at the One Stop Shop relating to the initial application is not as highly perceived as the telephone contact. In particular, privacy of discussion is most poorly rated	Rating of satisfaction with privacy of discussion is 81%; overall satisfaction with this service is 84%; provision of information/ advice that is clear and easy to understand 85% and helpfulness of allocations staff 86%
Personal contact at ARC is also more poorly perceived than telephone contact, and more poorly perceived than personal contact regarding allocations at the One Stop Shop	Rating of overall satisfaction with this service is 73%, helpfulness of allocation staff 77%, privacy of discussion 77% and providing information/ advice that is clear and easy to understand 82%
Applicants do not fully understand the points system, and generally do not perceive it as fair	49% agree that 'I don't understand the points system'; 48% agree that 'the points system seems a fair system'
There is room for improvement in raising awareness of Homeswap for current Falkirk Council Tenants	38% of current Falkirk Council tenants are aware of Homeswap
Homeless applicants are more likely to be dissatisfied with the level of service received from staff dealing with their application	40% of homeless applicants stated that they are dissatisfied with the level of service received from staff dealing with their

	application. This is compared to 15% of applicants in permanent accommodation.
Applicants do not feel that they are kept up to date with progress on their application and the likelihood of getting them a house	56% are dissatisfied with Falkirk council with respect to keeping them up to date with the progress of their application and the likelihood of getting a house.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Reforming & Revitalising: Report of the Review of Community Penalties
MEETING: Community Health & Safety Committee
DATE: 22 January 2008
AUTHOR Director of Housing & Social Work Services

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to brief members on the content of the recently published review of community penalties. This relates to the range of available options which provide an alternative to custody.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Policy & Resources Committee considered reports on the development of the Community Service scheme on 19 October 2004 and 16 August 2005. On 21 August 2007 a further report was presented to the Community Health & Safety Committee on developments within Community Service and Supervised Attendance Order Scheme.
- 2.2** A review of Community penalties was conducted over the summer of 2007 by the Scottish Government. This review forms an important part of the Government's plan to develop a coherent penal policy, making appropriate use of custodial and community penalties. The report notes that compared with 20 years ago, the number of crimes committed in Scotland has fallen by 40,000 per year, but the prison population has continued to increase.
- 2.3** The Scottish Government is determined to focus penal policy on using prison for serious and dangerous offenders while lower risk offenders are dealt with in the Community. The principal aim is to build safer and stronger communities by reducing rates of offending and re-offending.
- 2.4** The Scottish Government convened a series of meetings with a range of key agencies, seeking views on how to improve quality, effectiveness and perception of community penalties. These views are reflected within this document.
- 2.5** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice welcomes views on this report, but notes that this report is a plan of action and not a consultation.

3 SUMMARY OF "REFORMING & REVITALISING": REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PENALTIES

- 3.1** Community penalties are sentencing options open to the Court once a finding of guilt has been established. The main community options in Scotland are Probation and Community Service Orders. The other options include Restriction of Liberty Orders

(electronic tagging) and Drug Treatment & Testing Orders. The main benefits of community penalties are that:

- *They can make the offender “pay something back” to the community*
- *They allow less serious offenders to maintain links with work, family and the wider community*
- *They allow offenders to address some of their underlying difficulties in the community*

3.2 The Scottish Government is determined to develop a coherent penal policy which focuses on penalties which protect the public and reduce rates of re-offending. The emphasis should be an “effective” punishment with an element of reparation where appropriate.

3.3 The Scottish Government vision for reformed and revitalised community penalties is based on 6 principles of effective practice:-

- *Quality*
- *Effectiveness*
- *Immediacy*
- *Visibility*
- *Flexibility*
- *Relevancy*

3.4 This vision will be achieved via a plan of action which should give sentences and the public more confidence in the community penalties, especially if they see them working in their own communities. The key actions are based on four themes.

Reparation & Payback ~ A radical reform of existing Community Service Orders by combining the best aspects of Supervised Attendance Orders, Community Reparation Orders and Community Service. This revitalised order will be used in all levels of Criminal Courts (District/Sheriff/High Courts) with an emphasis on speedy “payback” and innovative work in the communities. Consideration will also be given to combining Community Service Orders with electronic monitoring.

Rehabilitation & Reintegration ~ Extend Community Service to allow an element of activity other than unpaid work, aimed at stopping re-offending as well as extending the use of Drug Treatment & Testing Orders. Develop a mentor/link worker pilot to support women offenders as well as a roll-out of an enhanced, more consistent approach to delivering probation supervision.

Quality & Enforcement ~ A major review of National Objectives & Standards for Social Work Services in Criminal Justice Service is under way as well as a roll out of a more consistent approach to offender risk and needs management. A change in legislation will also be considered in order to allow breaches of community penalties to be dealt with speedily and to require certain offenders to be brought back to Court for case reviews.

Community Engagement ~ This will include:

- *Introduce a statutory duty on service providers to consult with local communities about payback schemes in their area – to ensure that local views are heard and reflected.*

- *Support Community Justice Authorities and local authorities in developing local initiatives to improve innovation, quality and community engagement/ involvement*
- *Simplify the range of available reparative sentences to improve public awareness*
- *Launch a “national payback scheme of the year ”award*

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR FALKIRK COUNCIL

- 4.1 This review seeks to ensure that prison is used for the most serious and dangerous offenders, therefore this should enhance public safety and improve perception regarding the fear of crime. It is likely to mean a significant increase in the numbers of persons subject to Community Service, Probation, Restriction of Liberty and Drug Treatment & Testing Orders who will require supervision from the Criminal Justice Service and has significant resource implications. The needs associated with the increased number of people with which we will require to work will mean that they will require support which will include Housing Services, Substance Services and Health Services etc.

Several of the recommendations within this report reflect the nature of the work already being undertaken within Falkirk Council’s Community Service scheme e.g. working with people to enhance their employability via a partnership approach with the Forth Valley College and Employment Forum. Locally attempts have been made to engage with communities by asking views on types of work which could be undertaken within local communities. Community Councils and Area Forums were contacted for advice as well as members of the public placing individual requests for work which they would like to be considered by the scheme.

- 4.2 ***Human Resource Implications*** ~ Additional staff will be required in order to meet the increased work demands. In view of the national shortage of qualified social workers, there is no guarantee that these additional posts could be filled. It may be appropriate to consider “unqualified” staff for certain tasks.

- 4.3 ***Policy Implications*** ~ The content of this report is consistent with Falkirk Council policies on:-
- *Community Safety*
 - *Reducing Re-offending*
 - *Social Inclusion*

- 4.4 ***Financial Implications*** ~ It may be that additional resource requirements will be met by the Scottish Government 100% Criminal Justice funding. If not difficulties would be encountered in meeting additional service demands. There is likely to be a need to expand the existing Community Service workshop as well as office premises in order to accommodate additional staff and additional interview facilities.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Health & Safety Committee:-

- ***Notes the contents of the Report.***
- ***Requests the Director of Housing & Social Work Services to keep the Committee informed of developments arising from the Report.***

- *Requests the Director of Housing & Social Work Services to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and to the Convener of the Community Justice Authority outlining the potential resource implications for local authorities arising from the proposals and seeking confirmation that these will be taken into account by both the Government and the Community Justice Authority.*
- *Refers the report and recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration and approval.*

.....
 Janet Birks
 Director of Housing & Social Work Services
 12 December 2007

Contact Officer: Sharon Stirrat, Service Manager Criminal Justice Services,
 Brockville, Extn 6487

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reforming & Revitalising: Report of the Review of Community Penalties – A Summary

Reforming & Revitalising: Report of the Review of Community Penalties

Full Report Available in Members Lounge or Link Below

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/204067/0054359.pdf>

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FAIRTRADE RESOLUTION
Meeting: ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Date: 19th FEBRUARY 2008
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Fairtrade is a marketing initiative which aims to ensure that small scale farmers in the developing world get a fair and secure price for their products. It guarantees producers that whatever happens to the global market, they will get a minimum, fair price, along with a contribution to a social development fund for their community. By buying directly from the farmer, a greater percentage of the profit goes to the farmer, with less being taken by intermediaries.
- 1.2 Fairtrade purchases in the UK are increasing at a rate of 40% year on year. This trend is reflected in the Falkirk area with reports of a marked increase in the number of individuals, community groups and local businesses requesting, buying or stocking Fairtrade produce. Where Fairtrade was once a specialist product that was difficult to find, it is now stocked by most UK supermarkets and bulk distributors. Another indication of this growing interest is the increasing number of enquiries about Fairtrade received by Falkirk Council and Falkirk Town Centre Management.
- 1.3 In May 2004, Falkirk Council welcomed existing action on Fairtrade and agreed to support further work. This record of support played a key role in enabling the town of Falkirk to attain Fairtrade status in May 2006. The Fairtrade steering group is now attempting to win “Fairtrade Zone” status to cover the whole of the council area, a prerequisite of which is a more detailed resolution by Falkirk Council.
- 1.4 This paper aims to outline the benefits for the Falkirk area of attaining this status, detail progress to date, additional effort required, examine the implications for the Council and recommends that this committee support a detailed resolution on Fairtrade.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The initiative is driven by the Fairtrade Foundation, which was established in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement. These founding organisations were later joined by Britain's largest women's organisation, the Women's Institute. The Foundation is the UK member of Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO), which unites 20 national initiatives.
- 2.2 In order to fulfil this aim of achieving Fairtrade status, the Fairtrade Foundation stipulates that five goals must be attained, the most important being that the local authority passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade and agrees to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at meetings, in its canteens and other outlets (full list of goals in paragraph 5.2). Various services and departments of the Council are already taking action to support Fairtrade.

3. BENEFITS OF FAIRTRADE

- 3.1 Fairtrade asks shoppers to take responsibility for the impact of their actions on a community and its environment a great distance away. It promotes social responsibility and enables Falkirk consumers to give poor farmers in developing countries a 'hand up instead of a hand out'.
- 3.2 By passing a detailed Fairtrade resolution, Falkirk Council will lead in this practice by example, demonstrating that it takes responsibility for the impact of its actions both at home and abroad. As one of the largest purchasers in the Falkirk area, the Council has considerable consumer power and will join the growing ranks of towns, villages, islands and council areas to show their commitment.

4. FAIRTRADE SO FAR

- 4.1 In 2003, Town Centre Management started investigating the Fairtrade movement and has been working with Falkirk Council to stimulate interest and progress. A cross section of Falkirk businesses, community and church groups were invited to take part initially and that group has grown to now include all of the major supermarkets, some local church groups, high street retailers, local cafes and Forth Valley College.
- 4.2 At a meeting of Falkirk Council, on the 5th of May 2004, the Council noted inclusion of a Fairtrade tent at the Big in Falkirk event. It also welcomed a number of additional local actions taken by the Council including; establishment of a Fairtrade Working Group, use of Fairtrade products at Callendar House and use of the Fairtrade products within Municipal Buildings, including the Members' Services area. A growing number of parts of the Council, such as Development Services, have since then resolved to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at meetings.
- 4.3 Fairtrade Fortnight takes place annually over the first two weeks of March. For the last three years, this has been marked by a series of initiatives across the Council area involving schools, churches, workplaces and community group.
- 4.4 In May 2005, the Fairtrade Foundation supported an application for Fairtrade status for the town of Falkirk. In response to growing interest in Fairtrade by schools and community groups, the steering group agreed to pursue zonal Fairtrade status which would recognise the whole of the Council area's commitment to supporting Fairtrade.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 The Falkirk Fairtrade Working Group agreed that rather than one individual or group leading the Fairtrade initiative in the Falkirk area, a partnership approach be adopted. A Falkirk Fairtrade Steering Group, with Council representation, was established to this end and with the ultimate aim of winning and sustaining Fairtrade accreditation for the Council area.
- 5.2 In order for this to take place, the Steering Group must achieve the following five objectives:
 - ***Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at its meetings and in its offices and canteens.***
 - A range of (at least two) Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's shops. Fairtrade products are served in local cafes/catering establishments.
 - Fairtrade products are used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc), and community organisations (churches, schools etc).

- Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign.
- A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade status.

5.3 In addition to fulfilling these criteria, the Fairtrade Foundation stipulates that a set quota of retail and cafes/catering outlets must be present in the town/area. The following table shows the Council area's progress to date:

Falkirk Council Area	Outlets required	Participating
No. of retail outlets	30	39
No. of cafes/catering outlets	15	21

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Financial:** over the last 5years, Fairtrade products have become competitive in price with non Fairtrade ones.
- 6.2 **Legal:** No direct implications arising from this report. The phrasing of the resolutions in section 7.1 is required to meet standards set by the Fairtrade Foundation. However, it does include sufficient flexibility to allow the Council to meet its best value obligations.
- 6.3 **Policy:** The resolution supports the implementation of action 7.1 in approved Sustainable Falkirk Action Plan.
- 6.4 **Personnel:** No implications arising from this report.
- 6.5 Services will be made aware of the corporate aims and objectives of the resolution and encouraged to implement these where possible.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That members agree to support the following resolution in support of Fairtrade:

That Falkirk Council supports the Fairtrade campaign and resolves:

- To promote awareness of Fairtrade issues and opportunities for supporting Fairtrade across the Falkirk Council area. That the Council will concentrate on making Council employees, the public, and local businesses aware of the Council's policy on Fairtrade;
- To use Fairtrade goods, when catering for Council meetings and functions wherever possible;
- To use Fairtrade goods at all other opportunities, including office catering, vending machines and public outlets, wherever possible;
- To support the Falkirk Fairtrade Working Group in its work towards attaining Fairtrade status for the Falkirk Council area and appoint a Council representative to the Fairtrade Steering Group.

- 7.2 That subject to Falkirk Council approving the resolution as per paragraph 7.3, there will be a regular report by the Director of Development Services to the Environment and Heritage Committee on progress of this Fairtrade resolution.
- 7.3 That members agree to refer the resolution to Falkirk Council for approval, subject to future reports on progress to appropriate scrutiny committees.

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Director of Development Services

Date: 22nd January 2008

Contact Officer: Brenda Roddy, Planning and Environment Unit,
telephone 01324 504712

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Minutes of meeting of Falkirk Council, May 5th, 2004, agenda item (e)
- 'Global Partners – Fairtrade and Local Authorities: How to Support Global Sustainable development in your Locality', Oxfam
- Sustainable Falkirk Action Plan January – December 2006.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CORPORATE PLAN 2008 - 2011
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 MARCH 2008
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that the draft Corporate Plan for the Council was presented to Council in December 2007. At that time it was noted that information was awaited regarding the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), which will influence the Council's final Corporate Plan, in particular the arrangements for monitoring progress on the plan.
- 1.2 As has previously been reported to the Best Value and Audit Forum, information has recently been received from the Improvement Service regarding the framework for the SOA. However, while this report presents to Members the context, strategic direction and priorities set out the Corporate Plan, at this stage work is ongoing in respect of the final version of the monitoring framework as set out in the SOA, which is being developed with our community planning partners.

2. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 – 2011

- 2.1 The main text of the Corporate Plan for 2008 – 2011 is attached to this report as Appendix One for approval.
- 2.2 As Members are aware, the purpose of the Corporate Plan is to set out the Council's strategic direction and priorities for the medium term and how it will corporately address the issues it feels are important, both in service delivery and community leadership terms. The Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 draws on a number of sources to identify challenges and determine priorities, including the Council's priorities, the priorities within the Strategic Community Plan; national strategic objectives; and the key issues and challenges facing the area over the coming year. These include demographic and socio-economic factors, as well as changes in the profile and expectations of our customers.
- 2.3 While the objectives within the plan are high level, they must have some underpinning critical success factors, i.e. local outcomes against which we can measure progress. As noted at 1.1, the Government is working to develop a Single Outcome Agreement with each Local Authority. This Outcome Agreement will set out a number of indicators that will measure progress against specifically agreed national outcomes. Officers have been working with our Community Planning partners to develop a SOA that reflects the local outcomes as set out in the draft Corporate Plan and the Strategic Community Plan for the area. As guidance on suggested indicators and the actual framework for the SOA have

only recently been issued, the details of our first Single Outcome Agreement are not yet available to present to Members.

- 2.4 To date, guidance on the SOA suggests that local outcomes be noted against 15 national outcomes and that progress on these be monitored by using a number of local indicators. In order to ensure local priorities are led by the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Plan, key priorities are being aligned to the national outcomes.
- 2.5 The Scottish Government has advised all Councils that they expect the SOA to be presented in draft form to them by 31st March 2008, with a period following that for negotiation and finalisation, resulting in all agreements being approved by the end of June 2008. I hope to be able to provide more information at Council on the nature and extent of the negotiation process.

Developing the Corporate Plan

- 2.6 Although the Corporate Plan will be a public document, its main purpose is as a working tool for Members and Services of the Council. It has to be sharply focused and pertinent to the needs of its key users.
- 2.7 The plan will assist Elected Members in ensuring the strategic context within which Falkirk Council operates is clear. It sets out the objectives the Council will aim for, so as to achieve the priorities laid down by Elected Members and will enable Members to monitor the achievement of these objectives through reports to Policy and Resources and the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.8 The purpose of the plan for Services is to ensure that they are clear about the priorities set by Members and that corporate level budgeting reflects these priorities. It also allows CMT to monitor how Services are working to achieve these priorities and enables Service Plans to be prepared with confidence that they are reflecting Members' priorities.
- 2.9 Although the main purpose of the plan is as an internal planning document for the Council, it is important that it enables our community planning partners and our communities to see how and what the Council is doing to deliver on the vision for our area and our common objectives, as set out in our Strategic Community Plan. This is particularly critical given the development of the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 2.10 While indications are that, in the first instance, the 2008/09 Single Outcome Agreement can be an agreement between the Scottish Government and the Council only, it is anticipated that because of the close alignment of the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Plan, we will be in a position to draft a SOA that can be endorsed by all community planning partners. This is important in that most of the key outcomes we would hope to achieve over the life of the Corporate Plan will only be delivered by working closely with all such agencies.
- 2.11 On that basis, consultation on the draft Corporate Plan has been carried out with our community planning partners to ensure that it is in line with their aspirations and priorities for the area. A number of helpful comments have been made during the process by a range of organisations including Town Centre Management, Forth Valley Health Board, INEOS, CVS, local businesses and community organisations and these are reflected in the attached draft.

3. CORPORATE PLAN 2008 – 2011

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 is set out in Appendix One of this report. The Plan sets out how the Council area has changed over the last 10 years and the vision for our area. As there are many ways to achieve change, the Council has prioritised its actions under our goals and values.

Goals and Values

- 3.2 The goals, values and priorities contained within the Corporate Plan are aligned with the vision and themes contained within the Strategic Community Plan. In developing the new Corporate Plan, the goals of the Council have been reviewed. The revised goals of the Council are proposed as being:
- Further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy;
 - Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities;
 - Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms; and
 - Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.
- 3.3 The goals are underpinned by our values and our commitment to stimulating partnership working amongst agencies, organisations and citizens. Our core values are:
- Public Service;
 - Performance; and
 - Partnership.
- 3.4 Within the Single Outcome Agreement, we will use our values as key outcomes. In order to embed our values within the organisation, we will develop a number of specific actions. These include:
- Providing information in plain English and in a format understood by our citizens;
 - Reviewing the way we engage with our communities;
 - Implementing our Human Resources Workforce Strategy;
 - Improving our customers' experience of the services they receive; and
 - Modernising the way we deliver services.
- 3.5 The plan then sets out, under each of the revised goals, the key challenges we must address, and then sets our key objectives, critical success factors and strategic actions. In order to develop the SOA, we are proposing to use each of the four priorities under each of the Goals as the basis for our local outcomes.

3.6 The key outcomes for the next four years are:

Further Developing a Thriving, Sustainable and Vibrant Economy

3.7 We recognise the economic changes the area has undergone during the last 10 years. Our priorities set a challenging agenda for the Council in terms of supporting wealth creation through ensuring the right conditions are in place for a thriving business sector, and at the same time making sure we have a skilled workforce to support such business growth.

Therefore our local outcomes are:

- Our area will be recognised as having a culture and ethos of aspiration and ambition;
- The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase;
- The area's workforce will be highly skilled; and
- The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of our local economy.

3.8 To achieve these outcomes we will seek to make progress in a range of areas including:

- Raise educational attainment;
- Improve care facilities for working parents;
- Develop a skills strategy for a competitive workforce;
- Improve transport links; and
- Have an excellent range of business locations.

Continuing to Improve Health, Safety and Wellbeing of Our Citizens and Communities

3.9 The health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities are integral to everything the Council does. We recognise our role in corporate parenting and emergency planning, as well as health promotion and community safety. Within these priorities there is particular emphasis on vulnerable people and providing the necessary interventions that will allow all our communities to benefit from increased health and wellbeing.

Our local outcomes are therefore:

- Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices and lifestyles in order that they can live longer;
- People will have equitable access to local health, support and care;
- Our citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing; and
- Our citizens will be protected.

3.10 To achieve these will we take forward a number of priorities including:

- Provide wrap around family support services;
- Support out looked after children through full time education;

- Identify further areas of service integration with NHS Forth Valley;
- Develop our community warden service; and
- Promote safer routes to schools.

Increasing Our Efforts to Tackle Disadvantage and Discrimination

- 3.11 In tackling disadvantage and discrimination, we must ensure all members of all our communities feel able to play a part in our vision. This includes the youngest and the oldest people in our area. While our area is increasing in prosperity, there are some groups who may require support to fully participate in community life. The priorities noted in the Plan address the inequalities that are still evident in our area.

In order to achieve this, our local outcomes are:

- Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs;
- Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area;
- Vulnerable children will be protected; and
- Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services.

- 3.12 To achieve these we will progress a number of areas including:

- Work with established groups to address issues of discrimination;
- Continue to support older people to live in their own homes and within their own communities;
- Participate in the provision of new social housing;
- Develop plans for our villages;
- Review the Council's approach to corporate parenting; and
- Improve the image of areas of need.

Enhancing and Sustaining an Environment in Which People Want to Live, Work and Visit

- 3.13 The priorities set out under this goal reflect the Council's dual role as a community leader and service provider. While we provide vital services that ensure our environment is of the best quality, we must also ensure that the pressures on our area as it grows do not have a negative impact for future generations.

Our local outcomes are:

- We will be greener;
- We will improve the built environment;
- Our open spaces will be attractive, accessible and safe; and
- Our profile will reflect our area as a destination of choice.

- 3.14 Actions under these outcomes include:

- Promoting state of the art recycling centres and facilities;
- Promoting sustainable procurement;

- Lobbying for improvements to the rail service in the district;
- Implementing our flooding strategy;
- Developing a playground and parks development and maintenance strategy; and
- Increasing the promotion and marketing of our area to tourists.

3.15 The final section in the Plan sets out the key planning processes for the Council, i.e. how we will take these strategic actions through our service planning process, as well as reviewing and reporting on progress against them.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 While it had been hoped that the final Corporate Plan, complete with indicators, could be presented to Members at this stage, this has not proved possible given the emerging national guidance on the Single Outcome Agreement. However, given the development of the Corporate Plan, officers are in a position to ensure that its contents and our key local outcomes and priorities are fully reflected within the SOA.

4.2 It is proposed that the main text of the Corporate Plan be approved by Members and that the draft Single Outcome Agreement, when finalised, is presented to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration at its meeting in April.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 5.1 **Members approve the Corporate Plan as attached; and**
- 5.2 **the draft Single Outcome Agreement is presented to the April meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for approval and subsequent negotiation with the Scottish Government.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 20 February 2008

Ref: ABK0208FC

Contact Name: Fiona Campbell – 01324 506400



Falkirk Council

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011 INTRODUCTION

This is Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan, covering the period from 2008-2011. Since our last plan was published, the Council, working closely with our partners and communities, has made great progress towards the vision of our area as "the place to be". This plan sets out the next stages of this journey and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is our foundation for development over the coming years, reaffirming our commitment to the vision for our area and establishing our priorities for 2008-2011, as well as the actions we will take to achieve them.

The Corporate Plan recognises the radical transformation of the Falkirk Council area over the last decade. We are now one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland, with a growing reputation as an exciting place with enormous possibilities, and as a Council that is prepared to be bold, innovative and ambitious for our communities. It is a time of opportunity for the Council and the area and strong community leadership will be critical in ensuring that we achieve our full potential.

The plan builds on the Council's record of success over the last decade which brought us iconic new buildings, such as The Falkirk Wheel, an exciting strategy to transform our town centres, better housing, good parks and open spaces, new roads, business parks and schools.

The Council is well respected, has a culture of efficiency and continuous improvement and takes its community leadership role very seriously. We have an impressive track record of delivering high quality services, while maintaining the second lowest Council tax in mainland Scotland. We are committed to building on our existing strong local partnerships and making sure our citizens are at the heart of everything we do.

We believe our community now has higher ambition and increased civic pride and we now have a growing external reputation which we will build on as we move forward.

OUR VISION

In partnership with our communities, the Council's vision of the Falkirk Council area is as "the place to be in the third millennium". This vision is set out in the Strategic Community Plan and has been at the forefront during the development of our Corporate Plan. The vision is that:

- ❖ The legacy of our past and the potential of our future are protected.
- ❖ Our area is at the centre of Scotland.
- ❖ Our future is as one of the most culturally diverse and distinct areas in Scotland.
- ❖ Our future has investment in jobs, learning, homes and leisure for all.
- ❖ Our area is **'the place to be'** in the third Millennium.

We believe it is challenging and unique to our area. The Falkirk Council area has strong local communities, each with its own distinctive landmarks, industries, events, achievements and heritage. We had to channel these assets into a cohesive vision, while recognising the individual communities that make up the Falkirk Council area. Along with our partners, we agreed that all our activities should have a clear link with and make a positive contribution to promoting and achieving this long-term vision and this Corporate Plan sets out our priorities for 2008-11.

A commitment to sustainability, equality of opportunity and social inclusion and cohesion is central to our vision. We want to make sure everyone in the area feels part of it, especially those who are most disadvantaged or socially marginalised. Engaging young people positively is one of our top priorities. The Falkirk Council area is home to more young people than most areas in Scotland. They are the future of our area and we want to equip them with the skills, ambition and self believe to realise their potential.

Equally we recognise that in order to have healthy and vibrant communities, we must make sure people of all ages feel part of our vision and our future. This includes our youngest and oldest citizens.

The Council already has a strong track record in establishing innovative and effective partnerships, linked to our strategic priorities, across a range of sectors. We work closely with other public organisations as well as the private sector, involving key stakeholders and the community through initiatives such as the business panel and My Future's in Falkirk and we will enhance this partnership working in the coming years.

We have a firm foundation to build on. The Falkirk Council area is one of the country's fastest growing, more houses are being built, our crime rates are among the lowest in the UK, our clear-up rates are high and we are one of the best connected places in Scotland, with major motorways, excellent rail connections and expanding port facilities at Grangemouth.

In order to achieve our vision we have four goals. These are:

- ❖ **Further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy;**
- ❖ **Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;**

- ❖ Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination;
and
- ❖ Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

Our Values are:

- ❖ **Public Service**
- ❖ **Performance**
- ❖ **Partnership**

In drafting this Corporate Plan, we have had regard to a number of challenges and priorities. These include national strategic priorities. We note that their stated priorities align broadly with our own.

FURTHER DEVELOPING A THRIVING, SUSTAINABLE AND VIBRANT ECONOMY

The Falkirk Council area has undergone a substantial economic change over the last 10 years. The effects of this change could have been devastating but instead presented us with opportunities. Our area is one of the best linked areas in Scotland and we have used this to our advantage for centuries. We must continue to exploit this geographical advantage if our area is to thrive and prosper.

We understand that businesses create jobs and wealth and are the driving force behind any successful economy. A strong partnership with businesses will provide a sound platform for further developing our economic advantages and we are progressing this through our successful business panel.

In order to compete successfully and collaborate with the neighbouring city regions, we must promote ourselves to take maximum advantage of our central geographic location and strong transport links. We will forge new alliances with businesses to deliver an economic infrastructure required to support a vibrant local economy for our area and Scotland as a whole and promote our local tourist products including The Falkirk Wheel and the HELIX.

We also know that in order for our area to have a wealthy and prosperous future we must harness the ambitions and talents of all our citizens and in particular our young people. We must ensure there are exciting future opportunities for people to work in our area and that our young people have the skills and confidence to benefit from these.

Falkirk town centre has always punched above its weight in terms of attracting shoppers to our area. However we recognise all of our town centres are important as a focal point within our communities. They not only provide diverse shopping opportunities but also promote civic pride. We must work with our local businesses and communities to ensure all our town centres not only survive but also thrive.

OUR AREA WILL BE RECOGNISED AS HAVING A CULTURE AND ETHOS OF ASPIRATION AND AMBITION	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Having an excellent business environment;❖ Raising the aspirations of our children and families;❖ Raising the employability of our workforce;❖ Increasing the number of locally developed and incoming businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Working with Forth Valley College to ensure they have a state of the art campus and facilities;❖ Ensuring our Schools are of the highest quality to promote learning and achievement;❖ Continuing to develop our successful business support;❖ Continuing to encourage and facilitate the diversification of the local economy;❖ Increasing entrepreneurship;❖ Increasing levels of employment;❖ Enhancing our tourism product and support services.

THE WEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR AREA WILL INCREASE	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reducing the number of young unemployed adults; ❖ Having fewer people on working age benefits; and ❖ Increasing employment and average wage earnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Encouraging social justice for all including young, elderly, migrant populations; ❖ Supporting individuals to come off working age benefits; ❖ Providing money and debt advice services in conjunction with partners; and ❖ Developing new business support services and means of engaging with the business community.

OUR WORKFORCE WILL BE HIGHLY SKILLED	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing effective teaching and learning; ❖ Providing training opportunities for young people and workless families; ❖ Being an exemplar employer ❖ Ensuring our schools curriculum meets the needs of the local economy and employers; and ❖ Ensuring the best possible start for all children – 0-8 agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving leaver destinations for young people; ❖ Raising education attainment especially of secondary school leavers; ❖ Providing opportunities for people within work to continue to learn; ❖ Having an excellent range of business locations; ❖ Developing a skills strategy for a competitive workforce; and ❖ Improving the range of support and childcare facilities for parents.

THE QUALITY OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE WILL HELP PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Upgrading our town centres; ❖ Developing an excellent transport network; and ❖ Promoting strong public private sector partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring all our town centres benefit from modern communications including wireless networks; ❖ Managing our car parks to maintain the viability of our town centres; ❖ Ensuring a good supply of business properties; ❖ Developing the potential for the growth of Grangemouth Port; ❖ Improving our transport links; and ❖ Promoting the area as a national priority for investment in economic infrastructure.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

The health of the people in our area is improving and has been for the last 10 years. We recognise that ensuring people have the best possible life chances is predicated on good health, safety and wellbeing.

While overall people's health is improving, there are problems associated with ill health that have deep-rooted causes that cannot be solved quickly. Poor health impacts on people's chances of employment, income, socialisation and community participation. Ill health is not a problem solely for the health service. While we must make sure our partners provide the essential services people require when they are unwell, we have a responsibility for supporting and providing opportunities for people to improve their own health through the provision of leisure, sports and social activities.

Everyone wants to feel safe in the area they live in. While the Falkirk Council area is one of the safest in Scotland, we understand our citizens do have concerns about their personal safety, particularly at night. Vandalism, graffiti and other forms of anti-social behaviour have an impact on people's quality of life. As a Council we have a responsibility for making sure people who are victims of such behaviour are protected and listened to, while at the same time ensuring the perpetrators of such crimes understand fully the consequences of their actions.

The structure, geography and economy of our area have also posed some significant risks that we must manage and address with our public and private partners.

Some of our most vulnerable citizens require support and care to stay in their own homes and communities. As our population ages we must ensure our essential care and support services meet the challenges this poses. We also have a key responsibility to ensure our most vulnerable children are protected and thrive.

OUR CITIZENS WILL BE SUPPORTED TO MAKE POSITIVE HEALTH CHOICES AND LIFESTYLES IN ORDER THEY CAN LIVE LONGER	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Offering increased opportunities to participate in physical activity;❖ Reducing harmful and underage substance misuse;❖ Promoting a healthy diet; and❖ Reducing individual stress and therefore the reliance on prescribed drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Providing opportunities to participate in sports, leisure and physical activity in a variety of settings;❖ Offering healthy food choices in all our premises;❖ Taking forward the work of the substance action team;❖ Promoting a good work/ life balance;❖ Ensuring the safety of our estates and green spaces;❖ Continuing to improve our paths network and open spaces; and❖ Further developing our approach to health and wellbeing.

PEOPLE WILL HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LOCAL HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CARE	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing services through local health centres and community hospitals; ❖ Supporting the opening of the new acute hospital; ❖ Improving access to services and facilities for disabled people; and ❖ Ensuring consistent access to children's services at a local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Identifying further areas of service integration with NHS Forth Valley through the Community Health Partnership ❖ Participating in a pilot Social Enterprise Health Trust; ❖ Promoting and supporting the development and delivery of modern facilities for health and social care; ❖ Continuing to improve access to our premises for disabled people; ❖ Ensuring all our schools are health promoting; and ❖ Implementing locality based children's teams.

OUR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN HEALTH AND WELL BEING	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving levels of attendance at school; ❖ Ensuring older people feel supported at the heart of their communities; ❖ Encouraging people to be motivated, involved and empowered; and ❖ Reducing antisocial behaviour and bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing diversionary activities for young people; ❖ Consulting people in order that they can influence decisions on care services; ❖ Supporting people to take more control of their packages of care; ❖ Developing our community wardens services; ❖ Developing community activities that include older people; and ❖ Providing a network of facilities for young people;

OUR CITIZENS WILL BE PROTECTED

This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Ensuring positive outcomes for looked after children;❖ Ensuring civil contingency arrangements are robust;❖ Reducing accidents on our roads;❖ Ensuring our citizens are advised how to minimise their risks;❖ Promoting activities that work across generations; and❖ Ensuring people feel safer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Providing wrap around family support services;❖ Developing a specific retirement community;❖ Developing a therapeutic unit;❖ Further developing our enforcement teams;❖ Supporting our looked after children through full time education;❖ Reducing the contamination of land in our area;❖ Promoting safer routes to schools;❖ Further developing our flood protection arrangements; and❖ Ensuring robust emergency planning arrangements are in place.

INCREASING OUR EFFORTS TO TACKLE DISADVANTAGE AND DISCRIMINATION

Everyone in our area must feel included and play a part in helping achieve our vision. There are many people who do not get the chances and opportunities we should all be able to take for granted due to lack of income, poor health or disability. Equally, some people do not know how to access our services or are disadvantaged by virtue of their lack of skills. To address this we must make sure we provide the support necessary to address disadvantage and discrimination.

The men, women and children who live, work, study in or visit the Falkirk Council area are diverse. They are different ages, abilities, races and ethnic backgrounds, have different sexual orientations and with different faiths. While different groups and their experiences overlap, their ideas about themselves and their communities can be different.

The diversity of our communities is one of our area's greatest assets. We must ensure this strength in diversity is harnessed and everyone can play their part in their individual and our collective communities.

Our area, like many others, has communities that require particular attention. This can be due to historic reasons or can be because they are undergoing change. We must focus on the strengths of such areas and work with communities to ensure they flourish along with the rest of our area. We must make sure we have houses people can afford to buy and rent that are of the highest possible standard.

OUR CITIZENS CONTINUE TO ACCESS CRITICAL SERVICES THAT MEET THEIR NEEDS	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Providing services that promote the interests of vulnerable groups;❖ Positively promoting equality of opportunity across our services;❖ Working with vulnerable and isolated older people to ensure they maintain their links with their local communities; and❖ Supporting people who move into our area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure the voices of vulnerable groups are heard in service design and provision;❖ Working with established groups to address issues of discrimination;❖ Continuing to support older people to live in their own homes and within their own communities; and❖ Providing opportunities for older and younger people to understand each other's lifestyles and points of view.

OUR HOUSING CONTINUES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND MAY WISH TO LIVE IN OUR AREA

This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of affordable housing for young people and families; ❖ Continuing to upgrade our housing so it meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard; ❖ Ensuring the private rented sector meets the needs of some of our most vulnerable communities; ❖ Ensuring the viability of our outlying villages and towns; and ❖ Meeting the needs of homeless people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Participating in the provision of new social housing; ❖ Continuing our investment programme in our housing stock; ❖ Working with private landlords to ensure private tenants have appropriate standards of accommodation that are safe and legal; ❖ Working in partnership to provide new and affordable housing; ❖ Ensuring the provision of a diversity of housing to meet the needs of people with special needs; ❖ Implementing our homelessness strategy; and ❖ Developing plans for our villages.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN WILL BE PROTECTED

This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving the support and nurturing we provide to looked after children; ❖ Ensuring positive life chances for young people in care; ❖ Ensuring as many young people as possible have access to universal services; ❖ Ensuring children, young people and their families feel that they are being dealt with in a seamless manner; and ❖ Providing care for young people within our area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reviewing the Council's approach to corporate parenting; ❖ Reviewing the provision of residential care used by our young people; ❖ Implementing a new multi-agency locality model that will provide continuity of service to young people and their families; ❖ Increasing young people's confidence and self esteem; ❖ Developing services for young people with a disability; and ❖ Reducing the potential for our young people to develop harmful lifestyles.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT FROM BETTER SERVICES	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Decreasing the opportunity gap between our communities;❖ Improving the employment opportunities for people living in our areas of need;❖ Improving the health and well-being of people in our areas of need;❖ Reducing the stigmatisation of greatest areas of need; and❖ Making our most disadvantaged communities safer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Working in partnership to target appropriate services on areas of disadvantage;❖ Supporting the health service to provide services to our most disadvantaged areas;❖ Improving the image of areas of needs;❖ Working with our tenants and residents to improve our housing estates;❖ Developing housing and community regeneration strategies in identified priority areas; and❖ Ensuring benefits and money advice is readily available to those who may need this service.

ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

The Council has a responsibility for protecting and enhancing the environment in which people live, work and visit. This is against a background of an area that is growing with pressure to build new homes, increasing numbers of visitors, increased use of our roads and also demand for land to develop shops and businesses.

Our rich natural, social and cultural heritage must be preserved and valued by our citizens and visitors. Our area must be attractive, welcoming and of a quality our citizens expect and are proud of. We must build on our area's growing reputation as a place to visit and continue to surprise and delight our visitors with the quality of attractions on offer. At the same time, the open spaces enjoyed by our communities must be attractive and welcoming for locals and visitors alike.

Our transport network must support the growth in our area, while minimising the impact this has on the quality of our environment.

To achieve our vision, we must protect our environment for future generations. We all have a responsibility for promoting actions that minimise our impact on global warming. The Council not only has a role in the responsible disposal of waste, but also in utilising our own resources more responsibly.

WE WILL BE GREENER	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Promoting sustainable development;❖ Reducing energy use;❖ Reducing carbon emissions;❖ Reducing the amount of waste generated in the Falkirk Council area;❖ Exceeding national waste recycling targets;❖ Tackling climate change; and❖ Protecting the natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Reducing the Council's carbon emissions by 20%;❖ Enforcing building standards;❖ Providing state of the art recycling centres and facilities;❖ Encouraging the reduction in unnecessary packaging;❖ Increasing public awareness of recycling and other 'green' initiatives;❖ Protecting the natural environment through adherence to the development plan; and❖ Promoting sustainable procurement.

WE WILL IMPROVE THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Implementing more effective planning processes;❖ Improving transport links; and❖ Maintaining and improving our infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Adopting sustainable design principles for the Council's property and facilities projects;❖ Implementing our roads maintenance strategy;❖ Exploring community transport opportunities and rebuilding the Falkirk bus station;❖ Lobbying for improvements to the rail service in the district; and❖ Improving the standard of our roads network including promoting key strategic links.

OUR OPEN SPACES WILL BE ATTRACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE

This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Maintaining the balance between open spaces and new developments;❖ Managing our risk from flooding;❖ Improving the cleanliness of our area; and❖ Improving our open spaces and parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Implementing our open spaces strategy;❖ Developing a play ground and parks development and maintenance strategy;❖ Implementing our flooding strategy;❖ Continuing our approach to litter through prevention, education and enforcement; and❖ Developing our HELIX project and other parks projects.

OUR PROFILE WILL REFLECT OUR AREA AS A DESTINATION OF CHOICE

This will be demonstrated by :

- ❖ Ensuring a good range of facilities and accommodation are available to visitors;
- ❖ Ensuring the promotion of the area's unique heritage and culture;
- ❖ Maintaining and developing high profile national events;
- ❖ Developing high-quality visitor attractions; and
- ❖ Engaging our communities in their local heritage and culture.

We will achieve this by :

- ❖ Developing a cultural master plan;
- ❖ Increasing the promotion and marketing of our area for tourists;
- ❖ Increasing and developing the range of cultural events and activities;
- ❖ Capitalising on potential opportunities presented by the World Heritage Status of the Antonine Wall;
- ❖ Continuing to work with British Waterways to promote the Canal and Falkirk Wheel;
- ❖ Continuing to work with Historic Scotland, VisitScotland and others to promote our historic buildings and heritage; and
- ❖ Working with British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust to deliver the HELIX project.

KEY VALUES

The values of the Council set out how we conduct our business with our communities but also importantly with our employees and other partners. Our values set the culture and ethos for our organisation and must be demonstrated in the way we work and the way we deliver services.

Our values are:

Public Service

- ❖ Fairness;
- ❖ Listening and responding;
- ❖ Being open, accessible and accountable; and
- ❖ Promoting our services using plain English as far as possible.

Performance

- ❖ Providing quality;
- ❖ Achieving value for money;
- ❖ Promoting innovation; and
- ❖ Seeking continuous improvement.

Partnership

- ❖ Effective communication;
- ❖ Sharing decision making; and
- ❖ Encouraging partnership.

We are committed to promoting **public service** by:

- Becoming the employer of choice in the local area;
- Ensuring we have the necessary qualified and motivated workforce to meet our service delivery priorities;
- Ensuring our customers have information they need to access services and it is easily understood;
- Ensuring we continue to understand and meet the needs of our customers; and
- Working with other public sector agencies to provide seamless services.

We will achieve this by:

- Implementing our Human Resources Workforce Strategy;
- Working with our employees and trade unions;
- Continuing to develop our management and leadership training;
- Continuing to survey our customers to find out their views;
- Responding to public feedback; and
- Working with our partners to review the services we provide.

We are committed to continuing to improve our **performance** by;

- Being the provider of choice;
- Continuing to deliver the best services that are value for money;
- Continuing to deliver efficiencies within our services;

- Continuing to modernise the way we deliver services;
- Ensuring continuous improvement in the quality of services we deliver; and
- Reporting to our customers on how we are performing; and
- Maintaining and enhancing our asset base.

We will achieve this by:

- Delivering the second phase of our approach to customer contact;
- Continuing to expand the role of our customer contact centre;
- Developing a quality management framework;
- Reviewing our Public Performance Reporting Framework; and
- Implementing “Better Assets, Better Services”, the corporate asset management plan.

We are committed to working in **partnership** by;

- Providing leadership to our community planning partnership;
- Continuing to develop and support our approach to community planning;
- Working with local communities to develop local ward service delivery plans;
- Delivering on our commitment to community engagement;
- Supporting the community and voluntary sector to deliver on common priorities; and
- Working with other public sector agencies to develop common mechanisms for consultation.

We will do this by:

- Reviewing our mechanisms for community engagement;
- Supporting the implementation of the community planning performance management structure;
- Supporting local community planning; and
- Establishing a consultation framework.

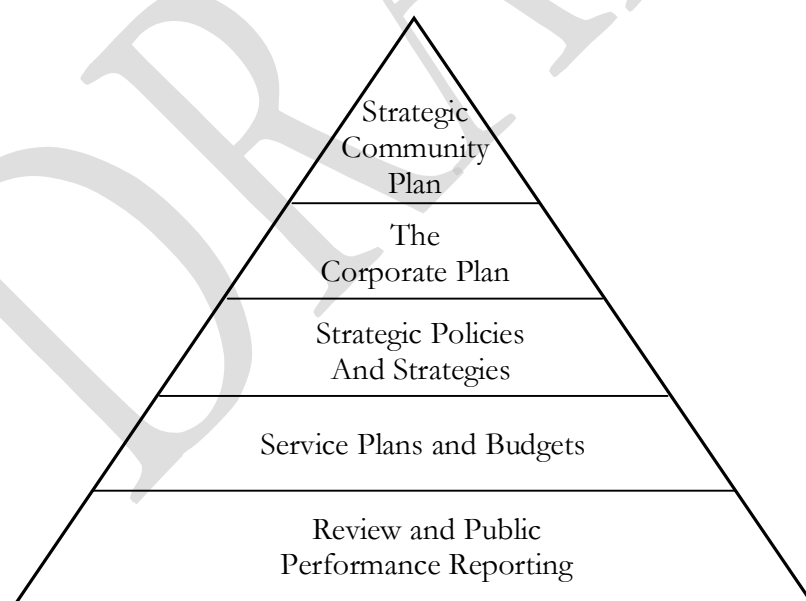
MAKING IT HAPPEN

We have set our priorities within this plan and now we have to “make it happen”. To enable us to plan effectively, we have implemented a Strategic Planning and Management System (SPMS). The Strategic Planning and Management System relates our key priorities to what we are able to achieve with the resources we have. This planning system notes the different levels of policy development at the overall corporate / strategic level. Alongside this planning, development and review framework our approach to best value sets out a clear distinction between operational management and strategic management.

Review

The Corporate Plan, policies, strategies and Service Plans will set a clear agenda for the Council. We will regularly review our achievements to ensure we are doing what we said we were going to do. This review will be undertaken at three levels. The overall purpose of review is to learn from previous successes and failures, to perform better and to feedback into the Strategic Planning and Management System next year. The three different levels of review are:

- Review of achievement of the Corporate Plan;
- Review of the development and implementation of our policies and strategies; and
- Review of implementation of Service Plans and capital and revenue budgets.



All our policies will have a strategy or detailed action / implementation plan for the following year. The implementation plan will be drawn up between all those Services and our partners who have a key role and responsibility for delivery of the policy issue.

Falkirk Council's strategic community plan sets the vision and key priorities for all agencies within the Council area. This is a partnership document and sets out longer-term priorities.

Influencing the Council's Corporate Plan

This contains **what** we want to achieve – our goals - and **how** we want to achieve these - our values. It sets out our key priorities for the coming year and beyond. This is informed by the strategic community plan and the vision and priorities contained therein. It also takes account of the Administration's manifesto and their aspirations for this area.

Leading to policies

The goals and more detailed key priorities are developed through our specific policies. Some policies may either be very specific to one issue or service of the Council or may have an effect across all our services and our area.

Leading to strategies

Strategies underpin our policies and identify a programme of action across the Council to ensure their implementation. These are not wish lists but are based on our resources and our capacity to deliver. We need to be very clear and honest about what we can achieve. We cannot make everything a priority if we want to achieve real and lasting change. Strategies are often developed by a number of agencies in support of a joint policy or aspiration.

Leading to service plans

Service plans are action programmes for each of our seven Services. Each plan identifies clear service objectives, which contribute to the achievement of our goals and values. Service plans also identify the key tasks that each service requires to undertake to achieve its objectives and the way it will manage the service in line with our values. Service plans will be produced each year. Services must be clear and realistic about what can and cannot be achieved.

Leading to budgets

Our capital and revenue budgets are the financial plans we use to deliver services and achieve our goals and values. The allocation of money in budgets will be determined by what we plan to achieve. In effect the way we spend the money in our budgets will be determined by our policies and priorities. Decisions about the allocation of money and resources will be guided by the SPMS process.

Then we review

Our Corporate Plan, policies, strategies and service plans make specific proposals about what we want to achieve. We must review progress to determine if we have achieved our stated priorities. It is important that we learn from our successes and failures so that we can improve our performance in the future. The results of the review will also influence the key priorities in the next plan.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 MARCH 2008
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At recent meetings of the Education and Leisure Committee and the Regulatory Committee held on 29 January 2008 and 30 January 2008 respectively, Members considered proposals to change the start time of meetings.

2. EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Report considered by the Education and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2008 is attached as Appendix 1. The Committee agreed that the proposal to change the commencement time of the Committee be referred to Working Group on Council Services and Structures as part of its wider deliberations. The Committee also agreed that, if it was not possible for the Working Group to report back to the March meeting of Council, then the matter be referred directly to Council for consideration. At the time of writing, the Working Group has not met and therefore the matter is presented to Council for consideration.
- 2.2 The proposal considered by the Education and Leisure Committee is for future meetings to commence at 9.30 am.

3. REGULATORY COMMITTEE

- 3.1 At its meeting on 30 January 2008, the Regulatory Committee also considered a Report proposing that future meetings commence at 9.30am. A copy of the report considered by the Regulatory Committee is attached at Appendix 2. The Committee agreed, following division, that future meetings of the Regulatory Committee commence at 9.30am with this being referred to Council for approval under the terms of the Council's Standing Orders.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Council considers the new commencement time of 9.30am for future meetings of the Education and Leisure Committee and Regulatory Committee.**

.....
Acting Director of Law and Administration
Date: 19 February 2008

Contact Officer: Iain Tough

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506110 and ask for Iain Tough.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES: ALL OF SCOTLAND GROUP 2014 and FIFE AND FORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 MARCH 2008
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to advise Council (a) that CoSLA has invited the nomination of one Elected Member to be appointed to a newly established body named the All of Scotland 2014 Group, and (b) that Councillor Nicol has intimated his resignation from the Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority (CJA).

2. ALL OF SCOTLAND 2014 GROUP

- 2.1 Following the selection of Glasgow as the Host City for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, CoSLA has agreed to establish the All of Scotland 2014 Group. The Group will report directly to CoSLA's Community Well-being and Safety Executive Group and Leaders Group as appropriate. The remit of the Group is:-
- (1) to co-ordinate the views of local government in Scotland on the potential benefits and legacies for Scotland from 2014;
 - (2) to have an ongoing dialogue with the Scottish Government and key national agencies such as **sportscotland**, **visitscotland**, Event Scotland and Creative Scotland (once established) to help inform those views, and assess how 2014 will shape the development, resourcing and implementation of various national strategies and targets for sport, tourism, events, culture and volunteering;
 - (3) to co-ordinate CoSLA's response to key Government policy statements and consultation exercises related to 2014 including the forthcoming publication of a consultation paper on the Benefits and Legacies from 2014, and
 - (4) to keep CoSLA informed of progress with the preparation for the Games and opportunities for local authorities to become directly involved in specific initiatives such as the 2008 Commonwealth Sports Development Conference, the "Adopt a Country" initiative, and pre Games training camps.
- 2.2 Membership of the Group will consist of Chief Executive Officers of appropriate national agencies and one elected member from each Scottish Local Authority.
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Group is scheduled for Tuesday 11 March 2008 and it expected to meet 4-5 times a year.

3. FIFE AND FORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

- 3.1 The Council has 3 places (and 3 named substitute places) on the Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority (CJA). At its Statutory meeting on 18 May 2007, the Council agreed that places on the CJA be allocated on the following basis:-

Labour 1
SNP 1
1 Conservative **or**
1 Independent **or**
the Independent member not aligned to any Group

- 3.2 The Council is currently represented by Councillors McNeill, McNally and Nicol with Councillors Blackwood, Meiklejohn and Patrick being the named substitute members.

- 3.3 Councillor Nicol has now intimated his resignation from the CJA. In accordance with the earlier decision of Council, the vacancy is available to one member from the Conservative Group, Independent Group or Councillor Spears.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Council considers:-

- (1) the appointment of a Member to CoSLA's All of Scotland 2014 Group, and
- (2) the appointment of a Member to the vacant position on the Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority (CJA)

.....
Acting Director of Law and Administration

Date: 27 February 2008

Contact Officer: Iain Tough

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506110 and ask for Iain Tough.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: FIRST PERIODICAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 MARCH 2008
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the meeting of Falkirk Council held on 5 December 2007, Members gave consideration to a Report advising of the First Review of the Constituency Boundaries for the Scottish Parliament and outlining the Review process in advance of the Boundary Commission for Scotland publishing its provisional proposals in early 2008.
- 1.2 The Commission published its provisional proposals for revised constituencies for public consultation on 14 February 2008, advising that the consultation period would last for one month, thereby concluding on 14 March 2008.
- 1.3 The purpose of this Report is to notify Members of the proposals for the area comprising Falkirk Council, to provide details on the consultation process and to recommend that officers respond to the Commission on behalf of the Council.

2. THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Commission proposes that the area comprising Falkirk Council shall be divided into two county constituencies for the Scottish Parliament, with the undernoted names and extents:-

Constituency	Designation	July 2007 electorate	Description
East Falkirk	County Constituency	57,550	The electoral wards in Falkirk Council area numbered 1, 2, 4 (part), 7 (part) 8 (part), 9.
West Falkirk	County Constituency	56,150	The electoral wards in Falkirk Council area numbered 3, 4 (part), 5, 6, 7 (part), 8 (part).

- 2.2 Members are advised that, in the Falkirk Council area, the electorate is 113,700, which gives an entitlement to two constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes that the county constituencies are named East Falkirk and West Falkirk (currently Falkirk East and Falkirk West) with the electorate being as noted above for each constituency.
- 2.3 The Commission follows the established practice of publishing provisional proposals without prior consultation with local authorities and other interested bodies, formulating the provision proposals using all information available to it but without being influenced by any particular view point from external bodies. These provisional proposals are now made available for public comment and consultation, as outlined in Section 3 below.
- 2.4 When creating its provisional proposals for constituencies, the Commission used the following principles:-
- Constituencies will be wholly contained within a single Council area, wherever practicable
 - The Commission will try to recognise existing community ties
 - Local geographies of the area will be taken into consideration, for example transport links, electoral wards and existing constituency boundaries
 - Special geographical considerations will be considered where appropriate
- 2.5 The current Review was announced on 3 July 2007 and the electoral roll in force on that date has been used when calculating electoral numbers for proposed constituencies. The Scotland Act 1998, as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, requires the Boundary Commission to submit its first report the Secretary of State not later than 30 June 2010.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 A copy of the statutory notice concerning the provisional proposals has been published in the Falkirk Herald and Bo'ness Journal. In addition, a copy of the notice, press release of 14 February, maps illustrating the proposals and the Commission's descriptive booklet for the Review can be inspected at the following locations:-

Falkirk Council, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk
Falkirk Library, Hope Street, Falkirk
Library Service, Victoria Buildings, Queen Street, Falkirk
Bo'ness Library, Scotland Close, Bo'ness
Denny Library, Church Walk, Denny
Bonnybridge Library, Bridge Street, Bonnybridge
Larbert Library, Main Street, Stenhousemuir
Slamannan Library, The Cross, Slamannan
Grangemouth Library, Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth
One Stop Shop, 308 Main Street, Camelon
One Stop Shop, Dawson Centre, David's Loan, Bainsford

- 3.2 The Statutory Notice, maps and descriptive booklet are also available on the Commission's website at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

- 3.3 Representations on the proposals are invited to be submitted to the Commission by 14 March 2008 in writing, by e-mail or fax. Contact details have been made available to all elected Members and can also be found on the Commission's website.

4. NEXT STAGES OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 4.1 In the event that representations are made to the Boundary Commission objecting to its provisional proposals, received from either from a local authority for part or all of the area of the affected constituency or from 100 or more parliamentary electors for the affected constituency, the Commission requires to hold a local inquiry. The inquiry is conducted by an Assistant Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland. While no statutory procedure is prescribed for the conduct of the local inquiry, its purpose is to:-
- hear local opinions
 - hear criticisms of or support for the provisional proposals
 - receive counter-proposals
 - enable everyone who wishes to comment on these or on the Boundary Commission's proposals to do so
- 4.2 Following the inquiry, the Assistant Commissioner reports in writing directly to the Boundary Commission and is entitled to suggest amendments or alterations to the Commission's proposals or to substitute different proposals if these appear to command wider acceptance than the Commission's original proposals. A copy of the report is made available for public inspection in the same way as the provisional proposals have been and is also made available on the Commission's website.
- 4.3 Where there has been no local inquiry, the Boundary Commission will consider any representations received and make amendments to its provisional proposals that it considers necessary. Where a local inquiry has been held, the Commission will consider the Assistant Commissioner's report and the matters discussed at the inquiry together with any relevant information and make any amendments to its provisional proposals that it considers necessary.
- 4.4 If the Commission decides to alter its provisional proposals, the revised recommendations are published in the same way as the provisional proposals have been, with a consultation period of one month to invite further representations.
- 4.5 Any representations received by the Boundary Commission on the revised recommendations will be considered and, where the Commission determines to modify the revised recommendations before finally submitting them to the Secretary of State for Scotland, these will be published and representations invited once again. The final recommendations will be submitted by the Commission in report form to the Secretary of State for Scotland who is subsequently responsible for laying the report before Parliament and submitting a draft Order in Council giving effect to the report's recommendations. The draft Order in Council will be considered by both Houses of Parliament and, once agreed, submitted to Her Majesty in Council. The resulting Order in Council providing the new constituencies and regions comes into operation from the next general election to the Scottish Parliament following the making of the Order.

5. The Council's response

- 5.1** Minimal change to the existing constituencies is proposed in the Falkirk Council area with the two new constituencies having almost identical boundaries to the existing ones. On that basis, it is recommended that the Council respond to the Commission with the suggestion that the names of the two Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies in the Falkirk Council area retain the names Falkirk East and Falkirk West, and that the names are not as proposed by the Commission.
- 5.2** Although the boundaries are almost identical to the existing Scottish Parliamentary Constituency boundaries, three small areas have been identified where the proposed boundaries lie very close to the boundaries of the multi-member wards which came into effect in May 2007 and where a slight amendment to the proposed boundaries of the Scottish Parliamentary constituencies would bring them into line with the boundaries of the multi-member wards. In only one case would any electors be affected by this change.
- 5.3** These suggested amendments are shown in the maps in the Annex to this report and are described as follows:
- (i) Rough Castle area – the boundary between East Falkirk and West Falkirk to be amended to match the boundary between Ward 5 and Ward 7 – shaded areas as shown. No electors affected;
 - (ii) Larbert/Stenhousemuir area - the boundary between East Falkirk and West Falkirk to be amended to match the boundary between Ward 4 and Ward 5 – shaded areas as shown. No electors affected. Note that this map also shows one of the two changes to the boundaries between the current and the proposed constituencies – no electors are affected; and
 - (iii) Grangemouth area - the boundary between East Falkirk and West Falkirk to be amended to match the boundary between Ward 6 and Ward 8 – shaded areas as shown. In making this amendment, the electors in Newlands Cottage (currently two) would be moved from the proposed West Falkirk to East Falkirk constituency. However, this would mean that they would remain in the constituency in which they are currently located.
Note that this map also shows one of the two changes to the boundaries between the current and the proposed constituencies.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are requested to note:-

- (i) the provisional proposals for the Scottish Parliament constituencies within the Falkirk Council area, as outlined within the body of the report and as detailed on the maps available for inspection at the locations listed in paragraph 3.1 and on the Boundary Commission's website;
- (ii) the details of the consultation and Review processes; and
- (iii) that further update reports will be submitted to Council as the Review progresses.

6.2 Members are requested:-

- (i) to authorise officers to respond to the Commission on behalf of the Council as follows:-
 - (a) that the names of the current constituencies i.e. Falkirk East and Falkirk West, be retained; and
 - (b) that the boundary between the proposed East Falkirk and West Falkirk be amended as shown on the attached maps to match the boundaries of the multi-member wards which came into effect in May 2007, noting that only two electors would be affected by this proposed change, and
- (ii) to notify the Chief Executive of any additional comments on the proposals by 12 March 2008 for inclusion in the Council's submission within the statutory timescale.



.....
Chief Executive

Date: 21 February 2008

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Press announcement by the Boundary Commission for Scotland issued on 3 July 2007.
2. Report to Falkirk Council on 5 December 2007 – First Periodical Review of the Constituencies for the Scottish Parliament
3. Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Chief Executive, with enclosures (maps, Boundary Commission news release, descriptive booklet and CD-rom)

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01324 506111 and ask for Dale Robb.

Proposed boundary of Scottish Parliamentary constituencies and suggested amendments Grangemouth area



Falkirk Council

East Falkirk

Ward 2

Ward 6

West Falkirk

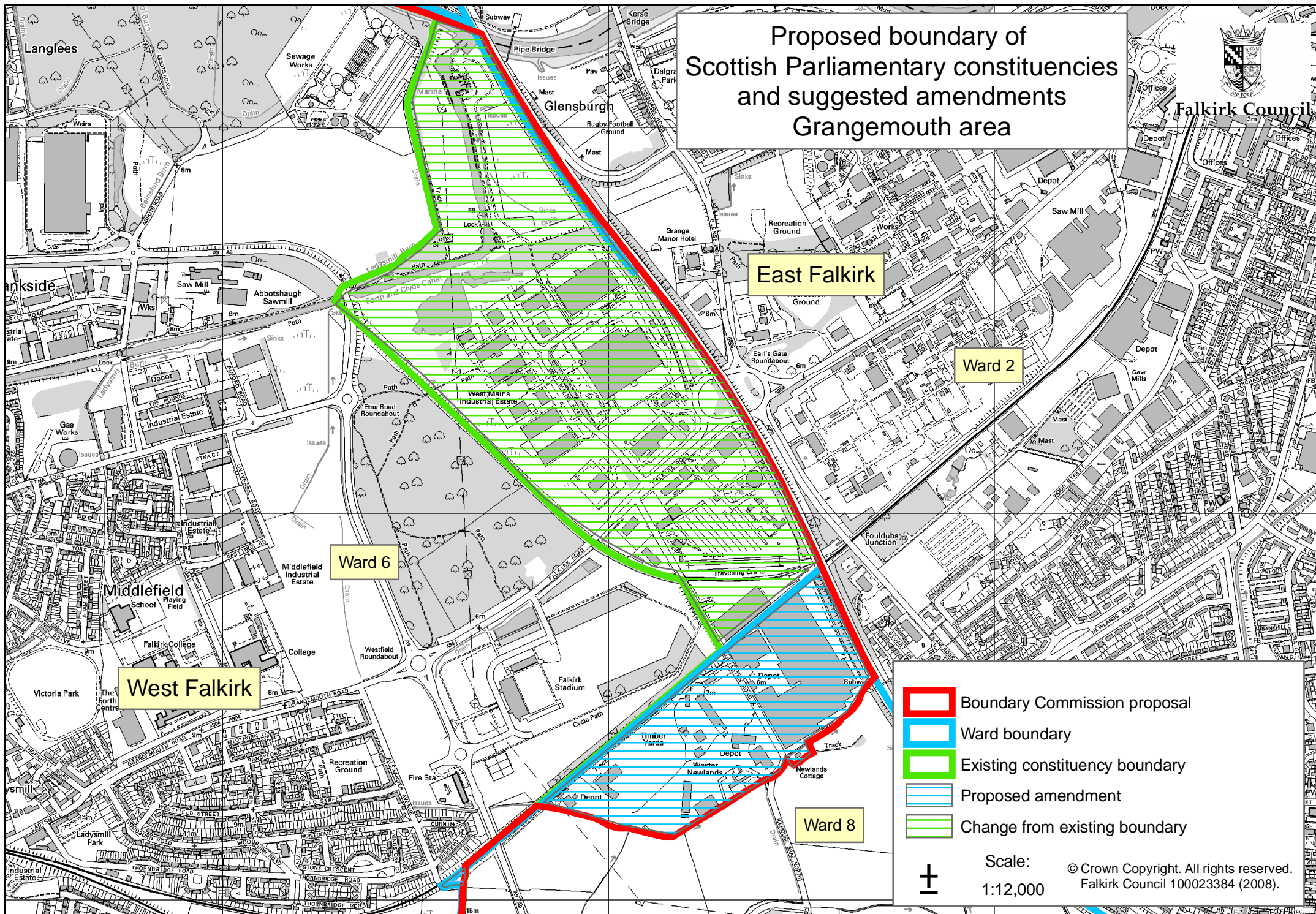
Ward 8

- Boundary Commission proposal
- Ward boundary
- Existing constituency boundary
- Proposed amendment
- Change from existing boundary



Scale:
1:12,000

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Falkirk Council 100023384 (2008).



Proposed boundary of Scottish Parliamentary constituencies and suggested amendment Larbert/Stenhousemuir area



East Falkirk

Ward 4

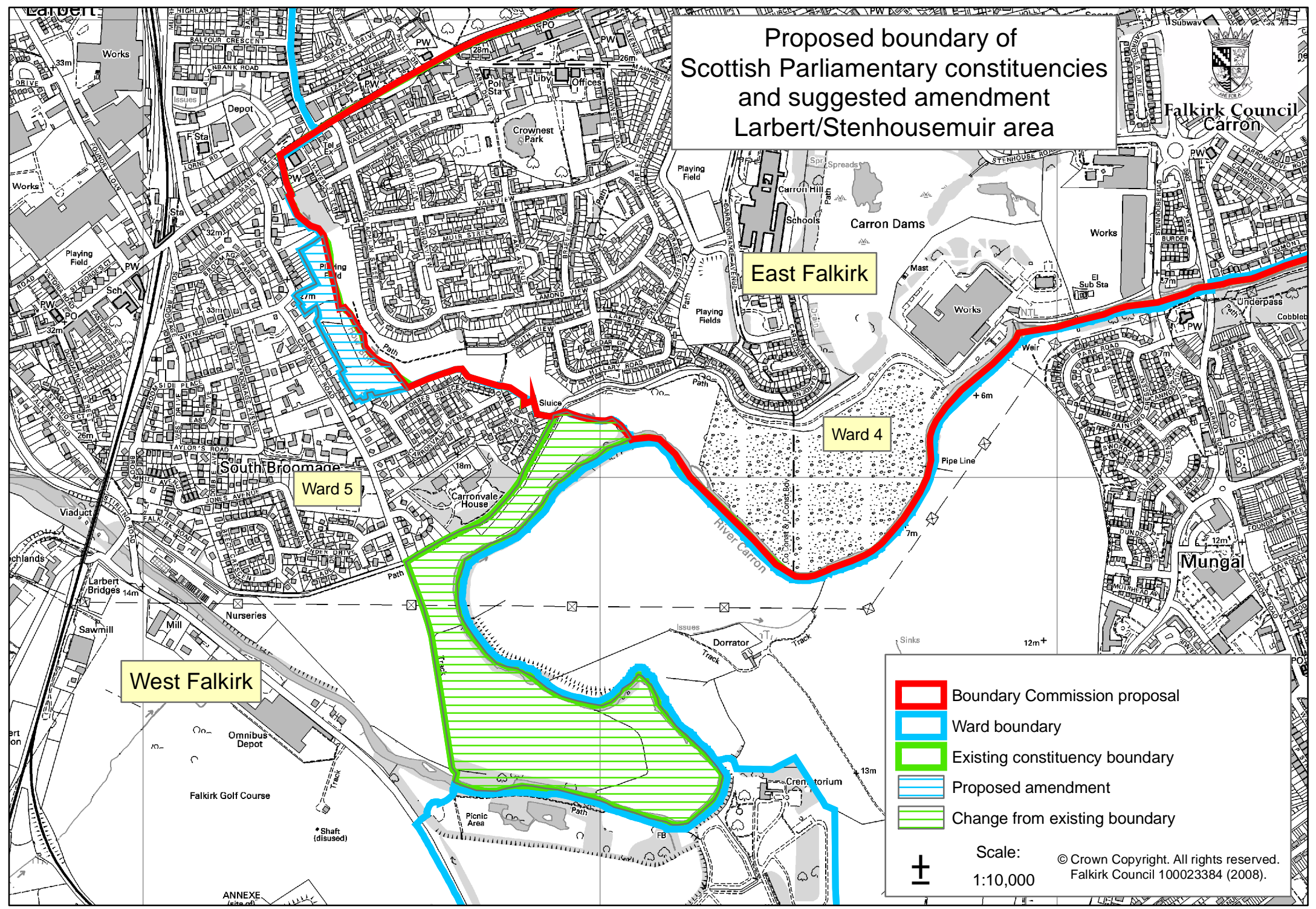
Ward 5

West Falkirk

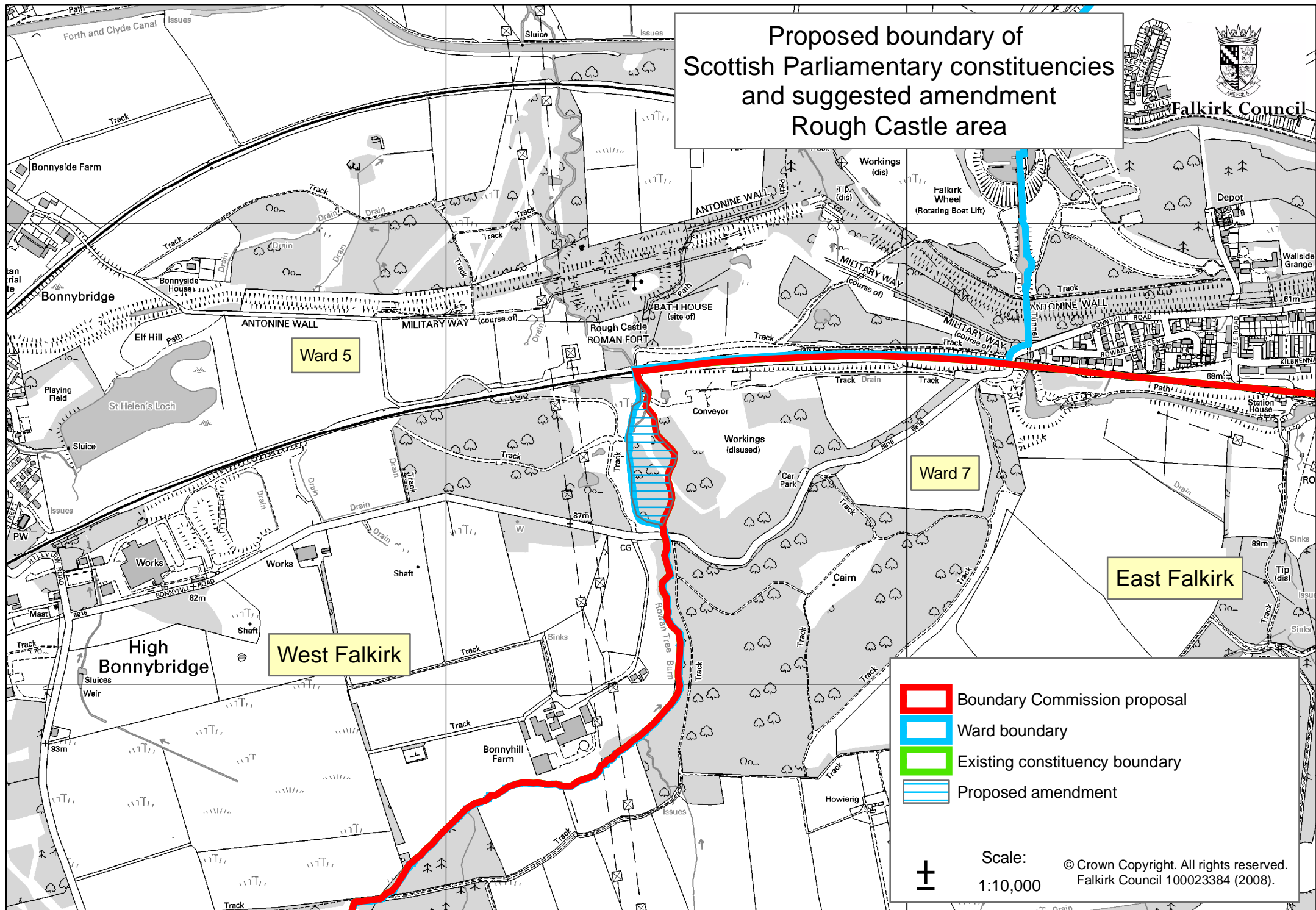
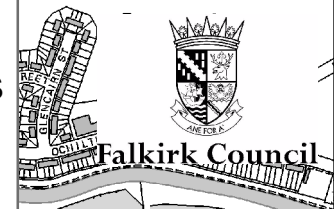
- Boundary Commission proposal
- Ward boundary
- Existing constituency boundary
- Proposed amendment
- Change from existing boundary

Scale: 1:10,000

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Falkirk Council 100023384 (2008).



Proposed boundary of Scottish Parliamentary constituencies and suggested amendment Rough Castle area



- Boundary Commission proposal
- Ward boundary
- Existing constituency boundary
- Proposed amendment



Scale:
1:10,000

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Falkirk Council 100023384 (2008).

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: EXECUTION OF DEEDS
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 MARCH 2008
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Deeds shown in the Appendix to this Report have been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council notes the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds listed in the Appendix.

.....
Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 18 February 2008

Contact Officer: Iain Tough (Tel: 01324 506110)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX 1**AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and**

Baum Hart & Partners
Baum Hart & Partners

Software Licence Agreement
Software Licence Agreement

CHARGING ORDER by FALKIRK COUNCIL

M Gusz and M H Gusz

Margaret Macdonald Denholm
J McColl and E S Perry or McColl

4 Muirhall Place, Muirhall Road,
Larbert
67 Dollar Avenue, Falkirk
104 Oswald Avenue, Grangemouth

CONTRACT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

Stellex Limited

School Kitchen Equipment

DEED OF POSTPONEMENT amongst FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

Preferred Mortgages Limited

6 Broadgate, London

DEED OF POSTPONEMENT by FALKIRK COUNCIL relative to the Standard Security in favour of:-

Karen Duncanson

4 Brookside, Victoria Place, Brightons,
Falkirk

DISCHARGE by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

D S Mitchell and D R Mitchell
A McCallum
R Miles and B Miles
D Skinner and J Skinner

3 Castle Crescent, Torwood, Larbert
1 Ballinkier Avenue, Banknock
22 Gateside Avenue, Bonnybridge
9 Skaithmuir Avenue, Carronshore

DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

N Mackay
A Fleming
P Cole and F Cole
T Gow and D D Horne
J K McAteer and J W McAteer
J M Whelan and W G Whelan
B Kemp
C H M Marshall
D Mitchell
Y J Furby
M Smith

26 Letham Terrace, Letham
99 Wall Street, Falkirk
37 St Giles Square, Falkirk
60 George Street, Grangemouth
3 Linden Avenue, Dunipace
22 River Street, Falkirk
38 Gairdoch Drive, Carronshore
1 Rosemead Terrace, California
63 Hawley Road, Falkirk
4 Foundry Street, Falkirk
15 Loanhead Avenue, Dennyloanhead

SP Distribution Ltd
M Johnston

M W Chapman

W L Rogers
R & L Properties No. 1 Limited

C Fotheringham and A E Fotheringham
P Mitchell and H Mitchell
P Derrick and C Derrick
C Webster
M Scott
A Kemp and E Kemp
T Pollock
M P G McLean
I Campbell

J McLuckie
J Murrie and Janet Murrie
G K Miller
D Phillips
C M Sneddon or McIntosh and C McIntosh
J W Findlay and E A Findlay
W Buchanan and J B J Buchanan
J Kelly and R E S Kelly
A E Fullard
D A Graham
C Reid and G McDermott
E McColl
M Parry and S Parry
W C Gyan
A P Black and M Black
D E Carter
A G Walker
W J Craft
D Ramsay
J Riddell
A C Guthrie
A McIntosh and P McIntosh
A Robertson
C M Anderson and D Anderson
M A Mackie
I Doudie
R W J Dewar
S E Lawless
B R Sneddon
J Fish

M Rutherford
M Gaitens and M Gaitens
H Robb

Substation at Wood Street, Grangemouth
8 Woodhill Court, Grangemouth

48 Gairdoch Drive, Carronshore

16 North Street, Falkirk
Land at Avongrange Arms, Kersiebank
Avenue, Grangemouth

25 Victoria Place, Brightons
12 Ash Grove, Westquarter
38 Kerse Gardens, Falkirk
31 South Marshall Street, Grangemouth
44 Marshall Tower, Falkirk
93 Burnhead Road, Larbert
53 Skaithmuir Crescent, Carronshore
463 King Street, Stenhousemuir
113 sqm or thereby at Old Redding Road,
Laurieston
30 Balquhatstone Crescent, Slamannan
3 Brodick Place, Falkirk
15 Wilson Avenue, Polmont
88 South Green Drive, Airth
5 Forgie Crescent, Maddiston
16 Birnie Well Road, Slamannan
15 Dunure Crescent, Bonnybridge
135 Cumbrae Drive, Falkirk
21 Blinkbonny Road, Falkirk
2 Poplar Street, Grangemouth
67 Kirkwood Avenue, Redding
116 Gairdoch Street, Falkirk
50 Bruce Drive, Stenhousemuir
7 Muirfield Road, Stenhousemuir
74 Kilbrennan Drive, Falkirk
11 Hookney Terrace, Stoneywood
14 Norwood Avenue, Bonnybridge
2 Haining Terrace, Whitecross
9 Crawford Square, Airth
93 High Street, Bonnybridge
53 Main Street, Carronshore
36 Jessfield Place, Bo'ness
1 Almond Street, Grangemouth
45 Burnside Place, Carron
8 Mount Bartholomew, Bonnybridge
13C South Street, Bo'ness
1 Oakbank Crescent, Westquarter
77 Thornbridge Road, Falkirk
26 Amulree Place, Bo'ness
159 Grahamsdyke Street, Laurieston,
Falkirk
4 Deanfield Drive, Bo'ness
44 Auchincloch Drive, Banknock
4 Charlotte Dundas Court, Grangemouth

J B Ramsay
H S Dalrymple
A Blackadder and S Blackadder
J Rafferty
G Lawrence

G Moody
T A Young and S A Urquhart
J Stewart-Bollen
G Bayne and L Bayne
DM McCroary
W Fotheringham
A-M Morris
R Straiton
I Bell
M Coll and J Coll
K Paterson
A Hill
R Buchanan
A Emmerson & G A M Howitt

3 Lime Street, Grangemouth
12 Lochhead Avenue, Denny
40 Mariner Road, Falkirk
31 Portal Road, Grangemouth
0.245 ha of ground at Creran Drive,
Dennyloanhead
52 Burnbank Road, Grangemouth
24 Marmion Street, Falkirk
19 Garry Place, Falkirk
38 Church Street, Stenhousemuir
26 Garry Place, Falkirk
29 Spey Court, Grangemouth
7 Alexander Avenue, Grangemouth
15 Victoria Place, Brightons
18 Inchkeith Place, Falkirk
13 Laurel Grove, Westquarter
8 Balmoral Place, Stenhousemuir
12 Avontoun Crescent, Whitecross
23 Holyrood Place, Stenhousemuir
41 Deanfield Crescent, Bo'ness

LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

QC Supplies Ltd

BSH Ltd

Doosan Babcock Energy Ltd

The Church of Scotland General Trustees
Powdrake Servicentre Limited

Bowhouse Bakery Ltd
Grangemouth Golf Club

Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to
Children
Eezee Limited

Office Suite 3.23, The Forum, Callendar
Business Park, Falkirk
15 Powdrake Industrial Estate,
Grangemouth
7, 8 & 9 Powdrake Industrial Estate,
Grangemouth
93.7m at Kirkwood Avenue, Redding
1 & 2 Powdrake Industrial Estate,
Grangemouth
Unit 5, Bowhouse Square, Grangemouth
First floor and part of the ground floor of
the Grangemouth Golf Club Clubhouse
Suites 1, 2, 3 & 16 Melville Street, Falkirk
6 Castle Court, Bankside Industrial
Estate, Falkirk

MINUTE of AGREEMENT among:-

Falkirk Council, Avondale Environmental Ltd and HSBC
Bank plc

Avonbank Quarry

Falkirk Council, Cala Homes (West) Ltd and National
House Building Control

Bellsdyke Road (Sites 1 & 2),
Larbert

MINUTE of AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

Bonaly Properties Limited	Subjects at East Pier Street, Bo'ness
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc	Automated Bollard System at Brockville Park, Falkirk
Antonine Developments Limited	Housing Development at Falkirk Road, Bonnybridge
J R Johnston Developments Limited	18-20 Bank Street, Falkirk
Thistle Hydraulics Ltd	22-23 Winchester Avenue, Denny
William Clark	17 Main Street, Redding
National Playing Fields Association	Crownest Park, Stenhousemuir
D L Munro	Two plots or areas of ground at Glenbervie House, Larbert
Lochgreen Playgroup	24A Slamannan Road, Falkirk
Manor Forrest Limited	44-46 Broomhill Road, High Bonnybridge, Bonnybridge
SD Russell and A Russell and AJD Developments with consent of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	390 sq m or thereby at Home Farm, Drove Loan, Head of Muir, Denny

MINUTE of AGREEMENT and DEED of RESTRICTION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

National Playing Fields Association	Crownest Park, Stenhousemuir
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MINUTE OF TERMINATION of LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:

A Thomson	Chequers, Islands Crescent, Hallglen
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RANKING AGREEMENT between:-

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc and A M McGeorge	9 Sutherland Drive, Denny
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ROAD ORDERS

The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 442) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No 449) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No.446) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No.447) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 448) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 34) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 450) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 451) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 453) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 454) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 452) Order 2007
 The Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Spaces for Disabled Persons) (Revocation No 41) Order 2007

STANDARD SECURITY by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of

The National Playing Fields Association

King George's Fields

SUB LEASE between:

Falkirk & District Business Park Limited

Denny Business Centre

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

The Falkirk Council (Main Street, Carronshore) (Temporary Prohibition of Parking) Order 2007

The Falkirk Council (Eastburn Drive, Falkirk) (Temporary Road and Footpath Closure) Order 2008

The Falkirk Council (Greenhill Road, Bonnybridge) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council (Thornbridge Road, Falkirk) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council (B9143 Inchyra Road & A905 Beancross Road, Grangemouth) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council C30 (Grandsable Road, Falkirk) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council (B902 New Carron Road, Carron) Temporary Footpath Closure

The Falkirk Council (Muirhall Road, Larbert) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council (Arnothill, Falkirk) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Falkirk Council (Callendar Boulevard, Falkirk) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2007

The Falkirk Council (Laurieston Road, Grangemouth) (Temporary Prohibition of Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic, Temporary Prohibition of Overtaking, Temporary Speed Restriction and Temporary Prohibition of Right Turns) Order 2007

The Falkirk Council (Greenhill Road, Bonnybridge) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic