

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on wavy lines representing water. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with large antlers. The bottom-left quadrant contains a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of the EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE held remotely on Thursday
28 May 2020 at 11.00 a.m.**

Councillors: David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Fiona Collie
Joan Coombes
Paul Garner
Nigel Harris
Adanna McCue
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
Lynn Munro
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo
Pat Reid

Officers: Jack Frawley, Team Leader - Committee Services
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

In accordance with section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Convener had directed that the meeting would be conducted by video conference to allow remote attendance by elected members.

In accordance with section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public were excluded from this meeting as it was likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be a real and substantial risk to public health due to infection or contamination with coronavirus.

EE7. Apologies

There were no apologies.

EE8. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

EE9. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Emergency Executive held on 14 May 2020 was approved.

EE10. Transport Projects – Acquisition Of Land for the Denny Eastern Access Road (DEAR)

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on the progress of the DEAR Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). It sought authority to proceed with a CPO for additional land required as a result of the technical review by Transport Scotland to enable delivery of the transport project should it not prove possible to acquire the land by negotiation or gain access to the land under licence.

The Executive had agreed on 10 December 2019 to the promotion of a CPO under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 over the private interests in the land on two plots. These plots represented the extent of land needed for the road and associated infrastructure.

A technical review had highlighted that there was no provision in the current legislation to allow for the temporary acquisition of land e.g. for working space, storage areas and to carry out accommodation works. The Council therefore required to acquire more land than was originally anticipated to allow the construction of DEAR to take place.

The additional land was shown as plots 3-9 on the plan attached to the report. The land would be used on a temporary basis to provide working space and access, storage areas and to carry out agreed accommodation works for the affected parties. As this would be needed only temporarily the Council would initially try to gain access under licence rather than outright acquisition which would make the land transfers more straightforward and prevent the Council having to convey the land back once the scheme was completed.

Plots 1 to 9 was the balance needed to complete the land assembly to allow the remaining section of DEAR to be constructed along with associated roads features and infrastructure. The land was owned by Callendar Estates and leased to two tenant farmers. There had been no further progress in land negotiations with Callendar Estates for the order land.

In order for CPO to be confirmed, an acquiring authority must establish whether the public benefits of acquiring the necessary land outweigh the private interests and that there was no suitable alternative way to realise its objective. The principle of housing development in the area had been long established and growth had been encouraged through the local development

plan process. The resultant impacts on traffic congestion, at Denny Cross and the need to provide a robust traffic network solution for proposed new housing developments in the area meant that the DEAR solution was the only viable way of addressing the issues.

Decision

The Emergency Executive agreed:-

- (1) to the promotion of a revised Compulsory Purchase Order under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 over the private interests in the land outlined in the report and shown as Plots 1 to 9 on the plan annexed to allow for the construction of the remaining section of the DEAR and associated roads infrastructure, and**
- (2) to the subsequent referral of the CPO to Scottish Ministers for confirmation.**

EE11. Covid-19 Response – Funding Food Provision Summer 2020

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information on how the Council was using its £878k share of the Scottish Government's Food Fund and set-out the future costs and funding requirements of continuing various elements of providing food/school meals over the summer period.

Funding had been allocated across 3 distinct areas of provision:-

- a. School Meal Provision – Holidays £ 700k
- b. Supporting FCVS Emergency Food Project £ 100k
- c. Supporting People Initiative £ 78k.

For the Easter holidays, a payment of £35 (£3.50/day) was made to all pupils eligible for Clothing Grants and Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). The total cost of that was c£180k. After Easter, Education Scotland reviewed the varying approaches taken by Councils and found an average weekly payment of £2.37 was made.

The Emergency Executive was invited to consider two options for delivery of a summer food programme:-

Option 1 - to make direct payments to families

1a – £3.50/day (in line with Easter payment) Cost c£ 683k

1b – £2.50/day (more in line with national position) Cost c£ 488k

1c – flat payment of £100 (approx. £2.63/day) Cost c£ 514k

Option 2 - to continue to provide "grab n go" meal bags.

The Falkirk emergency food project administered by CVS Falkirk supported additional supplies for the Community Food Project Network. Additional supplies would be purchased and distributed across the network. This would top up the food provided by the Emergency Food Project and would include fresh produce, special dietary requirements and special ingredients for recipes to be included in food parcels. High levels of demand for food parcels have meant that the average cost of providing the service had increased from c£7k to c£13k per week.

After set-up costs had been accounted for, the £100k allocation was expected to have been fully utilised by week commencing 25 May 2020. Given the significant increase in demand for the service emergency funding was sought to allow it to continue at least until the end of the summer holiday period.

Decision

The Emergency Executive:-

- (1) noted the content of this report and the details surrounding each of the options and proposals contained within it;**
- (2) agreed to make payments directly to families at the level of £3.50/day (option 1a) but make available grab and go meal bags for any children who want them and in particular those not entitled to the payment;**
- (3) agreed to continue to support and fund the Falkirk CVS Emergency Food Project (as outlined in Sections 4.4 – 4.6), and**
- (4) agreed that the Hardship Fund (Section 5.1) should be used to meet any additional costs associated with the decisions that are made.**