

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 the water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. 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  
3 September 2020 at 11.00 a.m.**

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

**Officers:** Douglas Duff, Acting Director of Development Services  
Jack Frawley, Team Leader - Committee Services  
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

**Also**

**Attending:** Gary Bouse, Resources Portfolio Holder for item EE53

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.

**EE48. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **EE49. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

#### **EE50. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Emergency Executive held on 20 August 2020 was approved.**

#### **EE51. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) 1140 Hour Expansion Plan Update**

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided: an update on progress with the ELC expansion plans; information on ongoing key infrastructure projects; details of the financial position of major projects, and details regarding agreement of a "sustainable rate" for private partner nurseries.

The ELC expansion plans were largely on track to be delivered by August 2020 prior to the impact of lockdown. Children's and Development Services had been liaising with contractors regarding all elements of the remaining workstreams.

The standalone ELC Centre at Maddiston Primary School was an integral element of the overall £4.016m capital project to extend capacity at the school. The lowest tender was around £0.3m higher than initially estimated. To address the gap it was proposed to fund this by borrowing the additional £0.3m capital required from current ELC revenue resources.

At Denny Primary School the former Community Learning Development (CLD) property was being extended to provide a nursery class. The initial tender for the overall project was c£0.9m above the construction budget of c£2.7m. Following some design reengineering the new tender for the revised project plan had been received for c£3.3m. The ELC element was £1.3m, with an original allocation of c£0.8m. It was proposed that the gap was funded by borrowing an additional £0.5m capital funded from current ELC revenue resources.

Discussions had taken place with partner providers over the summer regarding the assessment and agreement of a "sustainable rate". To enable new contracts to be issued for 2020/21 the Director of Children's Services approved, under delegated authority, to set the rate at £6.05 per hour. The rate included £0.35 for meal/snack provision and a temporary £0.15 in respect of addressing additional COVID related costs on a short term basis. The new rate had been paid from Wednesday 12 August 2020.

The Service was completing the final recruitment phase to deliver a total core ELC workforce of c540 FTE posts to deliver 1140 expansion plans. In addition to those core posts extra staffing resources had also been provided across cleaning, catering, caretaking and central service areas.

## **Decision**

### **The Emergency Executive:-**

- (1) agreed the proposals to allocate additional funding to the ELC projects as detailed in Sections 4.1 (i) and (ii) of the report;**
- (2) endorsed the decision made by the Director of Children's Services, under delegated authority, as detailed in Section 4.2 of the report;**
- (3) agreed to increase the Central Support Team by 2 FTE as detailed in Section 4.7 of the report, and**
- (4) noted the financial position summarised in Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the report.**

## **EE52. Children's Services – Update on Schools and Early Years Establishments Reopening**

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided a summary of the overall position regarding the reopening of schools and the ongoing health and safety monitoring arrangements.

Following changes to the Scottish Government's Reopening Guidance, the Emergency Executive agreed on 6 August 2020 that pupils would return on a soft start basis between Wednesday 12 August and Friday 14 August 2020, with a full return on Monday 17 August 2020.

Transport arrangements were in place and operating to ensure all children we transported safely to school. The updated social distancing guidance that applied within schools and to school transport effectively negated the high risks previously highlighted with regard to the potential shortage of bus capacity.

In line with the guidance all education establishments completed individual risk assessments prior to reopening. Proactive joint working with the Trade Unions enabled the risk assessments to be considered, reviewed and agreed. The Service had also agreed a joint process with the Trade Unions to enable risk assessments to be updated, if national guidance changed and reported regularly to trade union partnership meetings.

School Recovery Plans were updated to reflect updated Scottish Government and Public Health Guidance and communication protocols and processes to be followed in the event of COVID related whole or partial school closures. Schools would only be closed due to COVID related incidents on instruction from Public Health.

## **Decision**

### **The Emergency Executive noted:-**

- (1) the work undertaken by officers from Children's Services, Development Services and the Trade Unions in ensuring that the building pre-opening checks and individual establishment risk assessments were completed to allow establishments to reopen as planned, and**
- (2) the additional funding received to date, to support the additional costs associated with the reopening of schools as set out in section 4.4 of the report.**

## **EE53. Treasury Management Strategy**

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which in line with the Code of Practice for Treasury Management set out a framework for treasury management reporting for the financial year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the reporting for Treasury had been interrupted. As a result, the report covered both the Annual Review Report for 2019/20 and the Treasury Strategy Report for 2020/21. The Code required that the report was referred to Council for approval.

The report provided information on the:-

- Economic Review and Outlook;
- 2019/20 Annual Review;
- Investment Strategy 2019/20;
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;
- 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy;
- Borrowing Strategy 2020/21;
- Investment Strategy 2020/21;
- Treasury Indicators;
- Prudential Code;
- Treasury Management Advisors;
- Loan Fund, and
- Member/Officer Training.

## **Decision**

### **The Emergency Executive:-**

- (1) noted the Annual Review for 2019/20;**
- (2) adopted the Borrowing Strategy for 2020/21;**
- (3) adopted the Investment Strategy for 2020/21 and approved the list of “Permitted Investments”;**
- (4) approved the Treasury Indicators;**
- (5) approved the changes to the Loans Fund repayments, and**
- (6) agreed to refer the report to Council for consideration.**

### **EE54. Land Exchange at Grangemouth Road, Falkirk**

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to exchange areas of land at Grangemouth Road, Falkirk with Forth Valley College to enable road improvements.

## **Decision**

### **The Emergency Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to declare 859.92sqm of land at Grangemouth Road, Falkirk surplus to requirements and to its disposal to Forth Valley College;**
- (2) to an acquisition by the Council of 1132.8sqm of land at Grangemouth Road, Falkirk from Forth Valley College, and**
- (3) that authorisation was given to conclude the transaction by way of a land exchange with Forth Valley College.**