

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SHARED SERVICES
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 13 November 2007
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scottish Executive provided funding in 2006 as part of the Building a Better Scotland Strategy to allow partners to develop proposals on how Shared Services could be taken forward and benefits realised.
- 1.2 This Council along with Stirling, Clackmannanshire, East Dunbartonshire and Perth & Kinross received a sum of £350,000 at that time to fund the development of a Business Case for a shared services solution to provide finance, procurement, HR and payroll services to the five Councils.
- 1.3 Commensurate with the terms of the funding provided, the Business Case was prepared, submitted to the Improvement Service and duly considered at the National Shared Services Board.
- 1.4 The outcomes of the Business Case so far as they relate to our own Council were reported to and discussed at the October meeting of Best Value and Audit Forum.
- 1.5 At that meeting Members of the Best Value and Audit Forum were advised that correspondence had just been received from Cosla/Improvement Service on proposed future steps in relation to shared services and this matter would be reported to Policy & Resources Committee.

2. NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 Correspondence was received in October setting out the National Board for Shared Services vision on how the matter of shared services is to be taken forward and the potential resources available to Councils to support this. A copy of the letter received is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 It is the view of The National Board for Shared Services that the adoption of a common operating model for support services can make partnership working between Councils and with other parties much easier. The diagnostic work of the Edinburgh and Glasgow pathfinder projects has now been completed and it is suggested that a transferable common operating model can be drawn from this work.

- 2.3 The Minister has approved funding of up to £150k per Council to support this roll out of diagnostic work to fund additional capacity and external support. Councils can consider the model individually within their Council or can group themselves together with other Councils and pool this funding to take forward a shared version of the model.
- 2.4 Diagnostic work requires to be substantially completed this year with final deliverables expected by June 2008.
- 2.5 The key milestones are:
- Councils confirm in principle a bid for resources;
 - Proposals are submitted; and
 - Scottish Government issue approval letters and release of RSG.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;
- 3.2 Agree that the Council submit an application for funding; and
- 3.3 Agree to receive further reports on this matter.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Date: 30 October 2007

Ref: AAE1107

Contact Name: Stuart Ritchie

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2007**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 14 November 2007
**Author: DIRECTORS CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES AND
OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following reports were presented to the Housing and Social Services Committee on 6 November 2007 and the recommendations, as noted, referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **Citizens Advice Bureaux – Performance and Progress**
- **Workforce Development and Training**

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that consideration of the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to

- (1) note the proposal for the redesign of the post of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Children's and Families and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) Establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget;
- (3) 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; and
- (4) Refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **Proposed Development for Short-Term Residential Care Home for Children: Update on Consultation**

Councillor Goldie seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McNally seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations as contained within the Report be deleted and replaced by the following:

Agree to carry out full community consultation including holding a public meeting to properly obtain the views of residents throughout the entire area, and that consideration be given to the preparation of a community infrastructure investment package to the same level as that in Slamannan.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to note 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; and
- (2) endorse the proposal development and refer to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES – ACCOMMODATION NEEDS**

- **STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approves the recommendations of the Housing and Social Services Committee.



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Director of Housing and Social Work Services



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Director of Corporate and Commercial Services