

INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin is divided into two parts. Part 1 (all pages with the exception of the section coloured green, which relates only to tenders and which is found at the end of the Bulletin) presents a number of papers, which are designed to update Members, Officers and the citizens of the area of ongoing issues of interest which would not be expected to be dealt with through the Council's formal decision-making processes. These papers are relatively informal in terms of style and format and are an additional and important reporting mechanism for the Council which is easily accessible and which it is hoped will be a useful reference document.

In terms of its Contract Standing Orders, the Council has a requirement to report all Contracts referred to in Standing Order 6.2. The Information Bulletin is considered to be ideal for this purpose and any such papers can be found in Part 2 (the section coloured green) of the document.

Any general enquiries regarding the Information Bulletin should be directed to Chief Executive Office (Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6110).

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VOLUME 2
2013/2014

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 25TH SEPTEMBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit (SIMLU). SIMLU is a national team, hosted by Glasgow City Council Trading Standards Service, set up to tackle illegal money lending across Scotland.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Particularly during these times of economic hardship, consumers, who are often excluded from normal credit sources because of a poor credit record, an inability to manage finances or because their income is too low, may resort to illegal moneylenders. Sometimes referred to as loan sharks, illegal money lenders are unlicensed and operate entirely outwith the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act. Ordinarily extortionate interest rates are charged (it is not unusual for APRs to reach rates over 500,000 %) and a failure to repay can lead to threats or acts of violence. Some victims are even forced to carry out illegal activities, including drug trafficking, as a means of payment.
- 2.2 Glasgow City Council is responsible for publicising the initiative, and has just launched the COSLA funded STOP LOAN SHARKS campaign; **see attached press release**. Locations of adverts within the Falkirk Council area include internal adverts on buses covering 10 local areas, 5 washroom adverts in local pubs and 2 bus stop adverts. The areas covered by these adverts are Airth, Bainsford, Banknock, Bonnybridge, Camelon, Carronshore, Denny, Dennyloanhead, Falkirk, Larbert and Laurieston. The campaign has a phone number, text and website to make it easier for the public to report illegal money lending in confidence. Telephone 0800 074 0878 or text: 60003. Where sufficient intelligence exists calls to these numbers will trigger investigation by SIMLU and its partners in the Police and other local authorities, including Falkirk Council.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 Each local authority passes intelligence to the SIMLU, primarily through Memex (the national intelligence database), and each local authority has designated a contact officer with whom contact will be made before any enquiries are made in that Council area. The contact officer for Falkirk Council is Nicola Fagan, Trading Standards Co-ordinator & Local Intelligence Liaison Officer. The SIMLU team leader is required to keep the contact officer updated on the progress of investigations and enquiries being carried out in their area.

- 3.2 As the work of the Glasgow based SIMLU team is across the whole of Scotland a national protocol for the project has been established. SIMLU officers need authority to initiate or undertake investigations of potential offences falling entirely outwith the boundaries of Glasgow City Council. This is achieved by authorisation of appropriate SIMLU officers by the relevant authority, in this case Falkirk Council, subject to proper alignment with corporate procedures.
- 3.3 Therefore, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, and in my capacity as the Chief Officer with responsibility for the Trading Standards Service I confirm I have signed and issued the necessary authorisation to appropriate officers of the SIMLU unit of Glasgow City Council, to exercise statutory powers (including where appropriate, the right to enter land and premises and to sign and issue notices) in the discharge of their duties in the Falkirk Council area with regard to consumer protection and the investigation of illegal money lending.
- 3.4 If applicable, SIMLU will apply for authorisations from Falkirk Council before undertaking activities that are governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA). Applications will be subject to Falkirk Councils usual stringent procedures and policies. Such activities will be conducted within the confines of said authorisation and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the authorising officer Douglas Duff, Head of Economic Development & Environmental Services. Where potential offences are discovered, these will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal by SIMLU.
- 3.5 If enforcement action results in the removal of an illegal moneylender from Falkirk then the Council will be responsible for advising the community and other agencies of the effects of such action. This will be done in association with other work to highlight access to alternative legal sources of affordable credit, such as credit unions.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel, financial or property implications in the report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The staff of the SIMLU unit follow the risk assessments issued by their employing authority (Glasgow City Council), accordingly health and safety and liability remains the employers responsibility. Officers from SIMLU will conduct investigations within the Falkirk Council area in accordance with relevant policies, procedures and in accordance with any RIPSA authorisation granted by Falkirk Council.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 This report is provided for information.

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Director of Development Services

For further information please contact Nicola Fagan, Trading Standards Co-ordinator on 01324-504789.

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Attachment 1 Stop Loan Sharks Press Release Pages 3-5
Attachment 2 STOP LOAN SHARKS advertising in Falkirk Page 6

Attachment 1 - Stop Loan Sharks Press Release

For immediate release

18th March 2013

Scottish Councils bite back against loan sharks with new public campaign

The Campaign encouraging people to STOP LOAN SHARKS goes live across Scotland today, with posters in washrooms, adverts on bus shelters and across a variety of Scottish radio stations. The campaign, funded by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), asks people to report loan sharks operating in their local communities.

Estimates say that there are over 200 active loan sharks in Scotland, with the actual number probably much higher. However in 2012, only 34 calls were made by members of the public to report loan shark activities. Loan sharks ruin lives and scar communities - they can charge exorbitant interest rates on loans which they often never allow their victims to fully repay. They leave many victims paying up to a half of their weekly income (often from benefits) to loan sharks to service their debt. If they can't repay, they can be subjected to violence or forced to grow or traffic drugs to pay off their debt.

It is vital that local communities, agencies working with vulnerable people in places where loan sharks are known to operate, friends, families and the victims themselves pass on any information, in confidence, to ensure that illegal money lenders can be stopped. A lack of information is preventing more being done to stop this evil practice.

Councillor Stephen Hagan, Chair of COSLA's Consumer Protection Task Force, said: "Times are hard for some of the most susceptible members of our communities, money is tight and they are struggling to budget for the basics of life. There are organisations that can help and the last person anyone should turn to for support is a loan shark.

“Illegal money lending is already a significant problem today across many parts of Scotland and with changes being made to welfare benefits, more and more people may turn to these illegal loans rather than local credit unions or other avenues where money advice is available to solve their budget or debt issues.

“Scottish councils, working through the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit, are urging members of the public to call in and report loan sharks who are operating in their local areas. These individuals illegally lend millions of pounds a year across Scotland and through intimidation and a culture of fear they can wreck lives and damage entire communities. A loan shark is not your friend, report them in confidence.”

Margaret Lynch, CEO for Citizens Advice Scotland commented:

“In today's tough economic climate I would urge consumers to take expert advice from a local Citizens Advice Bureau instead of turning to a loan shark. Alternatively they can look at other sources of funding, for example from a local credit union. Those who are currently victims of a loan shark, please come forward and seek help and advice and, where possible, pass on information that can be used to help secure a conviction.”

Borrowing money from an illegal money lender is not straightforward. For example, someone borrowing £100 will typically owe £125 a week later. Interest will continue to be charged at £25 on the outstanding amount. Paying the loan back at a rate of £30 per week means it will take 14 weeks to pay off the original £100 and the total paid to the loan shark will be £420. As basic income support is £71 a week, for a typical borrower this equates to paying nearly half their income to the lender. The APR for this example is 60,221,341.1%

To make it easier to pass on information, The STOP LOAN SHARKS campaign has a phone number, text and website to help people in Scotland make a report in confidence.

To report a loan shark in confidence, please call: 0800 074 0878 or text: 60003.

For more information, please visit www.stoploansharks.org.uk

ENDS

For further media information, please contact:

Christina Kelly, Golley Slater - 0787 558 1955 / 0141 204 7800

Julie Gracie, Golley Slater - 0781 448 7663/ 0131 220 8787

Notes to editors

1. COSLA's purpose is to be the national voice for local government in Scotland and its work reflects a commitment to promote the position of local government as the legitimate tier of governance closest to the people of Scotland. www.cosla.gov.uk
2. Scotland's Illegal Money Lending Unit was formed in 2004 to identify and investigate illegal lenders and provide assistance to victims by helping them to make the transition to legal, affordable credit. Since 2004, 53 individuals have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for illegal money lending and associated crimes.
3. Illegal moneylenders, or loan sharks, are defined as those who lend money to people without a credit licence. (Source: (BIS) The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills)
4. Impartial advice for those worried about debt or their finances in general is available from:
 - a. Money Advice Scotland on 0141 572 0237 / www.moneyadvicescotland.org.uk
 - b. Citizens Advice Scotland on 0808 800 9060 / www.cas.org.uk
5. To report a loan shark in confidence, telephone: 0800 074 0878, text: 60003. For more information, please visit www.stoploansharks.org.uk
6. Follow the STOP LOAN SHARKS campaign on Facebook or follow us on Twitter #stoploansharks

7. Example of a Loan Shark - In 2011, Colin Morrison received a record 15 month jail sentence after charging interest rates in excess of 719,000% and terrorising residents in the east end of Glasgow. Morrison's activities were believed to have netted him over £50,000 and a total of over £14,800 was seized by police.

Attachment 2 - STOP LOAN SHARKS advertising in Falkirk

All areas covered (11 areas):

Airth, Bainsford, Banknock, Bonnybridge, Camelon, Carronshore, Denny, Dennyloanhead, Falkirk, Larbert and Laurieston.

1. Airth
2. Bainsford
3. Banknock
4. Bonnybridge
5. Camelon
6. Carronshore
7. Denny
8. Dennyloanhead
9. Falkirk
10. Larbert
11. Laurieston

Internal bus advertising: (10 areas)

1. Airth
2. Banknock
3. Bonnybridge
4. Camelon
5. Carronshore
6. Denny
7. Dennyloanhead
8. Falkirk
9. Larbert
10. Laurieston

Bus Stop panels: 2 – Bainsford, Grahams Road (Falkirk)

81C Main Street, Bainsford, Falkirk, FK2 7NZ (outside DAY furniture)

96-98 Grahams Road, Falkirk, FK2 7DL (outside Lloyds Pharmacy)

Washroom panels: (5 – Falkirk, Bonnybridge & Denny)

Scotia Bar, 51 Manor Street St, Falkirk, FK 1 1NH

Wellington Bar, 6 Manner St, Falkirk, FK 1 1NH

Firkins, Melville Street, Falkirk, FK 1 2NG

The Tavern, Kilsyth Rd, Bonnybridge, FK 4 1HN

Pines, 5/6 Nethermaines Rd, Denny, FK 6 5HA

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: UPDATE REPORT ON MEASURES TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 25 SEPTEMBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update of progress on measures to manage flood risk within the Falkirk Council area and activities related to implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 since the previous report to the Environment and Community Safety Committee on 14th August 2012
- 1.2 The Falkirk Council area continues to face the consequences of changes in global weather patterns and incidents recorded are investigated to determine cost effective measures to reduce flood risk. In addition to measures implemented by Falkirk Council, this can require landowners and property owners taking actions to improve resilience of their property to future events.

2 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009

- 2.1 The requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act) are being driven by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), with Scotland divided into 14 Local Plan Districts (LPD), defined by consideration of river catchment boundaries, local administrative boundaries and coastal areas. Each LPD is required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) to be issued for public consultation by December 2014.
- 2.2 An elected Member workshop on the implications of the Act was held on 16th January 2013, in the City of Edinburgh Council offices, at which Falkirk Council was represented by Cllr Dr. C.R. Martin and Baillie J. Paterson.
- 2.3 Falkirk Council has involvement in two LPDs, the Forth Estuary and the Forth. The Forth Estuary LPD is the larger of the two, involving 13 Local Authorities (City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire, Stirling and West Lothian). City of Edinburgh Council has been identified as the Lead Local Authority, responsible for producing the LFRMPs, and co-ordinating flood risk management activities in the LPD.

- 2.4 The Forth LPD involves 5 Local Authorities, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Perth & Kinross and Stirling; with Stirling as the Lead Local Authority. South Alloa and Dunmore are the Falkirk Council areas in this LPD.
- 2.5 SEPA and Scottish Water are also identified as Responsible Authorities in the LFRMP process and have representatives on each LPD.
- 2.6 Both LPDs have agreed Terms of Reference for the development of LFRMPs. Officer groups will progress the LFRMP, following guidelines and appraisal methods from SEPA. Any disputes regarding content will be referred to a 'board' of senior officers from each member local authority, for resolution, with the proposed content of the final draft document submitted to the elected members of each local authority in the LPD for approval, prior to issue for public consultation
- 2.7 It is important to note that local authorities remain responsible for the delivery of flood alleviation schemes within their administrative boundaries. Falkirk will, for example, be responsible for delivery of the Grangemouth flood alleviation scheme.
- 2.8 The Responsible Authorities, SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities will continue to work collaboratively to produce a LFRMP in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Strategy, a process that includes agreement to share administrative costs apportioned in relation to the number of domestic properties at risk of flooding.
- 2.9 The programme for the production of LFRMPs at present indicates content is to be available for public consultation by the end of December 2014. During this period local authorities will have identified, appraised and prioritised surface water issues and other local flood risk actions for inclusion in the document. Finalised LFRMPs to be published in June 2016 will be monitored and reviewed on a six yearly cycle, with a requirement for the Lead Local Authority to produce interim and final reports in 2018 and 2021, respectively. Changes for the subsequent cycle will reflect progress made in the preceding six years.
- 2.10 As the processes outlined in the Act have developed, the requirement for separate Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) has emerged. A SWMP will present proposals for the management of surface water in what SEPA's appraisal process will determine as priority areas. There may be more than one SWMP in each local authority area and they will be produced by local authorities, individually, or in collaboration, depending on catchment characteristics. Priority locations will comprise approximately 50 or more residential properties, or locations where economic average annual damages are in excess of £65,000.

- 2.11 In the last twelve months Falkirk Council has responded to data requests from SEPA on schemes constructed under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, of which there are two: The Grange Burn, which includes the Flood Relief Channel, Grangemouth and the Bo'ness Flood Prevention scheme. Comment has been submitted to SEPA on the content of their tidal, fluvial and pluvial flood hazard maps, a process from which the outcome is awaited. A response to SEPA's consultation *'Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland: Statement of Consultation Arrangements'* was responded to in March 2013.

3 FLOOD RISK STUDIES

3.1 Grangemouth

- 3.1.1 The Phase 2 Report for the assessment of flood risk in the Grangemouth area and an Economic Damages Assessment Report have been completed by Halcrow and ground investigation works are currently being progressed. This will involve bore holes and trial pits along the River Carron, River Avon and Forth Estuary. Works will be in sensitive ecological areas and require access to the petrochemical complex. Investigation works, therefore, require the consent of statutory bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine Scotland, Crown Estates, SEPA and those operating plant within the petrochemical complex. The latter require compliance with strict safety and supervisory requirements. This extends the time taken to obtain vital information on ground conditions and structure of existing defences that is critical to the design and implementation of a scheme to reduce flood risk to Grangemouth and the surrounding area. Officers of Falkirk Council are in discussion with all relevant parties to progress site investigation works as quickly as possible.
- 3.1.2 Data for storm and tide events from the Phase 2 model runs has been submitted to SEPA to be considered in their revised indicative flood maps to be released in December 2013.
- 3.1.3 A flood alleviation scheme for Grangemouth, to be constructed in phases, will be developed to a standard suitable for submission to the Scottish Government for their appraisal in relation to funding allocation for 2015 and beyond. A mechanism for the appraisal and allocation of funds for flood alleviation schemes has, however, yet to be announced. The development of a phased scheme of flood alleviation measures will, as has been noted previously, be a complex process, addressing environmental constraints, land ownership and planning conditions, in addition to design complexities. The preliminary target for submission of initial priority phases of a scheme to the Scottish Government continues to be summer 2015; on the assumption that there is no public inquiry to delay the process.

3.2 Scottish Water - Falkirk Integrated Catchment Study

- 3.2.1 Falkirk was identified as one of the five priority areas for an integrated catchment study of the public sewer network and related watercourses. Scottish Water are managing the studies and appointed contractors to undertake the complex task of developing and verifying computer models for the sewer networks discharging to Dalderse, Kinneil Kerse and Bo'ness waste water treatment works early in 2013. The model output, currently anticipated to be delivered in August 2014, will identify locations where flooding from sewer surcharge is a risk. This output will provide data at the interface between Scottish Water's sewer network and watercourses. Falkirk Council is collaborating with Scottish Water on this project and will have access to information and computer model output data necessary to develop Surface Water Management Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Plans; as required in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

4 SUMMARY OF WORKS

4.1 Westquarter Burn, Langton Road/Park Crescent, Westquarter

- 4.1.1 Approximately 70m of eroded bank of the Westquarter Burn, between Langton Road and Park Crescent had to be reinstated and stabilised by the installation of gabion baskets and suitable fill material. This work is complete.

4.2 Checkbar

- 4.2.1 Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland have proposed remedial measures to improve the surface water drainage system serving their trunk road network at Checkbar. Falkirk Council continues to have dialogue with Transport Scotland to obtain information regarding proposed dates for surface water drainage works.
- 4.2.2 Falkirk Council is progressing works to remove and relocate sediment within the confines of the River Carron at this locus to improve hydraulics and reduce erosion. The works, to be carried out under licence from SEPA, are to go out to tender, with the intention of completion before the migration of salmon in September 2013 prevents further works within the confines of the River Carron.

4.3 Culvert 66, Bantaskine

- 4.3.1 Scottish Canals have completed works at this location.

4.4 Chapel Burn at Graham Avenue, Larbert

- 4.4.1 The provision of surface water attenuation in an area of land, west of the railway, has been agreed with Scottish Water. The proximity of the proposed underground attenuation facility area to the 36" Turret trunk water main has been a concern to Scottish Water and proposals have now been designed to accommodate their requirements. This has delayed the process, but the proposed works are about to be issued for tender, with construction this financial year.

4.5 Haypark Road, Head of Muir

- 4.5.1 The works in the open space north of Haypark Road to form a channel that diverts overland flow away from Haypark Road to the existing watercourse, and includes an improved culvert entry screen, are complete.

4.6 Maintenance Works

- 4.6.1 The flood relief channel from Rannoch Road to Grange Road, Grangemouth has been cleaned, with proposals to clear the section from Grange Road to the River Avon being progressed.
- 4.6.2 The Culloch Burn, Slamannan, from Avonbridge Road to the fire station has, under licence from SEPA, been cleared of silt to improve hydraulic capacity and reduce flood risk.
- 4.6.3 A contract for the replacement of trash screens on watercourses, including two on the Doups Burn, Banknock, one at the Fire and Rescue Services offices in Maddiston, one at Primrose Avenue, Grangemouth, one at the Champany, Linlithgow and one at Tamfourhill, Camelon is about to be awarded.
- 4.6.4 Telemetry to remotely monitor water levels in watercourses has been extended to include the Westquarter and Polmont Burns at Rannoch Park, Grangemouth and the pump facility at Glensburgh.
- 4.6.5 An extensive cctv survey of culverted watercourses across the Falkirk Council area has been initiated. The survey data is in the process of being reviewed to determine remedial works, maintenance requirements and priority for the reduction of flood risk and inclusion in SWMPs.
- 4.6.6 Maintenance and inspection of screens and watercourses across the Falkirk Council area, in compliance with established programmes, continues. This programme is a key factor in the reduction of flood risk from watercourses across the Falkirk Council area.

5.0 FUNDING

- 5.1 Funding for flood risk management provided by the Scottish Government has, to date, been allocated on the basis of property at risk of flooding, for which Falkirk has, at present, the 3rd highest in Scotland, but is not ring fenced. The present revenue allocation for 2013/14 remained the same as for 2012/13 at £644k. Funding levels for future years are, at present, unconfirmed. As Falkirk Council works to fulfil the emerging duties and responsibilities of the Act, revenue funding will become increasingly stretched. In the period leading up to production of LFRMPs and now SWMPs, the management of data and implementation of studies to provide justification and supporting information for proposed flood alleviation schemes will be essential and require appropriate funding.
- 5.2 A mechanism for securing capital funding for large flood alleviation schemes, such as Grangemouth, beyond the end of the present allocation in 2015, has yet to be confirmed by the Scottish Government. Funding allocation is anticipated to relate to the Flood Risk Management Strategies to be released for public consultation by SEPA in December 2014 and the content of LFRMPs. It is intended to progress proposals for the Grangemouth flood alleviation scheme to the standard required for consideration by the Scottish Government by summer 2015. Achieving this target would, however, be subject to the outcome of public consultation, land availability and there being no public inquiry related delay.
- 5.3 To allow Falkirk Council to fulfil the requirements placed on it by the Act an ongoing funding commitment will be required as pressures on resources increase.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to;

- 6.1 **Note the measures currently being pursued by Falkirk Council to address flood risk within its area.**
- 6.2 **Note funding issues**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 6th August, 2013

Contact Officer: Greg Pender, Engineering Design Manager

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: LETTING OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL BUS CONTRACTS
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 25 SEPTEMBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the outcome of some tendering exercises carried out by the Transport Planning Unit on behalf of Education Services and Development Services for Education and Local Bus contracts. All contracts have a cumulative value of less than £350,000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Falkirk Council procures a number of Education and Local Bus services that operate within the Council area. A proportion of them come up for tender every year. In April 2013, 20 bus contracts were put out to tender and these contracts were advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland portal. Details of the contracts showing route, lowest bid, the number of bids received for each contract, successful contractor, contract award cost, and the cumulative value are shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Tenders were awarded on the most economically advantageous offer and were evaluated on both cost and quality in accordance with Falkirk Council Standing Orders. Where possible the contract was awarded to the operator that tendered both the lowest cost and scored the highest in the quality ratings (section A of the appendix). Thereafter, contracts were awarded to those operators who achieved the best value overall.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1 The contracts are let in accordance with Falkirk Council Standing Orders.
- 3.2 There are no legal or personnel implications. The financial implications are that all costs can be contained within budget and represent Best Value.

4. ACTION TAKEN

- 4.1 The Director of Development Services has let all education and local bus contracts detailed in Appendix 1 and, where necessary, obtained the approval of the Chief Governance Officer, in accordance with Falkirk Council's Contract Standing Orders section 6.2.

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Author: Director of Development Services
Date: August 8, 2013

Appendix 1

Falkirk Council - Mainstream Education & Additional Support Needs Tenders commencing 21 August 2013 Home to School Taxi Transport

A) Contracts awarded to the lowest bidders and which provide Best Value

Contract No.	Recommended Contractor	Route	Expiry Date	Estimated Value	Highest Bid	Lowest Bid Cost	No. of Bids	Cost Rate Awarded	Cost Per Annum	Total Value of Contract
F13/TAXI/ASN/001	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Grangemouth - Bainsford PS	Jul-14		£94.00	£27.00	6	£27.00	£5,130.00	£5,130.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/002	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Bo'ness/Whitecross- Carrongrange School	Jul-14		£96.00	£48.00	7	£48.00	£9,120.00	£9,120.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/003	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Airth/Falkirk - Easter Carmuir	Jul-14		£97.00	£48.00	5	£48.00	£9,120.00	£9,120.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/004	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Shieldhill - Ladeside Base	Jul-14		£96.00	£38.00	7	£38.00	£7,220.00	£7,220.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/005	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Dennyloanhead - Ladeside Base	Jul-14		£80.00	£27.00	6	£27.00	£5,130.00	£5,130.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/006	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Falkirk - Langlees PS	Jul-14		£80.00	£20.00	6	£20.00	£3,800.00	£3,800.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/007	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Larbert - Northfield Unit	Jul-14		£75.00	£18.00	7	£18.00	£3,420.00	£3,420.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/008	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Grangemouth - St Patricks PS	Jul-14		£80.00	£40.00	7	£40.00	£7,600.00	£7,600.00
F13/TAXI/ASN/009	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Stamman - Stenhousemuir PS	Jul-14		£80.00	£44.00	6	£44.00	£8,360.00	£8,360.00
F13/TAXI/ED/102	Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	Dunmore Mill - Airth PS	Jul-14		£25.00	£14.00	4	£14.00	£2,660.00	£2,660.00
F13/TAXI/ED/103	Baird Taxis Ltd	Greenhill - Condorrat PS	Jul-14		£110.00	£34.70	7	£34.70	£6,593.00	£6,593.00
F13/TAXI/ED/105	Bruce Taxis Ltd	Oliver Rd- Victoria PS	Jul-14		£70.00	£14.00	5	£14.00	£2,660.00	£2,660.00
F13/TAXI/ED/106	Bruce Taxis Ltd	Torwood - Larbert Village PS	Jul-14		£70.00	£16.00	5	£16.00	£3,040.00	£3,040.00
Total									£73,853.00	£73,853.00

Cumulative Contract Value (for duration of contracts)

Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	£61,560.00
Baird Taxis Ltd	£6,593.00
Bruce Taxis Ltd	£5,700.00
Total	£73,853.00
	100.00%

B) Contracts not awarded to the lowest bidder but which still provide Best Value

Contract No.	Recommended Contractor	Route	Expiry Date	Estimated Value	Highest Bid	Lowest Bid Cost	No. of Bids	Cost Rate Awarded	Cost Per Annum	Total Value of Contract
F13/TAXI/ED/101	Bruce Taxis Ltd	Banknock- Carrongrange School	Jul-14		£70.00	£28.00	4	£30.00	£5,700.00	£5,700.00
F13/TAXI/ED/104	Bruce Taxis Ltd	Brightons- Condorrat PS	Jul-14		£95.00	£70.00	4	£78.00	£14,820.00	£14,820.00
Total									£20,520.00	£20,520.00

Cumulative Contract Value (for duration of contracts)

Bruce Taxis Ltd	£20,520.00
Total	£20,520.00
	100.00%

Cumulative Total

Flemings t/a Express Taxis Ltd	£61,560.00
Bruce Taxis Ltd	£26,220.00
Baird Taxis Ltd	£6,593.00
3 Operators 15 Contracts	£94,373.00

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FALKIRK COUNCIL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 25 September 2013
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update elected members on the progress made in implementing Falkirk Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect to the English language. Section 3 of the 2005 Act confers a power on Bòrd na Gàidhlig to require any relevant public authority to prepare and implement a Gaelic Language Plan which will set out how that public authority will use the Gaelic language in the exercise of its functions.
- 2.2 As a public body, Falkirk Council is required to raise the status and profile of Gaelic, and to create practical opportunities for its use. The authority's Gaelic Language Plan was prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the *National Plan for Gaelic* and the *Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plan*.
- 2.3 Falkirk's Gaelic Language Plan was agreed by Falkirk Council on 26 September 2012 and has subsequently received approval from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 5 March 2013.
- 2.4 Falkirk Council's Gaelic Language Plan aims are to:
- Increase recognition, visibility and awareness of Gaelic through signage.
 - Increase accessibility of Gaelic by translating key documents.
 - Support Gaelic training and development in the work place.
 - Increase the number of Gaelic learners in schools and the community.
 - Support the increase of Gaelic at home, in Education and across Adult Learning.
 - Include Gaelic in the community, arts, culture, heritage and tourism.

Presently 0.67% of the population of Falkirk are able to read, write and speak Gaelic.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

- 3.1 A corporate group has been established to oversee the implementation of Falkirk's Gaelic Language Plan, with representatives from all relevant services within the Council.
- 3.2 In line with the Plan, a survey of Falkirk council employees was carried out, identifying areas of development, members of staff who speak Gaelic or would like to learn Gaelic and members of staff who would be willing to use their Gaelic Language skills for work.

3.3 A number of developments are planned for 2013/14 using funding obtained from Bòrd na Gàidhlig:

- Create a self employed Gaelic tutor post to deliver Gaelic Language in a range of primary schools increasing both pupil and teacher skills.
- Training for nursery staff within each of our 8 clusters in basic Gaelic Language allowing them to introduce Gaelic Language and Culture awareness within early years.
- Support to An Clas Gaelic to increase participation in and access to Gaelic language classes in the community for adult beginners and intermediate learners.
- Support to Falkirk Gaelic Forum to develop and deliver Gaelic Language classes for children and young people after school.
- Create an online Gaelic Language and awareness resource accessible to staff and the public.
- Deliver training to council staff interested in learning Gaelic Language.
- Translate key HR and corporate policies into Gaelic and create bilingual welcome signs for buildings.

3.4 In addition, the number of primary teachers accessing training and delivering Gaelic in schools as part of the GLPS programme has increased, giving a total of 17 teachers across 10 primary schools. As part of the programme teachers are receiving further support through immersion courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, attending GLPS Network sessions and creating new resources to share across schools. A series of five taster sessions will be offered for beginners at the start of next year from colleagues at Condorat Primary School, which provides Gaelic-medium education, including for young people from the Falkirk area.

3.5 A webpage for Gaelic has been set up within Falkirk Council website www.falkirk.gov.uk/gaelic. This will allow the public to download a copy of the Gaelic Language Plan as well as access further Gaelic information and contact details. In addition, a short Gaelic film has been created which will be added to the website to explain further about Gaelic Language Plans and the significance of Gaelic.

4. FUNDING

4.1 Funding to support implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan was sought from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to assist in the implementation of the Plan.

4.2 One off funding of £19,000 was agreed with the Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 25 June 2013.

4.3 Falkirk Community Trust also provides support in developing Gaelic song and traditional music as part of the Youth Music Initiative.