

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2013 at 9.00 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

David Alexander	Linda Gow	Alan Nimmo
David Balfour	Steven Jackson	Martin Oliver
Stephen Bird	Charles MacDonald	Baillie Joan Paterson
Allyson Black	Brian McCabe	John Patrick
Jim Blackwood	John McLuckie	Provost Pat Reid
Baillie William Buchanan	John McNally	Ann Ritchie
Steven Carleschi	Adrian Mahoney	Robert Spears
Colin Chalmers	Craig Martin	Sandy Turner
Dennis Goldie	Dr Craig R Martin	
Gerry Goldie	Cecil Meiklejohn	
Gordon Hughes	Malcolm Nicol	

**OFFICERS:**

Douglas Duff, Head of Economic Development & Environmental Services  
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services  
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager  
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive  
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

**FC55. SEDERUNT**

The sederunt was taken by way of roll call. Apologies were intimated from Councillors Coleman and Murray.

**FC56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Council declared the following interests in item FC56:

- (a) Councillor Spears declared a non-financial interest as a member of the trade union, Unite.
- (b) Councillors Blackwood and Dr CR Martin each declared a non-financial interest as a member of the trade union, Unite and advised that they had received election expenses from the union at the last local government elections.
- (c) Councillor D Goldie declared a non-financial interest as a member of the trade union, Unite and advised that he had received election expenses from the union at a previous election.

The members considered that their interests did not require them to recuse themselves from consideration of the item, having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

## **FC57. MOTION**

### **INEOS Plant, Grangemouth**

The meeting had been requisitioned to allow Council to consider the terms of the following motion:-

“Council notes with concern the uncertainty over the future of the INEOS Plant in Grangemouth and the impact closure would have on the local economy.

Council therefore seeks an urgent statement from the relevant portfolio holder outlining the outcomes of meetings with both the Ineos management and the trade union, Unite, on this issue.

In addition Council requires a full statement on the actions Falkirk Council are taking to play our part in a positive resolution of the issue”.

The Leader of the Council provided an update on negotiations between management and Unite and advised that he would participate in a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth later that day. He stated that the UK and Scottish Governments and Falkirk Council were committed to securing the future of the site and that it was his intention to set up an all party task force, including local MSPs and business leaders and members from across the Council, to respond to the situation.

The following joint statement had been prepared by the group leaders in response to the decision by INEOS:-

“The announcement by INEOS is devastating news for Grangemouth and the local area. The planned closure will have a massive impact on the future of our communities. Falkirk Council has a critical role in supporting our communities through this difficult time and we are committed to working together in the best interests of the area.

Generations of local workers and local families have served the petrochemical industry in Grangemouth and the impact of the news cannot be overestimated. The crisis facing our local economy is huge. That is why we have agreed to set our political differences aside, put the needs of our community first and work together to respond to the situation we are facing as effectively as possible.

As well as the 800 INEOS jobs in the petrochemical plant directly affected, the plant is a major contributor to the wider local and national economy. The future of the refinery in Grangemouth is also under threat. This is of grave concern and it is essential that all parties get round the table again as soon as possible.

The Council will be setting up a task force to respond to the situation. We are liaising closely with the Scottish and UK Governments and will continue to work closely with Scottish Enterprise. We are also seeking further talks with INEOS and Unite as a matter of urgency and will be meeting local MPs and MSPs later this week”.

### **Decision**

**Council agreed the terms of the joint statement.**