

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND: FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST PERFORMANCE**  
**Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 10 APRIL 2014**  
**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report provides Members with information about the agreement between Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Community Trust (the Trust), in line with Following the Public Pound and Council procedures. It also covers the performance of the Trust against its key objectives, for the following periods:

- April 2013 to June 2013, attached as Appendix 1;
- July 2013 to September 2013, attached as Appendix 2; and
- October 2013 to December 2013, attached as Appendix 3.

1.2 The table below provides Members with an overview of the arrangement in place:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project details</b>	<b>Duration of agreement</b>	<b>Total support (financial &amp; in-kind) during report period</b>	<b>Elected Members currently nominated to the Trust Board</b>
Falkirk Community Trust	The provision of cultural, recreation, sports and library services on behalf of Falkirk Council	25 years from June 2011	£12.257 million (2012/13)	Councillors Dennis Goldie, Linda Gow, Malcolm Nicol, Joan Paterson, Pat Reid

1.3 Whilst the Trust provides the strategic services listed above it also has responsibility for:

- The provision of sports, heritage and arts development programmes, health and fitness and outdoor learning, and delivery of the active schools programme;
- The development and lead delivery of strategies and plans in respect of culture, sports, strategic parks and library services. The Trust also contributes to wider Council policy development, where appropriate;
- The strategies and plans on which the Trust leads the development include:
  - The Culture and Sports Strategy;
  - The Physical Activity Strategy;
  - The Arts and Heritage Strategy, and

- A number of supporting delivery plans which accompany each of these strategies.

- 1.4 The Council's Chief Finance Officer has been designated as the key liaison officer with the Trust. This role includes meeting with the Trust's Chief Executive on a quarterly basis, and responsibility for our monitoring regime.

## 2. ORGANISATION OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

- 2.1 The Trust supports makes a significant contribution to the attainment of the Council's Corporate Plan, as follows:

Trust Outcome	Corporate Plan Goal
People are fitter, healthier and more active, more often	Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
People benefit from lifelong learning opportunities	Further developing a thriving and sustainable vibrant economy
People are more creative and the potential for success and wellbeing is nurtured	Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
People are involved in caring for the area's heritage and environment	Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live and visit

- 2.2 The Trust provides a quarterly performance report to the Trust Board's Audit and Performance Sub Group. This provides the source of information for this report. Three such quarterly reports are attached to this report, to provide Members with an overview of performance covering the period 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2013. The following table summarises the overall performance of the Trust over the reporting period.

Reporting Period	Within 5% or above target performance		5% to 10% below target performance		10% or more below target performance	
	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Q1 – April to June 2013 (27 indicators)	18	67%	6	22%	3	11%
Q2 – July to September 2013 (26 indicators)	16	61%	7	27%	3	12%
Q3 – October to December 2013 (26 indicators)	19	73%	5	19%	2	8%

- 2.3 In addition to reporting the performance to Members, it is helpful to set this in the context of some the key achievements of the Trust during the reporting period, which include:

### ***Q1 Achievements – April to June 2013***

- Admissions to Grangemouth Stadium increased by 15% over the same quarter last year, attributed to increased attendances at athletics events, continued expansion of the gymnastics club operating at the Stadium, and increased usage of the gym;
- Admissions to Bo'ness, Grangemouth and Mariner Centre Circuit Clubs increased by 25%, 42% and 58% respectively compared to the same quarter in 2012/13. Performance has largely been maintained following the launch of a new fitness class programme in January 2013;
- Visits to Callendar House increased by 41% over the same quarter last year. The continued success of the relocated tearoom, a highly popular Easter family event, popular exhibitions within the Park Gallery, and the CBeebies event at the end of June all contributed to increased visits to the House;
- A 29% increase in the number of participant sessions delivered by Active Schools. This is attributed to increased attendance in girls sessions at Bo'ness Academy and successful P7 to secondary transition activities;
- Bookings on Sports Development classes increased by 116% following the introduction of new pre-school classes and expansion of some existing sports programmes; and
- Participants in Heritage Education workshops for schools was 18% higher than the same quarter last year following increased numbers of school groups visiting Callendar House, and higher uptake of loan boxes compared to last year.

### ***Q2 Achievements – July to September 2013***

- Mariner Circuit Club admissions increasing by 60% compared to the same quarter last year and also maintaining the higher admission levels realised in the first quarter of 2013/14 following completion of expansion and renovation works;
- Rounds of golf played at Callendar Park Par and Grangemouth Golf Course increased by 25% compared to the same quarter last year. Importantly this is the first increase in golf usage after several years of performance decreases;
- An 8% increase in public access terminal use in libraries reflecting the likely impact of Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) changes to the benefits process;
- Callendar House visits increased by 5% compared to the same period last year, making this quarter the busiest quarter on record in recent years;
- Participants in heritage education workshops for schools increased by 14%, continuing the raised performance reported in quarter 1 this year; and
- A 5% increase in the number of participants in cultural services activities continuing the higher participation observed in quarter 1.

### ***Q3 Achievements – October to December 2013***

- Admissions to Grangemouth Stadium increased by 28% compared to the same quarter last year, continuing the higher admission levels reported during the year to date;
- Strong performance at all Circuit Clubs with increased admissions over last year's figures at Bo'ness (+32%) and Mariner (+91%), with Grangemouth maintaining admissions because of a closure period for refurbishment;
- Neighbourhood Centre use increased by over 15% compared to the same period last year, with increases being observed at almost all centres;

- Rounds of golf played at Grangemouth Golf Course increased by 20% relative to the same quarter of 2012-13, continuing the good performance seen in golf admissions during quarter two;
- Hippodrome admissions were 13% higher than the comparable period last year following a successful Autumn programme;
- The number of Active Schools participant sessions delivered increased by over 50% compared to quarter three 2012/13;
- Visits to Callendar House continued the strong performance recorded during last quarter, with visits increasing by 24% compared to the same period last year;
- Continued increases in participant numbers in Heritage Education Workshops for Schools, with an additional 14% participants compared to the same quarter last year; and
- An 18% increase in public access terminal use in libraries, reflecting the likely impact of Department of Work and Pensions to the benefits process.

2.4 At the end of the reporting period, uncertainty remains with several indicators, concerning the Hippodrome and Library Stock resources. These may achieve closer to target but the outturn at this time is unclear. It is unlikely that either of the two indicators, which are 10% or more below target, will improve performance sufficiently to reach their respective targets. The Mariner Centre's increased target for this year appears to have been ambitious given recent performance trends. At the Park Gallery, the Trust aims to show a programme of mixed appeal and this year's major exhibitions, the well-publicised Artist Rooms' Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibition and more recently, new work by Alex Frost have been of a more specialist nature. With the 2014/5 programme mostly in place, the Trust has adjusted both its targets, and its promotional activity for each show accordingly.

2.5 In addition to this, the Council's Executive Committee recently considered and approved a report on the Culture and Sport Strategy, following the conclusion of the Policy Development Panel on this topic.

### **3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

3.1 The Trust has been in operation since January 2011 and as an organisation it is still developing. The major strategic, business and operational risks associated with the Trust have been identified and are reviewed by the Board periodically. A Strategic Risk Management policy is in place, together with a risk register with review and mitigation processes.

3.2 A copy of the Trust's budgetary control statements to December 2013 is attached at Appendix 4. Overall expenditure is expected to be within budget with higher operational costs offset by increased income. After accounting for planned expenditure of £93,000 on the purchase of vehicles and the 2014 Homecoming event, this would leave general reserves of £121,000. The projected Falkirk Council subsidy for the Trading Company is £66,000 which is £5,000 below budget.

3.3 The Trust's Audit and Performance Sub Group has considered internal audit reports on the following topics during the reporting period:

- Payroll;

- Repairs and Maintenance; and
- Library Acquisitions.

These maybe topics which Members may wish to request further information on.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Following the Public Pound. It demonstrates the continuing good performance the Trust is achieving against most of its key indicators and the relative health of its financial performance. As with all Following the Public Pound Reports Members can:

- Approve the report and acknowledge the progress the Trust has made in delivering on its core commitments for the Council;
- Request further information on specific aspects of the services provided; and/or
- Request action with follow-up for further consideration by the Committee.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Committee:**

- 5.1 **Considers this report and selects from one of the options listed at 4.1 what course of action it requires; and**
- 5.2 **Notes the progress and performance of the Trust during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2013.**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Date: 24 March 2014  
Ref: ABC0414AW – FCT FPP Report  
Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Falkirk Community Trust Business Plan

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson.