

Provost Reid entered the meeting during consideration of the following item.

AC29. SCOTLAND'S PUBLIC FINANCES - ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer summarising Audit Scotland's follow up report detailing how Falkirk Council was responding to the challenges identified within its report "Scotland's Public Finances - Addressing the Challenges".

A number of areas of good practice had been highlighted by Audit Scotland including:-

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- The Council's clear understanding of future financial pressures;
- The progress of work on strengthening the link between the budget and the Council's Corporate Plan;
- The officer participation in the SOLACE/Improvement Service benchmarking project;
- The participation by members of the Administration in a series of meetings with officers to discuss, consider and agree savings proposals, and
- The regular budget monitoring and reserve strategy updates.

The auditor's report had highlighted areas for improvement. An update was provided on each of the issues identified by the auditor.

The Committee discussed the budget process and the opportunities for members to engage early in the process and the importance of having reliable up to date information available to members.

Decision

The Committee noted the report.