

FC70. NOTICES OF MOTION

(d) Library Opening Hours

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor McNally moved that:-

“Prior to the inception of the Falkirk Community Trust this Council reduced the opening hours of Falkirk’s libraries. This was a budget review exercise designed to achieve a potential saving of around £170k. Both the Chief Executive’s report to the Best Value Forum of 12th October on the performance of the Community trust and the Trust’s own performance report of 18th October produced by the trust’s own Business Development Manager highlight a substantial and alarming drop in library usage. The Business Development Manager notes that the trust is unlikely to meet even its revised target for library issues. Members will remember that libraries are a statutory responsibility of this Council. Accordingly, only the Council has the legal authority to alter library hours.

I request that this Council instructs officers to restore library opening hours to the level that existed before the inception of the Trust in order to give the Trust the opportunity to meet its targets”.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor D Goldie moved the following amendment in substitution for the motion:-

“Council notes the national fall in library usage over the last decade and the pressure on libraries caused by the SNP Government’s ongoing Council Tax Freeze (trimming millions of pounds from Council and associated services).

Council welcomes efforts by Falkirk Community Trust to reverse the decline, including the introduction of a new e-book lending service and other marketing initiatives.

Council calls on the SNP Government to follow the Labour-led Welsh Assembly, by creating a national strategy for libraries across Scotland – showing real support for our libraries and the Councils and Trusts providing these vital services, and promoting best practice”.

On a division, 16 members voted for the amendment and 13 voted for the motion.

Accordingly, **AGREED** the terms of the amendment.

The Provost indicated that it was now 5pm and in terms of Standing Orders he confirmed that he intended to vary the order of those motions which remained to be determined and stated that in terms of Standing Order 31.2.2 those which were moved and seconded would be considered without discussion.