

## FC14. NOTICES OF MOTION

### Economic Recession

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald, moved that:-

“Council recognises that the economic recession has impacted disproportionately on the most excluded social groups in our society, with forthcoming UK Government budget cuts expected to have a significant effect on these groups’ ability to respond to emerging and changing needs.

Council instructs officers to develop plans, and to lead on, the formation of a local Financial Inclusion Network which will be a registered charity and partnership organisation, whose aim would be to ensure that all Falkirk district residents are aware of their financial choices and to promote access to financial advice, financial products and other services, particularly to the most excluded social groups.

Council further instructs officers to bring a report to the next Policy and Resources Committee detailing the steps required to form the local Financial Inclusion Network.”

By way of an Amendment, Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that:-

“Council recognises the value of all services and organisations working together to ensure the best advice and information is provided to residents of Falkirk Council with regards money and debt advice.

The Council and our partners have worked together to ensure these services are available and co-ordinated through an established financial inclusion partnership. Through our approach to financial inclusion we have seen the development and expansion of support to our Credit Unions, CABs, money advice services, services to homeless people and financial education in Schools. We do not require a formal structure/organisation to ensure the continued development and co-ordination of services to the most vulnerable individuals. While recognising the need to co-ordinate services, we must also ensure our resources are used to deliver front line services rather than the establishment and running of a new organisation.

On that basis Officers are asked to ensure the existing financial inclusion partnership is further developed with its work reported to Members as part of a wider approach to addressing poverty and in the context of an emerging poverty strategy.”

On a division, 12 Members voted for the Motion and 15 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** in terms of the Amendment.