

FC47. NOTICES OF MOTION

(b) Pest Control Service

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved that:-

“Council notes that the charging regime put in place for the use of the Pest Control Service fails the fairness test in two important areas.

These are:-

- The poll tax nature of the charges where the poorest pay the same as the richest for the same service.
- The requirement to pay the charge up front thus robbing the poorest of an affordable payment plan.

Council agrees that this is unfair and in conflict with the Council's equalities policies and therefore agrees to the following changes:-

- (a) a staggered table of payments is formulated that begins at zero for those on benefit or state pension rising with income.
- (b) individual payments plans be agreed with the applicant that allows low paid groups a realistic period to pay off accounts such as occurs with other charges, and
- (c) a report to come back to Members on (a) & (b) above, as well as a full report on the reasons why take up of the service has halved since charges were introduced in April”.

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

“Council accepts that the Administration will bring forward a universal “poverty proofing strategy” and seeks a report from the Chief Executive on the development of a Falkirk Council poverty strategy and that the charging policy for pest control services all considered as part of that strategy”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 27 Members present, with voting as undernoted :-

For the Motion (11) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Thomson.

For the Amendment (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

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