

FC59. MOTIONS

(c) Office Accommodation

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander moved that:-

The Johnston Press have become synonymous with Falkirk and as such are a key employer within the town.

Council notes with disappointment the snubbing of the company at the Falkirk Stadium and believes that positive action is required to keep the company HQ in the Falkirk area.

Council also notes the shortage of modern office accommodation within the Falkirk area and therefore believes that the dithering by the current Labour/Tory/Independent coalition before finally implementing the terms of the Strategic Property Review concluded by the previous SNP/Independent Administration was a grave error of judgement.

Council also notes the delay in bringing forward details of the Henry Boot proposals for Westfield which, we believe, contains proposals for office space within the first phase as another contributing factor in the failure of the Administration to find alternative accommodation for the Johnston Press HQ.

Council therefore instructs the appropriate Community Service staff to bring forward a report to the first available Economic Development Committee outlining the steps taken to date to assist Johnston Press relocate and the options open to Falkirk Council to assist and avenues currently being investigated.

By way of an amendment Councillor C Martin seconded by Councillor Lemetti moved that:-

Council applauds the tremendous work being done by the Economic Development section within Falkirk Council in continuing to attract new jobs to the area working in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and the Private Sector. Council confirms its good links with Johnston Press, meeting regularly with its staff and engaging on joint projects such as the business awards.

Council dismisses the SNP motion for its short sightedness and lack of knowledge on the matter of Johnston Press relocation.

Council fully supports the recent implementation of the Business Property Strategy that will be more flexible in order to take account of market conditions and their effects on the council.

On a division 14 Members voted for the Motion and 17 for the Amendment.

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