

FC19. REFERRALS FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2008 – CULTURAL CO-ORDINATORS

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Kenna

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Education Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 April 2008 be approved.

By way of an amendment Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that:-

“Council recognises the importance of local culture and heritage to the young people of Falkirk and district. Council therefore rejects the proposed cuts in both numbers of Cultural Co-ordinators posts and overall hours worked in this field. Instead of cutting this service Council agrees to maintain the current staffing level, hours worked and funding commitments currently in place. Council also agrees to open discussions with the relevant staff members and their representatives to prepare a long term strategy for their employment with Falkirk Council, including becoming full time permanent employees in the fullness of time.”

At this point, Councillor MacDonald declared a non-financial interest in the item of business given his role as chair of the local MOD Committee. However, Councillor MacDonald did not consider that there was a conflict of interest between that position and his role as a councillor and accordingly participated in the discussion and vote.

During the course of debate the Chief Executive reminded members of the terms of the Councillor's Code of Conduct insofar as it refers to matters which should not be raised in public.

Following further debate and in terms of Standing Order 25.2(ii) Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved the closure motion that “the question be now put”.

On a vote, 17 Members voted for the Motion and 13 Members against. The mover of the motion was accordingly entitled to exercise his right of reply before the vote was taken.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to note the valuable work of this small team and the impact on the experiences and opportunities for the young people in our schools and establishments in Falkirk; and
- (2) to approve the establishment of one permanent Cultural Co-ordinator post and one part-time temporary post.