

EX29. COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS ACCOMODATION OFFICE RE-PROVISION

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting options for the preferred location for a new Council headquarters.

The Executive had agreed, on 25 February 2014 (ref EX 118), to progress work on a business case for the provision of new Council office headquarters as part of a staged replacement of the current accommodation and town hall. A member/officer working group was established to progress the work. The group comprised: the Provost; Leader of the Council; Leader of the Opposition; and the Portfolio Holders for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, and for Economic Development.

Six potential sites had been identified:-

- Site at Municipal Buildings, Falkirk;
- Meeks Road car park;
- Melville Street car park;
- Land to the south of Falkirk Stadium;
- Land at Falkirk Gateway; and
- Abbotsford House and environs.

The report set out the key characteristics and considerations for each site together with the views of the member/officer working group in regard to the options. The group had, after considering costs, impact on the town centre, and the need for value for money, identified the existing site at the Municipal Buildings as its preferred location.

In considering the options the group was advised that the Council currently leased Abbotsford House and that the landlord, Carisbrooke Investments, had declined to negotiate over its acquisition. Should the position change, an option appraisal would be carried out.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) for the purposes of developing a detailed business case, the existing Municipal Buildings Falkirk site as the preferred location for the site of the new office headquarters building;**
- (2) that should Carisbrooke Investments agree to negotiate the acquisition of Abbotsford House an appraisal will be undertaken to assess the benefits of this option and its implications for the Council office headquarters project; and**
- (3) that further reports will be submitted to the Executive on the full business case and, if required, the options appraisal for Abbotsford House.**