

FC35. COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION

Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the key findings of a business case for the provision of a replacement Council headquarters.

The Executive had considered, on 25 February 2014 (ref EX29), options for the provision of Council headquarters accommodation and had established a member/office working group (including the Leader, Leader of the Opposition, Provost and portfolio holder) to develop the project. The existing Municipal Buildings site was identified as the preferred site by the Executive on 17 June 2014 (ref EX29) and a business case was then developed.

The report summarised the project rationale, the key findings of the business case and options should Council not progress the business case further.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Nicol, moved that Council agrees to-

- (1) note the content of the report and its summary of the business case for the replacement Council office headquarters; and
- (2) progress the project on the basis of the report and accompanying business case and instructs officers to:-
 - (i) initiate the next stage of design for the Council HQ project, commissioning HubCo to prepare the stage 1 design and project documentation;
 - (ii) prepare a delivery plan for the project detailing the works and procurement method necessary to the provision of a new office headquarters building and the ancillary measures required for its successful delivery;
 - (iii) progress detailed consideration of options for maintaining an appropriate One-Stop-Shop presence in Falkirk Town Centre;
 - (iv) continue with a detailed options appraisal analysis of potential sites and funding sources, and development of a business case for a replacement Town Hall in conjunction with Falkirk Community Trust;
 - (v) cancel the proposed security alarm installation to the existing Municipal Buildings and continue with current security arrangements; and
 - (vi) report back to Council prior to any final decision being made.

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, moved the following in substitution for the motion:-

Council:

- (1) notes the content of the report and its summary of the business case for the replacement of Council headquarters; and

- (2) believes there has been insufficient consultation with staff and stakeholders and opportunities for scrutiny of the proposals and therefore agrees to :-
- (i) initiate the next stage of the design for the Council HQ project in conjunction with Hubco and establishing a stakeholders working group, (similar to that used in the development of the NPDO Schools project) which should include staff, trade unions, appropriate Community Planning partners, Town Centre Management and in house IT staff;
 - (ii) carry out a public consultation including statutory consultees and the citizens panel on the development of the project and bring a report back to Council; and
 - (iii) cancel the proposed security alarm installation to the existing Municipal Buildings and continue the current security arrangements.

Council then adjourned, at 11.55a.m., to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened at 12.55p.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Jackson seconded the amendment by Councillor Meiklejohn.

After discussion, Councillor Nicol gave notice of a further amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillie Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

The motion was agreed.

As a further amendment, Councillor Nicol, seconded by Councillor D Goldie, moved, in supplement to the motion, that:-

“Council is fully committed to public consultation when there is a firm proposal to put to the public including a full cost benefit analysis.”

In accordance with Standing Order 20.8, Councillor C Martin, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Nicol, as the seconder, adjusted the terms of the motion to include the terms of the proposed further amendment.

Councillor D Goldie then gave notice of, and subsequently withdrew, a further amendment.

Council then adjourned, at 1.40p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 2.30p.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

With no general agreement on the terms of the adjusted motion, it was put to the vote in accordance with Standing Order 20.11.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), the vote was taking by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillie Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

Against the motion - (0)

Abstain (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and its summary of the business case for the replacement Council office headquarters; and**
- (2) to progress the project on the basis of the report and accompanying business case and instructs officers to:-**
 - (i) initiate the next stage of design for the Council HQ project, commissioning HubCo to prepare the stage 1 design and project documentation;**
 - (ii) prepare a delivery plan for the project detailing the works and procurement method necessary to the provision of a new office headquarters building and the ancillary measures required for its successful delivery;**
 - (iii) progress detailed consideration of options for maintaining an appropriate One-Stop-Shop presence in Falkirk Town Centre;**
 - (iv) continue with a detailed options appraisal analysis of potential sites and funding sources, and development of a business case for a replacement Town Hall in conjunction with Falkirk Community Trust;**
 - (v) cancel the proposed security alarm installation to the existing Municipal Buildings and continue with current security arrangements; and**
 - (vi) report back to Council prior to any final decision being taken.**
- (3) to a public consultation when there is a firm proposal to put before the public including a full cost benefit analysis.**