

FC66. FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST – BUSINESS PLAN

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer presenting the Falkirk Community Trust business plan 2015-2016, in the form of an annual action plan, for approval.

The funding agreement between the Council and Falkirk Community Trust requires the Trust to submit, annually, its business plan (including the Helix business plan) for the following year to Council for approval. The business plan strategy contains three high level objectives over a five year period: meeting customer needs, organisational development and financial sustainability.

The report by the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer summarised the Trust's proposed revenue budget for 2015-2016 of £12,660,370 inclusive of savings of £0.620m. To achieve this the Trust proposed to increase its income by £0.480m through new income generation and by increasing its customer base. The report also summarised the proposed capital programme amounting to £0.550m. In addition the Trust sought an increase in its borrowing limit from £0.2m to £1m to enable it to progress three or four projects intended to increase customer visits, retention levels and income. Each project would be supported by a sound business case before being taken forward.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) the Falkirk Community Trust annual action plan 2015-16 and the Helix business plan;
- (2) a service payment of £12.660m to Falkirk Community Trust for 2015/16;
- (3) the capital expenditure proposals for 2015/16 as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (4) a change to the Funding Agreement that increases the borrowing limit to £1m in aggregate; and
- (5) to note that it is nearly 4 years since the formation of the Trust and it is now timely to review and develop the relationship between the Council and the Trust for the future, bearing in mind the challenging financial environment over the years to come. The Chief Executive is accordingly asked to bring a report to the next suitable meeting of the Executive inviting it to establish a policy development panel for the purpose.

Should the service payment of £12.660m and proposed capital expenditure be agreed, they will be reflected in the Council's budget to be considered on 11 February 2015.

Council then adjourned at 10.20 a.m. to allow members of the Opposition to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened at 10.25 a.m. with all members present as per the sederunt, with Councillor Dr Martin having joined the meeting during the recess.

As an amendment, Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved, in substitution for the motion, that Council:-

- (1) agrees the Falkirk Community Trust Annual action plan 2015-16 and the Helix business plan subject to more information and clarification being brought forward to members;
- (2) agrees a service payment of £12.660m to Falkirk Community Trust for 2015-16 subject to subject the performance management report being tabled at the March meeting of the performance panel;
- (3) approves the capital expenditure proposals for 2015-16 as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (4) cannot agree to a change to the funding agreement that increases the borrowing limit of £1m until the Trust can demonstrate a clear need and robust case; and
- (5) agrees that it is now timely to review and develop the relationship between the Council and the Trust for the future, bearing in mind the challenging financial environment over the years to come. This review should be brought to the performance panel and full Council and thereby put before all members.

Council then adjourned at 10.50 a.m. to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened at 11.00 a.m. with members present as per the sederunt.

After discussion, Councillor McNally, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Jackson as his seconder, adjusted parts (1) and (2) his motion, for clarity, to read:-

- (1) agrees the Falkirk Community Trust action Plan 2015-2016 and the Helix business plan but with more information and clarification being brought forward to members; and
- (2) agrees a service payment of £12.660m to Falkirk Community Trust for 2015-2016 subject to it being agreed that there will be a performance management report taken to the Performance Panel in March 2015.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 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 (14) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Spears.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.