

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EXECUTIVE held within the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015 at 11.55 a.m.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander	Adrian Mahoney
Jim Blackwood	Craig Martin (Convener)
Tom Coleman	Dr Craig R Martin
Dennis Goldie	Malcolm Nicol
Gerry Goldie	Alan Nimmo
Linda Gow	Robert Spears

OFFICERS:

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Ian Edwards, Environmental Co-ordinator
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Rosemary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Jennifer Litts, Head of Housing
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Alistair Shaw, Development Plan Co-ordinator
Celia Sweeney, Corporate Policy Officer (Equalities)

EX1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were intimated.

EX2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this stage.

EX3. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 17 March 2015 was approved.

EX4. FALKIRK FORESTRY AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy and accompanying maps for approval.

The Strategy was procured, and paid for, by Forestry Commission Scotland and developed in partnership with the Council, Central Scotland Green Network Trust and

Scottish Natural Heritage and sits within the Scottish Government's Scottish Forestry Strategy.

The Falkirk Strategy will guide forestry and woodland management and expansion in the area and provide a strategic and spatial framework to optimise the contribution of woodland and forestry to the people, environment and economy in the area. Upon approval, the plan will be available on the Council's and Commission's websites and will replace the Indicative Forestry Strategy 2002 set out in the Council's Structure Plan and the Council's Urban Woodland Strategy 2007.

During the course of discussion, Councillor Gow advised that she was a member of the Board of Central Scotland Green Network Trust but did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item.

Decision

The Executive approved the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy Final Draft and accompanying maps.

Councillor D Goldie joined the meeting during the previous item.

EX5. DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2015

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the Development Plan Scheme for 2015 for approval.

The Development Plan Scheme sets out:–

- the Development Plan framework for the area, and how it is evolving;
- the key stages in preparing a Local Development Plan;
- the intended programme for completing the first Local Development Plan (LDP1) and the associated Supplementary Guidance, and the process of preparing its review (LDP2); and
- how the Council will involve the community and agencies at each stage in the preparation of LDP2 (participation statement).

It is envisaged that the Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP1) will be adopted by the Council in June 2015 and will replace the Structure and Local Plans as the operative Development Plan for the area for the period to 2024.

Councils are required to review Development Plans every five years. The report set out the planning and timetable for the development of the next Plan (LDP2), to be in place by 2020.

Decision

The Executive approved the Development Plan Scheme 2015.

EX6. EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING AND EQUALITY OUTCOMES UPDATE 2015

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the progress made in regard to the Council's Equality Outcomes.

The Executive agreed, on 7 May 2013 (ref EX8), the Council's Equality Outcomes for the period to 2017.

The progress report identified the 11 actions relating to the three Equality Outcomes – Community, Employment and Education, and set out progress made in achieving the Outcomes. An Action Plan for the period 2015 – 2017 was also provided.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the Equality Outcomes Action plan covering the period 2015 – 2017;**
- (2) the publication of the report on the Council website by 30th April 2015;**
- (3) to note the case study examples and progress against the 2013 Equality Outcomes; and**
- (4) to note the timescale of the next report due by end of April 2017.**

EX7. PENSION FUND – SOCIAL/AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services advising that funding had been secured from the Scottish Government to meet a funding shortfall for two Social/Affordable Housing developments at Bellsdyke and Redding.

On 13 January 2015 (ref EX105), the Executive was advised of a £4m funding shortfall for a Pension Fund investment in social and affordable housing. While £2.35m was available as a one off contribution from the Scottish Government Financial Innovation Unit, the balance remained to be found. It has since been confirmed that the balance can be met by drawing down early future years affordable housing grant funding (RPA).

Decision

The Executive agreed to bring forward c£2.35m Affordable Housing Grant (RPA) to facilitate the funding of new build developments at Bellsdyke and Redding, as part of the Council's Pension Fund investment in Social/Affordable Housing.