

DRAFT

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015 at 9.30 A.M.

<u>COUNCILLORS:</u>	David Alexander	Linda Gow	Alan Nimmo
	David Balfour	Gordon Hughes	Baillie Joan Paterson
	Stephen Bird	Steven Jackson	Depute Provost
	Allyson Black	Charles MacDonald	John Patrick
	Jim Blackwood	John McLuckie	Provost Pat Reid
	Baillie William Buchanan	Adrian Mahoney	Ann Ritchie
	Steven Carleschi	Craig Martin	Robert Spears
	Colin Chalmers	Dr Craig R Martin	Sandy Turner
	Tom Coleman	Cecil Meiklejohn	
	Dennis Goldie	Rosie Murray	
	Gerry Goldie	Malcolm Nicol	

<u>OFFICERS:</u>	Margaret Anderson, Director of Social Work Services
	John Angell, Head of Planning and Transportation
	Kevin Collins, Transport Planning Co-Ordinator
	Ian Dryden, Development Manager
	Rhona Geisler, Director Of Development Services
	Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
	Colin Hemfrey, Development Plan Co-Ordinator
	Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
	Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
	Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
	Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
	Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services
	Alistair Shaw, Development Plan Co-Ordinator
	Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

FC1. PROVOSTS REMARKS

Provost Reid remarked on the outcome of the General Election on 7 May 2015. In particular, he congratulated Councillor John McNally on his election in the Falkirk constituency. Provost Reid also congratulated Councillor Martyn Day of West Lothian on his election in the Linlithgow & Falkirk East Constituency and paid tribute to the former Member of Parliament for the constituency, Michael Connarty. Councillors Meiklejohn and Spears echoed these sentiments. All thanked the Returning Officer and her staff on the efficient running of the election and count.

FC2. SEDERUNT

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors McCabe and McNally.

FC3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Provost Reid; Baillie Buchanan and Councillors D Goldie, Gow and Spears each declared a non-financial interest in item FC11 as Directors of Falkirk Community Trust, but did not consider that this required them to recuse themselves from consideration of the item, having regard to the specific exclusions contained in the Code of Conduct.

FC4. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

(a) Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 11 March 2015.

Decision

The minute of the meeting held on 11 March 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(b) Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 26 March 2015.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 26 March 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(c) Meeting of Planning Committee held on 30 March 2015.

Decision

The minute of the meeting held on 30 March 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(d) Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 31 March 2015.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 31 March 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(e) Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2014/2015.

Decision

The Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2014/15 was noted.

(f) **Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2014/2015.**

Decision

The Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2014/2015 was noted.

FC5. QUESTIONS

In terms of Standing Order 32.1, written questions may be submitted to the Leader of the Council and/or portfolio holders on any matters relating to business transacted at any meeting of the Executive or Education Executive since the last Volume of Minutes was published.

No questions had been submitted.

FC6. DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES INCLUDING OPEN SPACE, ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING WORKS AT PARKHALL FARM, MADDISTON, FALKIRK FK2 0BN FOR GLADMAN DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED - P/14/0707/PPP

An application for planning permission, in principle, had been made, in relation to a proposed residential development at Parkhall farm, Maddiston.

In terms of Standing Orders, Council consideration is required for any application that is significantly contrary to the Development Plan. A pre determination hearing was held on 30 March 2015.

A report by the Director of Development Services providing an assessment of the planning application had been issued with the agenda for the meeting.

The Provost confirmed that, subsequent to issue of the agenda, the developer, Gladman Developments Limited, had withdrawn the planning application.

Consequently the report was not considered.

FC7. FALKIRK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION REPORT AND MODIFICATIONS

Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting a modified Local Development Plan for approval.

Council agreed, on 12 February 2014 (ref FC86), its Local Development Plan for subsequent submission to the Scottish Ministers. Council also submitted a summary of unresolved issues containing its response to the unresolved representations made during the consultation period and requested the appointment of a Reporter or Reporters to examine the Plan and the summary.

An Examination Report was published by the Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals on 6 March 2015. This contains the Reporters' recommendations in regard to each of the issues. Council is required to modify the Plan accordingly and is not permitted to make unconnected modifications.

An action programme setting out actions required to deliver the Plans policies and proposals, along with the timescales and responsible agencies, was provided. Council is required to publish its final action programme within 3 months of the adoption of the Plan.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) the proposed modifications to the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan, as contained in appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) to publish its intention to adopt the Modified Falkirk Local Development Plan, as contained in appendix 2 to the report, and submit it to Scottish Ministers;**
- (3) that the modified Plan be adopted 28 days after submission to Scottish Ministers, unless Scottish Ministers direct otherwise; and**
- (4) the final action programme, as contained in appendix 3 to the report; and its publication within 3 months of the adoption of the Local Development Plan.**

FC8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/16

Council considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer presenting, as part of the Treasury Management Code of Practice requirements, an annual report on the Treasury Management function of the Council. The report had been previously considered by the Executive on 17 March 2015 (ref EX144) and had been referred to Council for consideration.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) the borrowing strategy for 2015/16 as set out in the appendix to the report;**
- (2) the Investment Strategy for 2015/16 and the list of "Permitted Investments" as set out in the appendix to the report; and**
- (3) the Treasury Indicators as set out in the appendix to the report.**

FC9. FIFTH REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA – PROPOSALS FOR WARDS

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for the Falkirk Council area as part of its 5th review of electoral arrangements.

The purpose of the current review is to consider whether there should be a change in any electoral arrangements in the area and focussed on:-

- the total number of Councillors to be elected to a Council;
- the number of boundaries and wards;
- whether 3 or 4 Councillors should be elected for each ward; and
- the name of each ward

The Commission's proposals for the Falkirk Council area were published on 19 March 2015 and the Council is required to submit its response by 19 May 2015. Thereafter, having considered Council's response, the Commission will consult with the public. It is anticipated that a final report will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in 2016 and will come into effect in time for the 2017 Local Government Elections.

The report summarised the methodology for the review, the consultation undertaken by the Commission and various response options. The report also highlighted the potential for legal challenge of the Commission's methodology. Finally, the report highlighted a boundary anomaly between wards 4 and 5 and set out a proposed alternative.

Following discussion, Council adjourned at 11.55 a.m. to allow the Chief Executive to ascertain if the Commission would extend its deadline for the submission of Council's response beyond 19 May 2015.

Council reconvened with all members present as per the sederunt.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Commission had agreed to extend its deadline for the submission of the Council's response to 31 May 2015.

Decision

Council agreed to continue consideration of the report to a Special meeting to be held before 31 May 2015.

FC10. STANDING ORDERS

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer presenting amendments to Standing Orders to accommodate a decision by Council.

Council agreed, on 31 March 2015 (ref FC89), to establish 2 Scrutiny Committees and to adjust the questions procedure to include questions to the Provost (as civic head).

The report summarised the proposed changes to Standing Orders, set out the nominees to the Committees and set out transitional arrangements for the Committees together with a meetings schedule for the period August to December 2015.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) the revisions to Standing Orders 37.1, 38 and 50 as set out in appendices 1 and 2 to the report subject to the adjustment of Standing Order 50.4 (role of the Scrutiny Committee) to include the consideration of reports from school inspections;
- (2) to appoint members to the Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Committee (External) as follows;

Scrutiny Committee		Scrutiny Committee (External)	
Administration	Opposition	Administration	Opposition
Allyson Black	Steven Bird	Charles MacDonald	David Balfour
William Buchanan	Colin Chalmers	John McLuckie	Gordon Hughes
Joan Paterson	Steven Carleschi	Rosie Murray	Steven Jackson
Pat Reid	Cecil Meiklejohn	John Patrick	Brian McCabe

- (3) the revised timetable of meetings for the period August to December 2015, set out at appendix 4 to the report;
- (4) the transitional arrangements for meetings of the Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Committee (External) as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report; and
- (5) the revised Standing Order 32 in regard to questions at Council as set out in appendix 5 to the report subject to the adjustment of Standing Order 32.3 to read; “The Provost, having consulted with the Leader, the Leader of the Opposition and the member submitting the question, will determine...”

FC11. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer detailing those deeds that had been signed by her since the last meeting.

Decision

Council noted the report.