

EX43. SCOTTISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS (STUC) AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services on the collaborative working arrangements in place with Trades Unions.

The Executive requested, on 18 August 2015 (ref EX29), a report on Scottish Trade Union Congress best practice policies and how they relate to Falkirk Council.

The report described the Memorandum of Understanding between the Scottish Government and the STUC and the consultation and negotiating forums currently in place locally, highlighting improvement groups which jointly review working arrangements, identify improvement areas and ensure a commitment by all parties to implementation of those improvements. Work is currently underway to review the practical implementation of the various forums in light of the revised Service Structure with a view to agreeing a partnership agreement between the Council and Trade Unions.

Councillor C R Martin, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Executive:-

- (1) notes the engagement forums currently in place;
- (2) notes the review underway to re-examine engagement and consultation forums currently in place;
- (3) requests an update report on progress made in due course;
- (4) notes the Conservative Government are proposing a Trade Union Bill that will restrict the ability of this Council to engage in good industrial relations practices with our workforce and their representatives;
- (5) believes the collection of union dues through the check-off arrangement, from which the Council receives income, is part of our collective and contractual arrangements with the trades unions and one which we will defend and support;
- (6) commits not to use agency staff to break or weaken industrial action and to continue to support arrangements that afford trade unions representatives sufficient resources to enable them to carry out their functions to ensure the continuation of good industrial relations; and
- (7) asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills stating Council's opposition to this Bill and our resolve not to co-operate with any attacks on facility time or check off and to write to the First Minister calling on the Scottish Government to stand with Falkirk Council and other local authorities in opposing the proposals in this Bill.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.