

EX48. FALKIRK ECONOMIC STRATEGY – UPDATE REPORT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting a draft Economic Strategy for consultation.

The Executive agreed, on 17 March 2015 (ref EX142), to establish a policy development panel to review and develop the Council's Economic Strategy. The panel, which comprises Councillors D Goldie (Convener), Blackwood, Coleman, Gow and Turner, has met on three occasions and has agreed a draft Strategy for consultation.

The report summarised the engagement undertaken thus far by the panel and set out a framework for further consultation on the draft Strategy. It was intended that a final draft would be submitted to the Executive, for approval, by December 2015.

Councillor D Goldie, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved that the Executive agrees:-

- (1) to note the content of the draft Falkirk Economic Strategy document; and
- (2) that the draft Strategy is issued for consultation and completion of a finalised draft by the end of 2015 following approval of the policy development panel.

As an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved, in addition to the motion, that the Executive:-

- (3) calls for a report on improving the promotion of Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SME's) as the most effective means of diversifying the local economy; and
- (4) recommends to Council that the Tourism sector is transferred from the Leisure portfolio to Economic Development and to bring forward a report on its integration and subsequent promotion.

On a division, 8 members voted for the motion and 3 members voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (8) - Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin and Nimmo.

For the amendment (3) - Councillors Alexander, Coleman and Spears.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.