

## **FC69. FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST - BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17**

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive setting out Falkirk Community Trust's proposed Business plan for 2016/17.

The Funding Agreement between the Council and the Trust requires that the Trust submits, annually, a Business Plan for the following financial year for approval by the Council. The Business Plan was contained within a briefing note by the Chief Executive of the Trust, which was appended to the report, as was the Trust's draft Action Plan, the draft Helix Business Plan and the Trust's fees and charges proposals.

The Funding Agreement requires that both parties engage in initial dialogue in regard to the Trust's proposals prior to Council's final approval of the plan. Council can request further information and propose amendments for consideration by the Trust. The Trust had been asked by Council to identify savings of £1.2m. These were grouped into 3 categories:-

- income generative & growth;
- efficiency savings; and
- service reductions.

Within the £1.2m savings were 10 areas of service reductions which, if implemented, would achieve £930k in savings.

The report set out the impact on the Council's budget of proposals in regard to Hallglen Sports Centre, Denny Football Centre, Grangemouth Town Hall, Woodlands Games Hall and The Steeple. The proposed facility withdrawals were predicted to achieve £218k of savings, however Council could incur a loss of rates relief amounting to £121k.

The proposals were noted as coinciding with a review of the Council's asset portfolio and a more strategic review of all assets was proposed to be co-ordinated by the already established Policy Development Panel.

The Trust's capital proposals were also set out in the Business Plan. Those which relate to building works would be the responsibility of the Council, as landlord, in terms of the leases and property licence. It was proposed that the strategic review of facilities would include consideration of future capital investment requirements.

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

- (1) *the Trust is requested to consider and provide to the Council revised draft Business Plans for 2016/17 removing its proposals for facility withdrawal (at Grangemouth Town Hall, Hallglen Sports Centre, Denny Football Centre and Woodlands Games Hall) and the associated proposed savings of £218k which savings shall be deferred for consideration in 2017/18 following the strategic assessment referred to in paragraph 2 below. It is requested that the Trust provide revised draft Business Plans within a timescale consistent with the Council being able to consider them at the Council Budget meeting on 17 February 2016;*
- (2) *a strategic assessment of the Trust's service delivery and property portfolio is conducted which will interface with review of the Council's own asset portfolio. The policy development panel established by the Executive to carry out a review of the Trust is requested to co-ordinate the strategic assessment in parallel to its ongoing work allowing for significant input by and liaison*

*with the Trust and relevant Council officers. It is anticipated that the strategic assessment would be finalised by around the end of August 2016 for consideration by members and would feed into the 2017/18 budget process;*

- (3) full Equalities and Poverty Impact Assessments be provided by the Trust to the Council in relation to the proposals in the revised draft Business Plans for consideration by the Council before any final decisions are taken by the Council on the revised draft Business Plans; and*
- (4) the Council's Spend to Save reserve may be applied to assist the Trust consistent with paragraph 3.2 of the report.*

Council then adjourned at 12.05 pm to allow members of the Opposition to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened at 12.20 pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

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

*Following recent revelations we have serious concern that the Trust cannot meet its stated objectives as set out when it was established.*

*Council therefore calls for an urgent review to be completed in time to feed in to the 2016/17 Budget (circa end Jan) to be carried out of the Trust and its ability to remain sustainable before any agreements are reached on the business plan and setting of 2016/17 Budget. No further actions taken to progress business case until outcome of Review.*

Following discussion, Council adjourned at 12.40 pm to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened at 12.50 pm with all members present as per sederunt.

Following further discussion the Provost proposed that, in order to allow further debate on the item, Council break for lunch and consider the matter to conclusion post lunch.

Members concurred and as there was general agreement on items FC70, 71 and 72 these were dealt with immediately.

### **FC73. FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST - BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17 (CONTINUED)**

Following further discussion, and on a division, 18 members voted for the motion and 14 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (18):- Provost Pat Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr CR Martin, Murray, Nicol, Nimmo and Spears.

For the amendment (14):- Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Garner, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Turner.

## Decision

### Council agreed:-

- (1) to request that the Trust considers and provides the Council with revised draft Business Plans for 2016/17 removing its proposals for facility withdrawal (at Grangemouth Town Hall, Hallglen Sports Centre, Denny Football Centre and Woodlands Games Hall) and the associated proposed savings of £218k which savings shall be deferred for consideration in 2017/18 following the strategic assessment referred to in paragraph 2 below. It is requested that the Trust provide revised draft Business Plans within a timescale consistent with the Council being able to consider them at the Council Budget meeting on 17 February 2016;
- (2) that a strategic assessment of the Trust's service delivery and property portfolio is conducted which will interface with review of the Council's own asset portfolio;
- (3) that the policy development panel established by the Executive to carry out a review of the Trust is requested to co-ordinate the strategic assessment in parallel to its ongoing work allowing for significant input by and liaison with the Trust and relevant Council officers. It is anticipated that the strategic assessment would be finalised by around the end of August 2016 for consideration by members and would feed into the 2017/18 budget process;
- (4) that full EPIAs are provided by the Trust to the Council in relation to the proposals in the revised draft Business Plans for consideration by the Council before any final decisions are taken by the Council on the revised draft Business Plans; and
- (5) that the Council's Spend to Save reserve may be applied to assist the Trust consistent with paragraph 3.2 of the report.