

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on the water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

**AGENDA ITEM**

**3**

**MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2016 at 9.30 A.M.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

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

**OFFICERS:**

Douglas Duff, Head of Economic Development and Environmental Services  
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services  
Carole McGhee, Capital Manager  
Robert McMaster, Head of Roads and Design  
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer  
Iain Henderson, Legal Services Manager  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager  
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive  
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services  
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

**ALSO** Maureen Campbell, Chief Executive, Falkirk Community Trust  
**ATTENDING:**

**FC1. SEDERUNT**

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call.

**FC2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

### **FC3. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN**

#### **(a) Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 9 March 2016.**

##### **Decision**

The minute of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 was agreed as a correct record.

#### **(b) Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2015/2016.**

##### **Decision**

The Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2015/2016 was noted.

#### **(c) Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2015/2016.**

##### **Decision**

The Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2015/2016 was noted.

### **FC4. QUESTIONS**

In terms of Standing Order 32, 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 or to the Provost on civic and related matters.

No questions had been submitted.

### **FC5. ROLLING ACTION LOG**

Council had agreed on 9 March 2016 (ref FC94), to include in the business at meetings a 'rolling action log showing progress on any outstanding actions from the previous meetings'. The log from the meeting on 9 March 2016 was presented.

##### **Decision**

The rolling action log was noted.

**FC6. REFERRAL FROM EXECUTIVE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016/17**

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services 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 previously been considered by the Executive on 15 March 2016 (ref EX106) and had been referred to Council for consideration.

**Decision**

**Council agreed:-**

- (1) to adopt the Borrowing Strategy for 2016/17;**
- (2) to adopt the Investment Strategy for 2016/17 and approve the list of “Permitted Investments”**
- (3) set out in the appendix to the report, and**
- (4) the Treasury Indicators set out in the appendix to the report.**

**FC7. ASSET RATIONALISATION: COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AND REPLACEMENT TOWN HALL PROJECT**

Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the Council headquarters project together with information on the proposal to create an Arts Centre to replace Falkirk Town Hall.

At its meeting on 16 December 2015, Council had sought further information on the impact of ESA 10 (the European System of Accounts 2010) and emerging VAT complications with regard to the proposed civic arts centre in addition to a detailed analysis of the costs and timeline for the project and a review of alternative options.

The report (a) summarised the history of the project and gave an update on its current status; (b) outlined the business case for the proposed new arts centre and analysed the VAT and funding options; (c) confirmed that, as it was now proposed to fund the arts centre through straightforward capital procurement, ESA 10 no longer impacted on it; (d) identified the risks attaching to the project and the alternative options including cancellation and maintaining the status quo, and (e) set out the financial implications.

The Director of Development Services advised that Forth Valley College had confirmed that Friday 13 May 2016 was the deadline for submitting the bid of the Scottish Government and consequently for the Council was being asked to confirm its position in regard to the Arts Centre project by that date.

Council adjourned at 11.10a.m. to allow members to consider the information referred to by the Director of Development Services in her summary, and reconvened at 11.40a.m. with members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) *to continue consideration of the proposal for a new Council headquarters, as part of the asset rationalisation programme, to await clarification of future local government funding and clarification of the implications arising from the recent announcement of a review of Scottish local government structures;*
- (2) *that Falkirk requires a modern Arts Centre;*
- (3) *that, with such a tight timescale and the questions surrounding the possibility of external funding the proposal to site this centre of Forth Valley College does not proceed, and that a more detailed investigation of other options in Falkirk Town Centre, including the existing site is conducted; and*
- (4) *to instruct officers to withdraw the planning application.*

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

- (1) *to note the current progress on the office headquarters project and content of the business case for the replacement Town Hall/ Arts Centre;*
- (2) *to note the outcome of the updated review of the earlier options appraisal exercise and accept that all options have still not been fully explored and the need to take cognisance of public opinion;*
- (3) *to instruct officers to cancel current office headquarters project and prepare a project plan and costs for refurbishing the existing Municipal Buildings over the next 5 years including the relocation of other services within the Municipal Buildings thus reducing the reliance on leased property;*
- (4) *not to take forward the relocation of the Town Hall to the site of the new Forth Valley College as it does not meet best value;*
- (5) *that, recognising the value of the diverse range of Arts groups that use the existing facility, officers are instructed to establish a user based task force to inform on a design and specification and officers to develop associated costs for the refurbishment of the existing Town Hall Facility, and*
- (6) *to request that a progress report is submitted to the September meeting of Council.*

On a division, 16 members voted for the motion, 15 voted for the amendment and 1 abstained, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; and Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Garner, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Abstain (1) – Councillor Black.

**Decision**

**Council agreed the motion.**

**FC8. APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF EDUCATION**

Council considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising that the Head of Education had tendered her resignation, with effect from 13 June 2016 and seeking delegation of power to the Appointments Committee to appoint a replacement to the vacant position.

**Decision**

**Council agreed to delegate power to the Appointments Committee to make an appointment to the post of Head of Education.**

**FC9. EXECUTION OF DEEDS**

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing those deeds that had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

**Decision**

**Council agreed to note the signing of the deeds listed in the Appendix to the report.**