



Agenda Item 3

Minute

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

Councillors:

David Alexander	Dr Craig R Martin
Jim Blackwood	Craig Martin (Convener)
Tom Coleman	Malcolm Nicol
Dennis Goldie	Alan Nimmo
Gerry Goldie	Robert Spears
Adrian Mahoney	

Officers:

Karen Algie, Head of HR and Business Transformation
Richard Broadley, Planning and Environment Manager
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
David McGhee, Head of Procurement and Housing Property
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

EX66. Apologies

No apologies were intimated.

EX67. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mahoney declared a non-financial interest in item EX77 as a member of Historic Scotland and as a Trustee of The Friends of Kinneil, but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item, having had regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Spears also declared a non-financial interest in item EX77 as a Director of Falkirk Community Trust, but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item, having regard to the specific exclusions contained in the Code of Conduct.

EX68. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 27 September 2016 was approved.

EX69. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 27 September 2016 was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX70. Resolution under s.9 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services seeking approval to vary the resolution made under section 9 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in respect of optional licensing activities. The proposed resolution was appended to the report.

The Executive had on 16 August 2016 (ref EX38) agreed to vary the resolution. In accordance with s.9(6) of the Act, a notice of the intention to update the resolution was published in the Falkirk Herald on 1 September which sought representations to be made in the following 28 day period. No comments by way of representation had been received to the proposed resolution.

If the resolution is made, a further notice requires to be published in the local press setting out the new terms.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted that no representations were received in response to the proposed civic licensing resolution, which had been advertised in the Falkirk Herald on 1 September 2016, and**
- (2) agreed to make the resolution under section 9 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in respect of optional licensing activities, as detailed in the appendix to the report.**

EX71. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2016/2021

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting for approval the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2016-2021, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

The SHIP is a core element of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and is required to be produced and submitted to the Scottish Government biannually. The SHIP's core purpose is to set out strategic investment

priorities for affordable housing for a 5 year period in order to achieve the outcomes set out in the LHS.

The report provided information on the proposed new affordable housing programmes for the Council and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners based on Scottish Government Funding and set out the actions required to progress and support the delivery of specific projects.

In addition, the report detailed the minimum Scottish Government Resource Planning Assumptions (RPA), together with the estimated Scottish Government funding required for each project in the SHIP. It is anticipated that there will be an overall funding shortfall of around £14.35m. However, discussions are ongoing with Scottish Government on the potential to secure additional funding to meet this shortfall.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) agreed the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2016-2021 for submission to the Scottish Government;**
- (2) authorised officers to enter into negotiations to purchase land at Abbots Road, Grangemouth and Blinkbonny Road, Falkirk from Children's Services for additional affordable housing, in line with independent valuations, and**
- (3) noted that officers will adapt the Strategic Housing Investment Plan to maximise the supply of affordable housing locally and provide updates to members on any changes.**

EX72. Report of the National Cremation Investigation

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services setting out the findings of the "Report of the National Cremation Investigation" by The Rt. Hon. Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, published on 17 June 2016.

The report provided details on the events that led to the production of the Report of the National Cremation Investigation, and information on the findings into cremation practices at Falkirk Crematorium. Also provided, were details of the outcome of an ancillary inspection of Falkirk Crematorium carried out by HM Inspector of Crematoria.

The report concluded that the Council's crematorium is well run, and neither the Report of the National Cremation Investigation nor the inspection by HM Inspector of Crematoria Scotland identified any failings in procedures.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) accepted the general recommendations for all crematoria in the “Report of the National Cremation Investigation” by Dame Elish Angiolini as summarised in section 4.2 of the report;**
- (2) noted and accepted the six conclusions detailed in the “Report of the National Cremation Investigation” by Dame Elish Angiolini in relation to cremation practices of infants and babies at Falkirk Crematorium in section 4.4 i) to vi) of the report, and**
- (3) noted the findings of the first annual HM Inspector of Crematoria Scotland as set out in his recent report of Falkirk Crematorium.**

Councillor D Goldie joined the meeting during discussion of the previous item of business.

EX73. Review of Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting a set of changes to the consultative draft Open Space Strategy which had been raised through public consultation, and to agree the adoption of the finalised document as Council policy.

The Executive had on 19 August 2014 (ref EX45) established a policy development panel to review the Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan (Strategy).

The panel had presented its draft Strategy to the Executive on 20 October 2015 (ref EX59) when it was agreed to publish the consultative draft Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan and carry out a public consultation exercise. The public consultation was undertaken between 7 December 2015 and 7 March 2016.

The report summarised the extensive policy development process undertaken by the panel, the wide ranging public consultation and minor changes suggested in response to this exercise.

A consultation report was presented to the panel on 26 August when it recommended that a finalised Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan be submitted to the Executive seeking approval to adopt the document as Council policy.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the proposed responses to comments received during consultation and consequential changes to the draft Open Space Strategy outlined in appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (2) to adopt the finalised Open Space Strategy shown at appendix 2 to the report, as Council policy.**

EX74. Projected Financial Position 2016/17

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting an update on the financial position of the Council for 2016/17 and reflects the situation as at 31 August 2016. Information was also provided on the position relating to Reserves in line with the policy approved by the Executive in January 2015 (ref EX106).

At 31 August 2016, an underspend of £1.913m was projected in General Fund net expenditure.

The report set out the reasons for the significant overall deviations from budget, as well as highlighting workforce changes throughout the year and on progress in meeting the budgeted financial targets.

The report also summarised the year-end position in regard to General Fund Reserves, including the Repairs and Renewals Fund, Earmarked Reserves and Capital Financing Costs, together with the year-end position on the Housing Revenue Account.

Decision

The Executive noted:-

- (1) the Council's projected year-end financial position for 2016/17, and**
- (2) the position with respect to Reserves.**

EX75. 2017/18 Budget/Initial Savings Options

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting officers' budget savings options identified to date.

Council had agreed on 21 September 2016 (ref FC36) that officers would submit savings options to this meeting. The service savings options templates were attached to the report to allow the necessary consultations and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessments (EPIAs) to be carried out.

Decision

The Executive noted that:-

- (1) the budget savings options identified by officers in the appendices to the report will be the subject of consultation with stakeholders;**
- (2) officers will continue to research further savings options which can be brought before members later in the 2017/18 budget process, and**
- (3) in terms of section 4.2 of the report, with respect to workforce:**
 - (a) the potential impact on the workforce if the options being consulted on were to subsequently be agreed;**
 - (b) the current position in relation to negotiations on terms and conditions and that officers progress these in order to achieve, if possible, an agreement on a revised package, keeping the Leader and Leader of the Opposition advised of progress, and**
 - (c) the discussions being progressed with Trade Unions on the removal of the 35 hour protection and that an update will be provided at an appropriate stage on the outcome of these discussions.**

EX76. Corporate Risk Management Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting a 6 monthly update on the CRM Policy and Framework (CRM) and the Corporate Risk Register (CRR).

The Executive had agreed on 17 May 2016 (ref EX13) the revised CRM Policy and Framework and CRR, and to receive 6 monthly CRM updates.

The report set out the need for continued commitment to embedding the CRM Policy and Framework and managing the risks identified within the CRR. A summary of corporate risks was attached as appendices 1 & 2 to the report.

Decision

The Executive noted:-

- (1) the revised Corporate Risk Register, including the Summary of Very High and High Risks at Appendix 1, and the Summary of Medium Risks at Appendix 2;**
- (2) that West Lothian Council's Internal Audit Team undertook an audit of the Council's CRM arrangements in early 2016, and**

provided Substantial Assurance. They will undertake a follow-up audit in early 2017;

- (3) that a Corporate Management Team and Members' Risk Workshop will take place in 2017, and Members' Risk Management Training will be arranged during 2017/18, and**
- (4) that further updates will be provided to the Executive every 6 months.**

EX77. HLF Bid – Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services seeking approval to support and part-fund a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in partnership with the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Management Group for a programme of community projects that will help people find out about and enjoy the Antonine Wall.

The Antonine Wall Management Group, which includes various stakeholders, commissioned economic and visitor studies which found a general lack of awareness and understanding of the Wall's location and its significance. Opportunities for developing projects which aim to address this may be eligible for HLF funding.

The report summarised the proposed HLF project "Rediscovering the Antonine Wall" which would run from June 2018 to June 2021. A funded project development phase would commence from April 2017 until March 2018 subject to Council approval, partner approvals and HLF funding bid success.

In addition, the report detailed the benefit this project could make to local communities, as well as providing an enhanced visitor experience to the site.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to support the HLF bid in principle, and**
- (2) forward commit £70,000 to the project over the next 4 years:**
 - a) Year 1 : 2017-2018 £10,000**
 - b) Year 2 : 2018-2019 £20,000**
 - c) Year 3 : 2019-2020 £20,000**
 - d) Year 4 : 2020-2021 £20,000**

EX78. Portfolio Management Plan Update Report

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting an updated Portfolio Management Plan (PMP) for approval.

The PMP seeks to sustain and enhance a visible property portfolio for economic development through the phased disposal of existing assets to the investment market and re-investment of the proceeds in developing new business property.

The report detailed the outcome of the 7 lots marketed in 2015/16 and the 16 PMP lots programmed for marketing in 2016/17. The properties marketed in 2015/16 that did not receive acceptable offers will be remarketed at an appropriate time. Information was provided on factors which prevented the sale of the site at South Bridge Street, Grangemouth. Work was underway to allow the site to be remarketed, without the requirement to incorporate the former Grangemouth Clock Tower.

In addition, the report summarised the PMP re-investment programme and set out the future phasing of the industrial development at Plot 5, Abbotsford Business Park as phase one was due to be complete by end October 2016.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the updated proposals for the PMP disposal and reinvestment plans as set out in the report and detailed in appendices 1 & 2;**
- (2) to re-market the South Bridge Street site, and**
- (3) that alternative arrangements are sought for the siting of the Grangemouth Town Clock.**