

**RECORD OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF FALKIRK COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY 22 February 2017**

Councillors in attendance:

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

Councillor not in attendance: Gerry Goldie.

<b>Agenda Item: 3</b>	<b>Revenue Budget 2017/18</b>
<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) accepts the Draft Budget for 2017/18 as proposed in the report and as appended to it subject to the additional spending proposals outlined below;</li> <li>(2) agrees to increase the council tax by 3%;</li> <li>(3) agrees the additional spending proposals outlined in the table attached (appendix 1);</li> <li>(4) continues Cosla membership for a further year consistent with para 4.7.18 of the report;</li> <li>(5) agrees (i) the Business Plans and Savings options for Falkirk Community Trust as set out in section 4.8 of the report subject to saving proposals in the attached table (appendix 1) not being pursued, and (ii) the adjusted Service Payment for 2017/18 of £11.433m;</li> <li>(6) agrees that the adjusted sum of £60.351m to be made available to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to reflect (i) the additional spending proposals, and (ii) a savings requirement of £2m in place of the £2.455m submitted by the IJB on the basis that the reduced target allows the garden aid scheme to be included in its wider public consultation and that the service will continue in 2017/18;</li> <li>(7) notes the update on terms and conditions and agrees:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) in respect of the 35/37 hour protection to commence negotiations as soon as possible with Trade Unions with the aim of reaching an agreement on that issue by no later than the end of April. If such agreement is not possible, employees will be approached by the end of May to seek their voluntary acceptance of this change, and for those who do not agree, the Chief Executive will make appropriate arrangements to implement this change, in accordance with any legal requirements, as soon as possible thereafter, and</li> <li>(ii) to continue with negotiations on terms and conditions more broadly with a view to achieving a package of savings for implementation in 2018/19, and</li> </ol> </li> <li>(8) instructs Chief Officers to deliver Services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorise them to take such actions as may be required within Council policy to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in relevant sections of the report and related appendices, annexes and addendums.</li> </ol> <p><b>Moved by: C Martin</b> <b>Seconded by: J Coombes</b></p>	

## **AMENDMENT**

The terms of the motion, subject to the following alterations:

- (3) agrees to the additional income and savings, and spending proposals attached (appendix 2);
- (5) agrees the business plans and savings options for Falkirk Community Trust as set out in section 4.8 of the report with the following amendment:-
  - (i) increase funding to Falkirk Community Trust by £230,000 to maintain access to outdoor activities for both schools and community, and
- (6) agree the content of Section 4.9 of the report with the following amendment:-
  - (i) £200,000 to enhance respite care provision and support carers.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**  
**Seconded by: S Jackson**

## **VOTE**

### **For the motion (16)**

A Black	A Mahoney
J Blackwood	C Martin
W Buchanan	Dr C R Martin
J Coombes	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	P Reid

### **For the amendment (15)**

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner
G Hughes	

**DECISION: Motion carried**

**Agenda Item: 4**

**Subject: Three Year Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2019/20**

## **MOTION**

Council:

- (1) agrees the General Services Capital Programme as presented in, and appended to, the report;
- (2) applies the additional Scottish Government general capital grant as set out in the table attached (appendix 3);
- (3) notes the consequences for the capital programme of decisions taken earlier in the revenue budget;
- (4) agrees that the cost of 3 above is met by additional borrowing, and
- (5) agrees to allocate £50,000 from slippage to the Dobbie Hall.

**Moved by: C Martin**  
**Seconded by: J Coombes**

## **AMENDMENT**

The terms of the motion, subject to the following alteration:

Council:-

(2) agrees to the acceleration of projects at section 4.5.4 of the report and:-

- (i) Dobbie Hall - £50,000
- (ii) the MUGA pitch programme is augmented to enable an additional 2 pitches to be developed - £100,000
- (iii) Hallglen Centre funding to assist with replacement heating and refurbishment - £100,000, and

in addition Changing Places Toilets - £60,000 to be funded from slippage.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**

**Seconded by: S Jackson**

## **VOTE**

Steven Carleschi and Pat Reid not in attendance.

### **For the motion (15)**

A Black	A Mahoney
J Blackwood	C Martin
W Buchanan	Dr C R Martin
J Coombes	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	

### **For the amendment (14)**

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
C Chalmers	M Oliver
T Coleman	A Ritchie
P Garner	R Spears
G Hughes	S Turner

**DECISION: Motion carried**

**Agenda Item: 5**

**Subject: Housing Revenue Account & Council House Rents  
2017/18 – 2019/20**

## **MOTION**

Council:

- (1) approves the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2017/18 as set out in appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) agrees a rent increase of 3.6% to be applied from 1st April 2017, increasing the average fortnightly charge from £133.98 to £138.80;
- (3) agrees a lock-up garage rents increase from an average of £6.14 per week to £6.36 per week;
- (3) agrees garage site rents increase from £79 per annum to £80 per annum;

- (4) agrees Castings Hostel rents increase from £22.66 per room per day to £23.48 per room per day (excluding fuel charges);
- (5) agrees homeless property rents increase from an average of £183.88 per week to £190.50 per week;
- (6) notes the indicative budgets and rent increases for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as representing the best available information at this time.

**Moved by: J Coombes**  
**Seconded by: C Martin**

### ***AMENDMENT***

The terms of the motion subject to the following alteration:

- (2) agrees the rent increase is restricted to inflation (currently around 1.8%) for 2017/18 helping those hardest pressed working families who are impacted the most by Westminster's austerity agenda. The fortnightly changes to adjusted accordingly with the balance to be drawn from reserves and efficiency savings £940,000.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**  
**Seconded by: S Jackson**

### **VOTE**

#### **For the motion (16)**

A Black	A Mahoney
J Blackwood	C Martin
W Buchanan	Dr C R Martin
J Coombes	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	P Reid

#### **For the amendment (15)**

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner
G Hughes	

**DECISION: Motion carried**

<b>Agenda Item: 7</b>	<b>Accounts Commission Best Value Report</b>
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### **MOTION**

Council:

- (1) acknowledges the report from the Accounts Commission dated December 2016 and the findings contained therein on page 4;
- (2) writes to the Accounts Commission setting out the Council's response to their report in the terms set out in part 7 of the Chief Executive's report, and
- (3) notes that Council previously agreed that a progress report on the Council of the Future will be considered by the Executive in March 2017.

**Moved by: C Martin**  
**Seconded by: J Coombes**

## **AMENDMENT**

The terms of the motion subject to the following alterations:

- (2) writes to the Accounts Commission and acknowledges the failure of the council to properly recognise the need for change and to bring about that change of ethos until forced to do so, and
- (3) agrees to pass this responsibility onto the new council who take office in May to bring about that cultural change with elected members at the core of the process.

**Moved by: T Coleman**

**Seconded by: D Alexander**

## **VOTE**

### **For the motion (16)**

A Black	A Mahoney
J Blackwood	C Martin
W Buchanan	Dr C R Martin
J Coombes	R Murray
D Goldie	M Nicol
L Gow	A Nimmo
C MacDonald	J Patrick
J McLuckie	P Reid

### **For the amendment (15)**

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner
G Hughes	

**DECISION: Motion carried**

**Agenda Item: 3 cont.      Revenue Budget 2017/18**

## **MOTION**

Council notes the Chief Officers who have either left, or are intending to leave, and agrees to:

- (i) call an Appointments Committee to make an appointment to the post of Head of Social Work Children's Services;
- (ii) slot the current Depute Chief Governance Officer into the post of Chief Governance Officer and delete the resulting Depute Chief Governance Officer post at chief officer level;
- (i) slot the three Heads of Service within Development Services in to the re-designed Head of Service roles to enable a reduction in Heads of Service from 4 to 3 as agreed by Council in 2015;
- (ii) delete both chief officer Depute Chief Finance Officer posts at chief officer level to bring the Finance structure into line with other parts of the Council's chief officer structure;
- (iii) receive a report back on the current temporary arrangements for the Head of Housing post;
- (iv) note the position with regards to the Head of Social Work Adult Services;
- (v) implement a new grade O, as detailed in paragraph 4.10.25 of the report, to enable appropriate remuneration for officers who deputise for statutory officers.

**Moved by: C Martin**  
**Seconded by: J Coombes**

***AMENDMENT***

In substitution for the motion, Council notes the chief officers who have either left or intend to leave the council and agree to conduct a full review of the management structures with the final decision being taken by the incoming administration post 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**  
**Seconded by: S Jackson**

**VOTE**

Malcolm Nicol not in attendance.

**For the motion (15)**

A Black	A Mahoney
J Blackwood	C Martin
W Buchanan	Dr C R Martin
J Coombes	R Murray
D Goldie	A Nimmo
L Gow	J Patrick
C MacDonald	P Reid
J McLuckie	

**For the amendment (15)**

D Alexander	S Jackson
D Balfour	B McCabe
S Bird	C Meiklejohn
S Carleschi	M Oliver
C Chalmers	A Ritchie
T Coleman	R Spears
P Garner	S Turner
G Hughes	

**The Provost exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion.**

**DECISION: Motion carried**

**Notes**

1. This voting record is subject to approval of the formal minute at the next meeting of Council on 29 March 2017.
2. Only those items where a vote was taken are recorded here. For information about decisions reached on any other items considered at this meeting, please contact Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager, 01324 506110.

## Appendix 1

### Agenda Item 3 - Motion Revenue Budget 2017/18

		£'000	Comments
<b>1.</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>		
A.	Additional Support Needs (ASN)	250	This will provide additional Support for Learning Assistants to work in educational settings to provide direct support to the increasing number of our pupils who have additional support needs.
B.	Community Halls	110	A significant amount of positive work has already been undertaken in this area and by providing this budget support it will ease the time pressures on Children's Services to deliver the savings agreed previously, allowing the Service more time to work with local communities to progress and support the transfer of community halls to be run by local management committees and groups.
C.	Breakfast Clubs	90	There are already 18 breakfast clubs operating for primary aged pupils. This additional investment will allow the existing provision to be doubled and will be targeted at those primary schools with the highest deprivation factors. Discussions with schools will also take place to assess if this could be linked to social enterprises and once operational this will mean that 36 of our primary establishments will now have some form of breakfast provision.
D.	Foodbank Project	75	To help support families within some of our most deprived areas this funding will allow work to be undertaken with colleagues in the Foodbank Service to enable food to be provided and distributed to such families during the summer holiday period.  The proposal also includes £25,000 specifically to enable the Foodbank Service to provide some support to events organised by local groups, churches and voluntary organisations over the holiday period that provide food/meals for children.
		<b>525</b>	

		£'000	Comments
<b>2.</b>	<b>Development Services</b>		
A.	Community Wardens	100	Support for communities will be enhanced with the creation of an additional four Community Warden posts.
B.	Free Special Uplift	300	One free special uplift per household. Subsequent uplifts at £15. (£0.100m capital cost)
C.	Waste Collection in Flatted Properties	100	To deal with contaminated bins at communal locations
D.	Fortnightly Brown Bin Collections between April and September	166	Fortnightly brown bin collections April to September. October and November 4 weekly. On demand December to February as in previous years and March 4 weekly.
E.	Free After Three	53	To support increased footfall in Falkirk Town Centre we will reintroduce the popular Free after Three parking initiative.
F.	CCTV Surveillance	20	Mobile CCTV resources will be increased to help address anti social behaviours and support communities.
G.	Larger Street Bins	16	To replace up to 500 pole mounted bins with larger capacity containers (£0.180m capital cost).
H.	Bo'ness Community Bus	10	Bo'ness and Area Community Bus Association have secured a Section 22 permit and plan to start operating a service between Bo'ness, Blackness and Edinburgh from April 2017. £6,000 would be a subsidy for a 3 month trial and £4,000 is for the purchase of a ticket machine.
I.	Forest Estate Plan	15	To produce a long term Forest Estate Plan for the councils land portfolio. This plan will assist in levering in additional annual Forestry Commission grant funding.
		<b>780</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Corporate &amp; Housing Services</b>		
A.	Promoting a Fairer Falkirk through Digital Inclusion	<b>243</b>	By supporting digital inclusion initiatives we will ensure all our communities have the skills, abilities and means to access Council Services

		£'000	Comments
<b>4.</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>		
A.	Dementia	100	This proposal establishes an innovations fund for development of a range of dementia support as part of the Council's implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. The fund will provide an opportunity to build on existing work on dementia friendly community, innovative approaches to short breaks for carers and making best use of telecare.
B.	Care	100	This proposal will support better outcomes through implementation of the reablement approach in community care



			reviews. The focus will be on reviewing existing care packages, complementing work on introducing reablement for new service users.
		<b>200</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Community Trust</b>		
A.	Heritage	70	Retains the Heritage learning team and ensures access to a programme of activity for school aged children
B.	Outdoor Activities	230	Retains the outdoor Activities team to deliver a comprehensive programme for people of all ages to engage and support them develop an appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors
C.	Fireworks	28	Enables us to deliver the annual fireworks event to approximately 30,000 people and to improve community safety as a result.
		<b>328</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>External Funding</b>		
A.	McMillan Family	7	Remove the saving proposed at Appendix 4 (External Funding Proposals) for this organisation
B.	Action Group	17	Remove the saving proposed at Appendix 4 (External Funding Proposals)for this organisation
		<b>24</b>	
	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>2,100</b>	

## **Appendix 2**

### **Agenda Item 3 - Amendment Revenue Budget 2017/18**

Additional income and savings sources:

- (i) £30,000 reduction in the members' services budget as a result of a realignment of the Portfolios and Special Responsibility payments and with 3 service areas, and
- (ii) £90,000 from the Introduction of advertising on traffic islands and roadside verges.

Additional expenditure:

- £30,000 freeze on burials and cremations changes;
- External organisations, Falkirk Town Centre Management, delete proposed cut and increase funding by £20,000, total cost £45,000;
- £200,000 to fund the introduction of a local Rates Relief Scheme;
- £90,000 for the retention of community halls considered viable while supporting those management committees seeking their independence;
- £500,000 to deal with unforeseen pressures;
- £20,000 to support Community Sports groups in the Camelon area, which is one of the most deprived areas within the council area, to establish a charitable body to take forward the development a community sports facility;
- £60,000 to be available to external organisations following a review, should this be required;
- £315,000 to introduce one special uplift per year estimated gross costs don't allow for money saved with an expected drop in fly tipping, in addition amount to be used for education on recycling. A review of waste management service should also be carried out;
- £100,000 investment for the Focus School to upgrade the on- site class rooms modular units, the technical learning centre and the boilers to support the expansion of on site capacity;
- £250,000 for Support for Learning Assistants, and
- £53,000 for Free After Three;
- £20,000 for CCTV Surveillance;
- £10,000 for Bo'ness Community Bus;
- £70,000 for the Heritage Learning Team;
- £7,000 for McMillan Family, and
- £17,000 for Action Group.

## Appendix 3

### Agenda Item 4 - Motion Three Year Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2019/20

#### A. New Project Proposals to Match Extra Grant

<u>Project</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Grangemouth Sports Centre	200	Replace pool filtration plant and associated heating and ventilation system
Changing Places Toilets	60	Additional locations to supplement £40k already in the Programme
Primary School safe play surfaces	100	Provision for Carmuir, Slamannan and Airth [potential for external funding]
Investment in Sports Pavilions	100	With Westquarter and Stirling Road, Camelon to be prioritised
Mariner Support Services [Focus school site]	80	Boiler replacement
ASN Capacity Expansion	100	Expanding and developing current bases
Community Environmental Project	110	Fund/part fund community projects e.g. footpath upgrades
	<u>750</u>	

#### B. Capital Consequences of Amendments to Revenue Budget

Free Special Uplift	100	Extra vehicle capacity
Larger Street Bins	180	Purchase of bins
	<u>280</u>	