

## **EX102. Accounts Commission “Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16”**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the key messages from the Accounts Commission’s report “Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16”.

The Accounts Commission’s report looked at the overall financial position of Scottish local authorities and collated the data to provide a national picture. Spending on providing services remained lower than in 2011/12, but showed an increase in social care due to the rising demand from an aging population. Many councils overspend in this area. Falkirk Council was specifically mentioned alongside Clackmannanshire and Dundee councils for reporting overspends relating to fostering services and residential school placements.

Councils are raising an increasing proportion of their income through fees and charges and this represented the largest growth area in council income. The most significant increase was in social work and social care services. The report noted that councils must be clear about the impact of their charging policies. Falkirk Council would address this through the Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment process.

### **Decision**

**The Executive noted the key messages from the Accounts Commission report entitled “Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2015/16”.**