

FC78. Accounts Commission Best Value Report

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting the Accounts Commission's findings in regard to a best value review of Falkirk Council.

Audit Scotland had undertaken a Best Value review follow up inspection of Falkirk Council in 2016. Its report was considered by the Accounts Commission in November 2016. The Commission's findings were published on 1 December 2016. Council is required to consider the findings and had published a notice in the Falkirk Herald of 9 February 2017 stating its intention to do so at this meeting.

The findings were set out together with a proposed response. This was set out in section 4 of the report and included an update on:-

- Council of the Future;
- Digital Strategy;
- Workforce Strategy;
- Medium/Long Term Financial Strategy;
- Single Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan (SOLD); and
- Improvements in Performance Panel reporting.

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

- (1) acknowledges the report from the Accounts Commission dated December 2016 and the findings contained therein on page 4 of the report;
- (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 it had previously agreed that a progress report on the Council of the Future will be considered by the Executive in March 2017.

As an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved 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.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

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

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

Decision

Council agreed the motion.