

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the University of Alberta crest. The crest is a shield with a crown on top. The shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left shows a building, top-right shows a stag's head, bottom-left shows a sailing ship, and bottom-right shows an eagle. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto 'ANNE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 11

**Delegation of Powers to Determine
Urgent Issues During the
Summer Recess**

Falkirk Council

Title: Delegation of Powers to Determine Urgent Issues During the Summer Recess

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 28 June 2017

Submitted by: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. This report invites Council to agree that authority is delegated to its Chief Officers to deal with urgent business, which would normally be determined by Council or committee, during the summer recess.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Chief Officers be given delegated powers, in consultation with the Leader of the Council or the relevant portfolio holder or, as appropriate, the relevant Committee Convener or Depute Convener, to determine urgent items of business during the summer recess (from 28 June 2017 to 14 August 2017) and to report the decisions taken to the first meeting of the Executive thereafter, provided that any such decision:-

- (1) is required to secure the proper delivery of Council Services and to comply with the Council's statutory duties;
- (2) does not involve expenditure of Council monies outwith the approved Revenue and Capital Programme;
- (3) does not involve an increase in the permanent establishment of the particular Service, and
- (4) involves no dispute as to legality, propriety or the proper interpretation of Council policy as affecting the decision.

3. Considerations

- 3.1. In order that urgent items of business, normally determined by Council or Committee, might be dealt with during the summer recess, it is proposed that Chief Officers be given delegated powers to determine such items, in consultation with the Leader of the Council or the relevant portfolio holder or, as appropriate, the relevant Committee Convener or Depute Convener (“recess powers”).
- 3.2. This general delegation is subject to the following exceptions:-
- (a) no officer shall be entitled to take decisions involving Council expenditure outwith the approved Revenue Budget and Capital Programme;
 - (b) no officer shall take decisions involving an increase in the permanent establishment of their Service, and
 - (c) no delegated decision shall be taken where there is a dispute as to the legality, propriety or the proper interpretation of Council policy arising from the matter to be decided.
- 3.3. A special meeting of the appropriate Council body would be convened if it was necessary to take a decision urgently in respect of any matter falling within one of the exceptions.
- 3.4. In taking decisions under the auspices of this authority, Chief Officers are required to consult as widely as necessary and, in any event, with the Chief Governance Officer on whether the proposed decision falls within the scope of the recess powers and with the Chief Executive where the proposed decision is likely to have a significant impact on the council area or the Council.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. No consultation has been carried out on the report’s proposals.

5. Implications

Financial

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arise from the recommendations.

Resources

- 5.2 There are no resource implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

- 5.3 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations.

Risk

- 5.4 If Council does not agree to delegate authority to its Chief Officers there is a risk that the Council will be unable to secure the proper delivery of services and comply with its statutory duties.

Equalities

- 5.5 No equality and poverty impact assessment was required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 5.6 No sustainability assessment has been completed as part of compiling the report and the main findings.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 In order to deal with urgent business, which would normally be determined by Council or committee, during the summer recess Council is invited to agree that authority is delegated to its Chief Officers.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Author – Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer 01324 506116,
jack.frawley@falkirk.gov.uk
Date: 20 June 2017

Appendices:

None.

List of Background Papers:

No papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.