



# **AGENDA ITEM**

**3**

**Minute**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 15 August 2017 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Councillors:**

David Alexander	Gordon Hughes
Gary Bouse	Adanna McCue
Provost Tom Coleman	Cecil Meiklejohn
Fiona Collie	Alan Nimmo
Paul Garner	John Patrick
Dennis Goldie	Robert Spears

**Officers:**

Karen Algie, Head of HR & Business Transformation  
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager  
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer  
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services  
Kenny Gillespie, Property and Asset Manager  
Joe McElholm, Head of Social Work Adult Services  
Carole McGhee, Capital Manager  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive  
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate & Housing Services

**EX14. Minute Silence**

The Executive observed a minute's silence for the victims of the Charlottesville attack.

**EX15. Apologies**

No apologies were intimated.

**EX16. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Garner declared a financial interest in item 12 (ref EX26) as a family member would be affected and stated that he would not take part in discussion or decision making on the item.

**EX17. Minute**

**Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 13 June 2017 was approved.**

## **EX18. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 13 June 2017 was provided.

### **Decision**

**The Executive noted the rolling action log.**

## **EX19. Local Housing Strategy 2017-2012**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the draft Local Housing Strategy (2017-2022) for approval and submission to the Scottish Government. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory duty on Councils to prepare local housing strategies, supported by an assessment of housing need and demand. The previous strategy covered the period 2011-2016 and 55 of the 59 actions were completed.

The draft strategy set out six key priorities:-

1. Increasing housing supply
2. Creating sustainable communities
3. Improving access to housing
4. Providing housing and support to vulnerable groups
5. Tackling fuel poverty
6. Improving housing conditions.

The draft strategy had been reviewed by the Scottish Government and feedback was received that it was a “very strong Local Housing Strategy”. In two areas additional information had been requested and the strategy had been amended to include this.

The report advised that the housing need and demand assessment had estimated that 591 additional homes would be required in the Falkirk area each year to 2021. The Council’s Strategic Housing Investment Plan would be reviewed and an updated plan for 2017-2022 would be submitted to the next meeting taking account of the allocation of an additional c£11.1m per annum from the Scottish Government’s Resource Planning Assumptions.

### **Decision**

**The Executive approved the Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 for submission to the Scottish Government.**

## **EX20. Commissioning Update: Services for Survivors of Trauma**

The Executive considered a report by the Head of Social Work Adult Services providing an update on the work being undertaken to commission a fit for purpose service for survivors of trauma. The commissioning direction had been reviewed to ensure that the approach taken allows for integrated delivery and recognises good practice in relation to treatment and support for survivors of trauma.

A service model had been developed, incorporating tiers of support; practical & emotional support; support for parents (challenging systemic behaviours), and counselling and therapeutic interventions. The model was informed by work undertaken within a multi-agency working group with Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley and Third Sector agencies. The service would be commissioned on a phased basis. Phase one would consist of practical & emotional support and support for parents (challenging systemic behaviours), commencing November 2017. Phase two will consist of counselling and therapeutic interventions and will be incorporated into an overarching review and strategic commissioning of mental health services.

### **Decision**

**The Executive noted the progress towards the development of a new service for survivors of trauma, which now falls within the scope of services governed by the Integration Joint Board.**

## **EX21. Projected Financial Position 2017/18**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the projected financial position of the Council for 2017/18 and an update on the position of the Council's Reserves.

Projected net expenditure at 31 March 2018 was forecast to be £329.4m which is £2.246m (0.7%) below available resources primarily due to lower employee costs and capital charges relating from actions taken relating to voluntary severance. It was projected that there would be a general fund reserve balance of £10.475m at March 2018. The report advised of the following deviations from budget:-

- Children's Services – over budget by £0.740m (0.4%)
- Social Work Adult Services – under budget by £0.567m (9.8%)
- Development Services – over budget by £0.135m (0.5%)
- Corporate & Housing Services – under budget by £1.564m (5.3%).

Spending within the Housing Revenue Account was in line with the budget. The reserve balance brought forward at 1 April 2017 was £5.093m and no application of reserves was planned for 2017/18.

## **Decision**

### **The Executive noted:-**

- (1) the Council's projected year-end financial position for 2017/18, and**
- (2) the position with respect to reserves.**

## **EX22. Capital Programmes Outturn 2016/17**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing details of the outturn position, subject to final audit review, for the 2016/17 General Fund Services and Housing Capital Programmes. A revised budget for 2016/17 of £34.622m was agreed by the Executive on 21 February 2017. Subject to audit, the outturn for the General Services Capital Programme for 2016/17 was £30.826m, an underspend of £3.796m. Details of service area spend and slippage were provided. The Housing Capital Programme for 2016/17 had an outturn of £31.1m giving an underspend of £0.2m.

## **Decision**

### **The Executive:-**

- (1) noted the outturn position subject to audit for 2016/17 for both the General Fund (£30.8m) and Housing Capital Programmes (£31.1m);**
- (2) noted the Prudential Indicators, and**
- (3) agreed to request that the Director of Development Services submit a report to the next meeting providing information on options to accelerate the work on the Denny Eastern Access Road.**

## **EX23. Strategic Property Review – Office Accommodation (Abbotsford House)**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on work undertaken examining office accommodation options for staff currently occupying Abbotsford House and recommending next steps.

The lease on Abbotsford House was due to expire at the end of September 2018. Discussions were ongoing with the landlord regarding the potential to continued occupation of the premises. The service had examined alternative

provision offered by private sector providers but this had not yielded positive outcomes. The report advised that another relocation option was to temporarily move staff into Council owned properties. It was proposed that suite 1B at Falkirk Community Stadium was utilised and that a planning application for a change of use to office accommodation be made.

### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to authorise the Director of Development Services to submit a planning application for the change of use of Suite 1B at Falkirk Community Stadium to office accommodation to assist its appraisal of options for location of Abbotsford House staff, and**
- (2) to receive a further report at its next meeting.**

### **EX24. Decisions Taken Under Delegated Powers**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services advising the Executive of decisions taken under delegated powers. Four decisions were taken under delegated powers and details of these were provided.

### **Decision**

**The Executive noted the decisions taken under delegated powers.**

### **EX25. Exclusion of Public**

The Executive agreed in terms of section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 11&12 of part 1 of schedule 7A to the said Act.

Councillor Garner left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business in accordance with his declaration of interest.

## **EX26. Employee Terms and Conditions: 35/37 Hour Protection - Consultation Update**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the statutory consultation and negotiations with Trade Unions regarding the 35/37 hour protection which some employees receive.

### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed that:-**

- (1) in recognition of the ongoing fairness issues, impact on morale and potential equality issues for the majority of the workforce who do not receive protection, officers are asked to approach employees directly who are receiving this protection, to seek their voluntary acceptance to remove the protection arrangements;**
- (2) the Director report back to the Executive in September, on the outcome of the request to those employees receiving protection to remove this on a voluntary basis;**
- (3) in the meantime discussions with Trade Unions should continue with the aim of reaching a collective arrangement if this is possible, and**
- (4) in managing this change, officers are asked to consider the individual circumstances of employees who have the protection, by providing them with the option of retaining their level of pay and increasing their working hours accordingly or alternatively retaining their current hours and reducing pay.**