

The background of the slide is the crest of the University of Alberta. It features a crown at the top with four maple leaves. 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 contains the motto 'ANNE FOR A'.

AGENDA ITEM

6

**First 100 Days –
Making it Happen**

Falkirk Council

Title: First 100 Days – Making it Happen
Meeting: Executive
Date: 28 November 2017
Submitted By: Leader of the Council

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive of the achievements made by this SNP Administration in its first 100 days.

2. Recommendations

2.1 **The Executive is asked to note the report.**

3. Background

3.1 Falkirk Council Administration recognises that we live in challenging and uncertain times, with financial instability created by the Unionist alliance having chosen to remove us from the European Union, despite Scotland having voted to remain, coupled with the continued Tory austerity agenda.

3.2 The SNP manifesto is focused on policies and initiatives that are designed to help us through this difficult time. A fresh approach will help us to move forward as a dynamic and inclusive Council which actively seeks to work in partnership to help create inward investment resulting in economic growth, job opportunities and support the most vulnerable in our society. Being a listening council we are able to focus on the priorities of our communities enabling trusting relationships to be fostered with our citizens a process what was started in May 2017.

3.3 The Council agreed in September its business for the next five years in the Corporate Plan. This sets out an ambitious programme for our area, our Council and our services.

3.4 We note below some of the key things that have taken place since May to deliver our priorities, outcomes and transformation.

4. Our Area

The area we need to be...

4.1 People:

- Rolled out the pupil equity fund
- Implemented the new National Improvement Framework (NIF) Plan
- Worked with other Councils to establish the new education collaborative
- Opened Carrongrange School
- Summer Food Initiative – nearly 400 children and their families got food during the summer including deliverers from the foodbank, through sum activities e.g. active schools.

4.2 Place:

- Marketed the Falkirk Gateway development opportunity
- Launched the Local Housing Strategy
- Agreed an ambitious Strategic Housing Investment Programme
- Made arrangements to assist owner occupiers finance their share of common repairs associated with the Housing Investment Programme
- Initiated a full review of Scheme of Assistance
- Initiated review of delivery arrangements and timetable for Denny Eastern Access Road
- Secured £1.1m funds regeneration of Arnotdale House in Dollar Park with Cyrenians charity
- Commenced £1.8m public realm works to regenerate the historic core of Falkirk town centre via the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)
- Secured £374k funds for development of the national cycle route network

4.3 Partnership:

- Commenced preparation of the outline business case for an Investment Zone initiative, (Falkirk's equivalent of City Deal)
- Started locality planning in the East of the Area
- Agreed with partners to take forward the Place Standard
- Launched engagement on the budget
- Started community council elections
- Opened the Dorrator Bridge, working jointly with 'Communities along the Carron' in project to reinstate river crossing and upgrade the path network.

4.4 Outcomes:

- Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live:
 - Establishment of Fairer Falkirk Partnership
 - Opening of community finance development initiative with over 57 loans awarded since August to a value of £25,000
 - Move to hub and spoke model across the council area

- We will grow our economy to secure successful businesses, investment and employment. We have:
 - Launched market testing for Falkirk Town Centre Regeneration opportunity
 - Initiated a collaboration around employment/training and social enterprise development.
 - Commenced delivery of Digital Boost workshops for business growth
 - Helped establish the national Business Loans Scotland agency and issued the first award of £100k to a local company, creating 35 jobs
 - Commenced 'Healthier Greener Falkirk' project, securing EU funds to provide 20 EV charging points and 168-bay solar canopies at Falkirk Stadium
 - Progressed VisitFalkirk Tourism Partnership and established tourism industry barometer with 63% of businesses reporting growth since last year
 - Secured award of £4.8 Fairstart contract from Scottish Government enabling delivery of employability support for 2000 unemployed people

- Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults:
 - Launched the Champions Board for looked after children
 - Met pupils teacher ratio and achieved recruitment target for teachers – all schools properly staffed
 - Responded to SG Consultations: Education Governance; 20/20 Vision for Early Years; NIF Evidence Gathering; Fair Funding
 - Received Education Scotland approval following
 - Provided places for over 100 probationer teachers
 - Received 32 applications for the Learn to Teach Programme with Dundee university – targeted at council staff who may be re-deployed / face redundancy in coming years
 - Submitted our ELC 1140 hours expansion plan to the Scottish Government.

- Our population will be healthier:
 - Overseeing stage 1 and now Stage 2 of Sportscotland funding for 3g pitches in Denny and Bo'ness

- People will live full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities. We are:
 - Increasing the pace of availability of self directed support options for those who wish to use a non council service or have a direct payment.
 - Taking forward a pilot to support people to be discharged from hospital (Discharge to Assess) to their own home
 - Reviewing equipment and adaptation policy including supporting the roll out of ADL Smartcare
 - Taking forward changing places developments.
 - Consulting with families with disabled young people still at school to discuss the type of support and services that should be available to them to take part in their communities and live more independently.

- Our area will be a safer place to live. We are:
 - Engaging with residents following Grenville Tower incident
 - £1.6 million funding package from Zero Waste Scotland (if policy adopted).

The Council we need to be...

4.5 The Council agreed an ambitious change and transformation programme including a focus on:

- Employee engagement including first employee survey in a number of years
- Establishment of programme of transformation including

There are 18 projects which make up the council of the future programme. The projects are grouped under four, Council of the Future, themes.

1. One Council
 1. Fit for the Future
 2. Business Support
 3. Strategy Planning
2. Enabled and Empowered Communities
 1. Advice Hubs and Spokes Phase 2
 2. Locality Planning
 3. Employment and Training
 4. Children and Families Review
3. Modern & Digital
 1. Digital Strategy
 2. Rock Solid Technology
 3. Analogue to Digital
 4. Contact Centre
 5. Strategic Property Review
 6. Redesign of BMD Services
 7. Smart Working, Smart Travel
4. Data
 1. Information working for you
 2. Procuring for the Future
 3. Breaking the Mould

The Services we need to be.

4.6 Members have agreed number of reviews of the services we provide including:

- Review of current refuse collection arrangements as part of moving towards a waste charter compliant service
- Pursuing possibility of Falkirk Council being first area to pilot bottle deposit return scheme.

- Strategic review of the Council's property estate including its requirements for a civic headquarters
- Re-opened the Falkirk Crematorium following a £3.2m upgrade
- Review of Taxi 's and Private Car Hire
- Reestablishment of Taxi and Licencing Forum

Underpinning Strategies

- Medium term financial plan for next five years
- Revenue budget savings options to go out for consultation
- Employee engagement and survey undertaken
- Digital Strategy for Local Gov't – participation in key projects and leading in a number of these.

Other Achievements

- Teacher of the Year – St Mungo's HS
- STEM School of the Year – Larbert HS
- Scottish Schools Digital Award – Kinneil Primary School
- Nomination for SQA Star Awards – Graeme HS and Larbert HS
- Food Love Stories – Tesco - Bo'ness Academy
- Central FM School of the Year – St Francis' Primary School
- 5 Star Status by Visit Scotland for the Helix and Kelpies visitor center
- Retention of 4 Star Status by Visit Scotland for Callendar House
- Falkirk Open Space Strategy award from Scottish Awards Quality In Planning

5. Consultation

No consultation was carried out on the terms of this report.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risk implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Equalities

- 6.5 There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 There are no sustainability/environment impacts.

7. Conclusions

Within this short period of time the SNP Administration has accelerated initiatives that had stalled as well as introducing a host of others and driving forward key government priorities that will improve the wellbeing and opportunities for the people of Falkirk creating a can do attitude and positive vision that has been welcomed. This is however is the beginning of a journey that will help Falkirk flourish.

Leader of the Council

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

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