

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of Falkirk Council held in the Municipal Buildings,
Falkirk on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 9.30 a.m.**

Councillors: David Aitchison Fiona Collie Cecil Meiklejohn
David Alexander Joan Coombes Lynn Munro
David Balfour Jim Flynn Laura Murtagh
Lorna Binnie Paul Garner Malcolm Nicol
Robert Bissett Dennis Goldie Alan Nimmo
Allyson Black David Grant John Patrick
Jim Blackwood Nigel Harris Pat Reid
Gary Bouse Gordon Hughes Depute Provost Ann
Billy Buchanan James Kerr Ritchie
Provost Tom Adanna McCue
Coleman John McLuckie

Officers: Karen Algie, Head of HR & Business Transformation
Nick Burgess, Service Manager
Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement
Matthew Davies, Service Manager
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Joe McElholm, Head of Social Work Adult Services
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer
Vivien Thomson, Service Manager

FC29. Sederunt

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call.

FC30. Valedictory and Provost's Remarks

The Provost stated that Harry Forster, Members Services Administrator and Tom Fraser, Civic Officer would be retiring from the Council in the coming days. The Provost, Group Leaders, Councillor Reid the Provost and the Chief Executive each thanked them for their support and dedication over many years.

The Provost congratulated Falkirk Delivers for winning two accolades at the annual Beautiful Scotland Awards, Gold certification for the town and overall winner in the Business Improvement District category.

FC31. Business

In terms of Standing Order 14.2 the Provost advised of a change to the order of business. The following items have been recorded in the order they were considered at the meeting.

In terms of Standing Order 9.1 the Provost stated that two items had been included on the agenda by reason of special circumstance. These were:-

- (i) **Police Scotland Local Policing Plan 2017 – 2020** as Police Scotland had requested that the Plan was considered before 30 September 2017. The Plan had not been available when the agenda was issued, and
- (ii) **Appointment to Champions Board** in order to ensure full representation on the Champions Board following the resignation of Councillor Bissett.

FC32. Police Scotland Local Policing Plan 2017 – 2020

A report by the Director of Corporate & Housing Services presenting the Local Policing Plan had been circulated.

The Provost intimated however, that he had been advised that the Local Commander was not able to attend the meeting to present the proposed Local Policing Plan and answer questions. He suggested that a briefing session on the Local Policing Plan 2017 – 2020 be arranged for all members, following which the Plan would be considered at the next Council meeting on 6 December 2017.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) **to continue consideration of the report to its next meeting, and**
- (2) **that a briefing session for all members by Police Scotland on the Local Policing Plan 2017 – 2020 be arranged.**

FC33. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared a non-financial interest in agenda item 11(g) (ref FC43) as the Council's representative on the NHS Forth Valley Health Board and stated that she did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

There were no further declarations at this point.

FC34. Minutes and Information Bulletin

- (a) Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 28 June 2017 - agreed as a correct record.**
- (b) Volume of Minutes Volume 1 2017/2018 - noted.**
- (c) Information Bulletin Volume 1 2017/2018- noted.**

FC35. Questions

No questions were submitted.

FC36. Rolling Action Log

The rolling action log showing progress on outstanding actions from previous meetings was presented. The Strategic Property Review - Update had been reported to the Executive on 15 August and accordingly fell from the action log as this completed the action.

Following a request by Councillor Blackwood, the Provost agreed that an update on item 44, Equal Pay, would be provided at the end of the meeting.

Decision

The rolling action log was noted.

FC37. Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan and Service Plans 2017 - 2022

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting the Corporate Plan together with the underpinning Service Plans for the life of the Council (2017 – 2022) for approval.

The priorities identified and articulated in the Corporate Plan covered the range of key areas of work the Council and its Services would be undertaking over the coming 5 years. These were:-

- Addressing the issues facing the Falkirk community
- Doing the things we need to do to transform the Council
- Delivering or ensuring the delivery of the services which need to be delivered.

The three draft Service Plans for the Council were attached to the report. Service plans would be updated annually with a six monthly performance statement being presented to the Performance Panel along with an annual summary as a review of progress for the Corporate Plan.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022;**
- (2) the three underpinning Service Plans, and**
- (3) that progress on the Service Plans would be reported to the Performance Panel.**

FC38. Council of the Future

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the progress made on the Council of the Future framework and presenting, as an appendix, the proposed Council of the Future Programme of Change.

Council of the Future would deliver a programme of change over the next 5 years. The delivery plan had been designed in two phases. Phase one, which was now complete, focused on readiness and engagement to define the Council of the Future vision and projects making up the programme of change. Phase two, which was just commencing, represented the implementation stage of the projects identified throughout Phase one.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the progress made on the Council of the Future framework, and**
- (2) approved the Council of the Future Programme of Change.**

FC39. Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2016 - 2017

Council considered the 2016/17 annual report by the Chief Social Work Officer. Council is required in terms of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) who, among other things, is required to prepare a report on the statutory, governance and leadership functions of the role for submission to the Scottish Government's Chief Social Work Advisor.

The report for 2016/17 provided an overview of how the CSWO's statutory responsibilities had been fulfilled.

In accordance with Standing Order 20.12 this report was open for general discussion notwithstanding that there was no division on it.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report – 2016/17;**
- (2) agreed its submission to the Scottish Government and Integration Joint Board, and**
- (3) acknowledged the commitment, skills and experience of social work staff in continuing to deliver high quality services to Falkirk citizens.**

FC40. Programme of Meetings 2018

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing, as an appendix, a draft timetable of meetings for 2018.

Decision

Council agreed the programme of meetings for 2018.

FC41. Execution of Deeds

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing those deeds that had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

Decision

Council noted the signing of the deeds listed in the appendix to the report.

FC42. Appointment to Champions Board

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services seeking appointment of Councillor Reid as the Labour Group member on the Champions Board. Councillor Bissett had been appointed as the Labour Group member on the Board at the meeting of 28 June 2017 (ref FC22). Councillor Bissett had subsequently submitted his resignation from the Board and the Labour Group had provided Councillor Reid as their nominee to the Board.

Decision

Council agreed to appoint Councillor Reid to the Champions Board.

FC43. Notices of Motion

The Chief Governance Officer advised that prior to the meeting Councillors Harris and Patrick had withdrawn their motions to Council (agenda items 11 (h) and (i) respectively).

- (a) Council considered the following motion by Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, that:-

Council agrees that in future all meetings of the Executive and the Education Executive should be recorded and the recordings made available in the same way as the recordings of Council meetings.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

- (b) Council considered the following motion by Councillor Kerr, seconded by Provost Coleman, that:-

Council agrees that the Provost on behalf of Falkirk Council and the whole Falkirk community sends a letter of congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the impending birth of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's third child.

As a young family they will appreciate all the well wishes that they receive.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

Prior to consideration of a motion proposed by Councillor Reid (agenda item 11 (c)), Councillor Meiklejohn advised that work on a Youth Council was underway and she provided a commitment that a report would be submitted to Members in January 2018.

In light of the statement made by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Reid withdrew his motion.

- (c) Council considered the following motion by Councillor Bouse, seconded by Councillor Collie, that:-

In recognition that Scotland is a wonderfully diverse country with its unique heritage and culture that should be celebrated, Falkirk Council would wish to support our colleagues in Dundee City of Culture 2023.

Falkirk has much to offer with our strategic geographical location and iconic attractions, therefore in order to demonstrate our support, officers be requested to make contact with Dundee City Council indicating our willingness to work with them should their bid be successful.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

- (d) Council considered the following motion by Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Reid, that:-

Council agrees to establish a Provost's Award to recognise acts of outstanding public bravery by its citizens. The Chief Executive is instructed to bring back a report to the next meeting setting out a draft scheme for a Provost's Award following consultation with the Provost, Group Leaders and Councillor Reid.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

Four further motions had been submitted (agenda items 11 (f), (g), (j), and (k)). In accordance with Standing Order 31.1 these motions stood referred to the Executive and Education Executive.

At this point Councillor Garner declared a financial interest in item FC45 as a family member was a claimant and left the meeting prior to consideration of the next item.

FC44. Exclusion of Public

Council agreed, in terms of s.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 they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 11 & 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

FC45. Equal Pay - Update

In accordance with the request for an update on Equal Pay made earlier in the meeting (item FC36), the Director of Corporate and Housing Services summarised the current position in regard to Equal Pay.

Decision

Council noted the update.