

## **SE12. Following the Public Pound – Public Protection**

The committee considered report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing each of the external organisations funded by Corporate and Housing Services which provide public protection outcomes which fall within the following Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

Annual reporting statements were provided for each of the 5 organisations. These were:-

- SACRO – this item was considered as part of the previous item of business;
- Forth Valley Family Support – this service is now tendered and thus its monitoring takes place as part of the contract monitoring process. The service was tendered in September 2017 with the contract ending in August 2018. The Council monitors this service along with colleagues in other Councils and with NHS Forth Valley;
- Committed to Ending Abuse (Falkirk and District Women's Aid) – as part a review of services for people who have experienced trauma, the Executive agreed to undertake a review of the services this organisation provides. This review is about to commence with a report coming back to the Executive once that review is complete;
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue – the funding provided falls below the £10k threshold for reporting. This will therefore be dealt with through the Council's Small Grants Scheme; and
- Falkirk BID District – Taxi Marshalling – this is discussed below.

The committee considered at length the Taxi Marshalling Service. The Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement gave an overview of the service. In 2017/18, the Council's contribution was £20,000. Members acknowledged the intention and success of the service. However, discussion focused on alternative funding options should the Council reduce its contribution in 2018/19. Members highlighted that a number of partners benefit from the service – in particular Police Scotland, the Ambulance service, local businesses and taxi operators. The Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement confirmed that options and alternatives were under consideration and discussions on future funding had been held with Falkirk Towns Ltd who commission security staff on behalf of Falkirk BID. If funding was reduced, members considered that the service provision could be reprioritised if funding was not sourced from elsewhere – for example local businesses. In response to a question the Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement stated that she was unclear whether taxi operators contributed to funding. They do, she confirmed, provide a service to the Safe Base. She confirmed that, as with all organisations funded by the Council, an EQIA assessment would be carried out on savings options. Members, while acknowledging the contribution of the service, questioned Falkirk Council's role in funding the service, reiterating that those organisations which benefit most should contribute more to the overall funding package.

## **Decision**

**The Committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the external organisation in meeting Council's priorities.**