

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a beaver, the top-right a stag, the bottom-left a sailing ship, and the bottom-right an eagle. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto 'CITY OF VANCOUVER' in a stylized font.

AGENDA ITEM

3

Minute

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings,
Falkirk on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 9.30 a.m.**

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

Officers: Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Tracey Gillespie, Human Resources Manager
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate & Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

EX70. Apologies

There were no apologies.

EX71. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Garner declared the financial interest of a family member in agenda item 12 (ref EX81) who would be affected and stated that he would not take part in discussion or decision making on the item.

EX72. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 28 November 2017 was approved.

EX73. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 28 November 2017 was provided. Items 111 – Decriminalised Parking Enforcement, and 228 – Tourism 2020 Update on Progress were the subject of reports on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX74. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the preparations for the possible introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) in the Falkirk area and sought approval to initiate the formal application process with Scottish Ministers.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress made with putting in place the infrastructure required to allow Decriminalised Parking Enforcement to be implemented, and**
- (2) agreed to instruct officers to submit the application for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement powers to Scottish Ministers.**

EX75. Tourism 2020 Strategy Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the Council's tourism activity since the launch of the Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020 and progress toward development of an independent Falkirk Area Tourism Partnership.

The Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy set three key targets:-

- increase visitor expenditure in the Falkirk area by 20% over the next five years to 2020
- increase overnight visitor accommodation (serviced bedrooms and self-catering units) in the Falkirk area by 20% over the next five years to 2020
- develop a Falkirk Area Tourism Partnership to take ownership of, review and implement the strategy.

The Falkirk Area Tourism Partnership operated as an informal body and included the Council, VisitScotland, Falkirk Towns Ltd, Falkirk Community Trust, Scottish Canals, Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and a number of local businesses. In developing a formal legal structure for the partnership a core working group of tourism businesses was established. Tourism sector businesses were consulted and agreed to progress the establishment of a company limited by guarantee with cooperative articles of association. The group will work to secure external funding opportunities and determine future marketing activities and promotion work.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report in relation to tourism growth in the Falkirk area, as presented in the 2016 STEAM report;**

- (2) noted the feedback from the initial Visit Scotland Growth Tourism Industry barometer;**
- (3) noted the progress of the Visit Scotland Growth Fund, marketing activity and joint marketing activity undertaken with Visit Scotland;**
- (4) noted that the Falkirk area Tourism Strategy would be updated to include additional activity with the Heritage and Food and Drink sectors, and**
- (5) agreed the proposals for formation of a new Visit Falkirk tourism partnership organisation to take forward marketing activities jointly with key industry partners.**

EX76. Antonine Wall Steering Group: Development of Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project and sought approval for submissions of a stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid.

A stage 1 bid was approved by the HLF in March 2017 and the partnership was invited to make a stage 2 bid. HLF had awarded £97,000 to assist with the stage 2 bid and West Dunbartonshire Council had appointed a project manager to oversee its preparation.

Across the partnership area it was anticipated that the total project value was likely to be in the region of £1.5. - £2.7m dependent upon the success of other bids for match funding.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted progress made to date at stage 1 and the appointment of a Project Manager by West Dunbartonshire Council as lead authority;**
- (2) approved in principle the submission of a stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project;**
- (3) authorised West Dunbartonshire Council, as lead authority, to submit the stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application on Falkirk Council's behalf and undertake all required procurement, financial and other associated requirements as part of the project, and**
- (4) noted that officers would report the outcome of the stage 2 bid to elected members in a subsequent Information Bulletin report.**

EX77. Projected Financial Position 2017/18

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the financial position of the Council for 2017/18 along with an update on the position with Reserves consistent with the policy approved by the Executive in January 2015.

Net expenditure at 31 March 2018 was forecast to be £328.8m which was £3.191m (1%) below the resources available. This reflected a movement of £1.047m from the position reported in October and was mainly due to an adjustment to housing benefits costs.

Decision

The Executive noted the:-

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

EX78. Assets Surplus to Operational Requirement

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services seeking approval for the land, detailed in the report, to be declared surplus to operational requirements for disposal.

The Council's Corporate Asset Management Strategy and the Housing Asset Management Plan include objectives to secure operational efficiencies through asset realisation, including the disposal of land which is surplus to operational requirements.

Decision

The Executive agreed to declare the following land as surplus to operational requirements and authorised the disposal of the assets on the terms set out in the report:-

Housing Revenue Account

- (1) Garage Site at 1a Carron Terrace, Rumford – negotiate disposal to private home owner, and**
- (2) Land at 158 Main Street Carronshore – negotiate disposal to private home owner.**

EX79. Attendance at Conference – Request for Approval

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services seeking approval for Councillor Coombes to attend the Scottish Tourism Alliance Conference.

Decision making on members' attendance at conferences and seminars is delegated to the Chief Governance Officer where the cost does not exceed £200. For conferences and seminars exceeding £200, approval was required from the Executive. The fee associated with Councillor Coombes' request was £200 + VAT and was therefore over the delegated threshold.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the request from Councillor Coombes to attend the Scottish Tourism Alliance Conference at a cost of £200 plus VAT on 1 March 2018;**
- (2) that a report is submitted by Councillor Coombes following the conference for inclusion in the Information Bulletin, and**
- (3) that a moratorium on requests to attend conferences from elected members is put in place for the foreseeable future.**

EX80. 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 6 & 11 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.

EX81. Employee Terms and Conditions: 35/37 Hours Protection – Consultation Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the matter of 35/37 hour protection.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) await the outcome of the outstanding trade union ballot relating to the proposals, and**
- (2) request that officers submit a report to a future meeting providing information on the options and scenarios available to take the matter forward.**

EX82. ThinkWhere Limited (formerly Forth Valley GIS)

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on progress made by ThinkWhere in developing their products and business including the need to attract external investment.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Bouse, moved that the Executive:-

- (1) notes the progress made by thinkWhere Limited in delivering on its business transformation plan;
- (2) notes that the Council is working with thinkWhere Limited to assist it in securing new external investment, which would also include a partial or full divestment of the Council's shareholding in the company;
- (3) agrees that officers continue working with thinkWhere Limited to assist it in seeking new external investors including negotiations on the issues of:-
 - the transfer of the Council's shareholding in whole or in part where possible maximising the return of, and a return on, the Council's investment
 - pension liabilities – including the possibility of continuing the Council guarantees to Falkirk Pension Fund
- (4) agrees that the outcome of any negotiations be reported back to the Executive for approval.

As an amendment, Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Executive agrees to cut the Council's ties with the company at the earliest opportunity.

On a division a vote was taken by show of hands for the amendment or the motion, there being 10 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the amendment (2).

For the motion (8).

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.