

EX72. Update on Council HQ/Replacement Arts Centre Project

The Executive considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and Director of Development Services which outlined the work currently being progressed and indicative timescales for the next steps to progress with a HQ/Arts Centre replacement project in the town centre.

At its meeting on 14 August 2018 (ref EX39), the Executive had agreed to progress proposals for delivery of the replacement HQ/Arts Centre.

The report detailed the progress to date, the steps intended to take the project forward to enable the Council to identify a means of delivering the project in partnership with developers and other community planning partners.

In order to develop the shared vision and action plan, a town centre working group workshop took place on 3 October 2018, involving representatives from Falkirk BID, local retailers, landowners and other town centre stakeholders. Results of the workshop would be further considered at the next meeting of the town centre working group in November.

The report set out the progress in the preparation of the business case, which would be used as the basis for the procurement exercise, and details of the updated outline specifications for the replacement HQ project.

It was agreed that the Director of Development Services would meet with the Council's representatives on the Falkirk Town Centre Working Group prior to each meeting.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress since the last meeting in August;**
- (2) agreed the outline specification for the HQ/Arts Centre including adoption of a revised space standard for the facility of 0.6 desks per FTE;**
- (3) agreed to initiate the procurement process, including the allocation of £300k funding from the Strategic Property Review capital funds, in order to finalise the HQ/Arts Centre requirements and provide specialist procurement advice to the Council for selection of a preferred project, and**
- (4) agreed that a further report be brought back with the outcome of the initial stages of the procurement exercise.**