

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 sailing ship on the water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

## **Agenda Item 3**

### **Minute**

Draft

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Thursday 4 October 2018 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Councillors:**

David Aitchison  
David Balfour  
Jim Blackwood  
David Grant  
Depute Provost Ann Ritchie (Convener)

**Officers:**

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement  
Douglas Duff, Head of Planning and Economic Development  
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services  
Joe McElholm, Head of Social Work Adult Services  
Cathy Megarry, Service Manager Children's Services  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager  
Ali Walls, Service Manager, Children's Services  
Andrew Wilson, Policy and Community Planning Manager

**Also Attending**

David Anderson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Neil Brown, General Manager, Falkirk Community Trust  
Jane Clark, Business Development Manager, Falkirk community trust  
David Lockhart, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Lesley O'Hare, Culture and Libraries Manager, Falkirk Community Trust  
Amanda Templeman, Chief Finance Officer H&S Partnership

**SE14. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Coleman and Munro.

**SE15. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **SE16. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held on 16 August 2018 was approved.**

#### **SE17. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing an action not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 16 August 2018 was provided.

The Democratic Services Manager advised that Police Scotland would provide information on road collisions broken down by type of vehicle by the end of October 2018. The information would cover the period from April 2017 to June 2018.

##### **Decision**

**The committee noted the rolling action log.**

#### **SE18. Following the Public Pound - Public Protection**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting reporting statements for organisations funded under the Following the Public Pound (FPP) arrangements for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the Council's public protection outcome including alcohol, drugs and community justice.

Funding was provided, by Corporate and Housing Services, Children's Services and Development Services to 7 external organisations to provide services which could not readily be provided by the Council. As part of the arrangements, monitoring statements had been prepared, by the relevant monitoring officer for consideration by the committee for 5 of the organisations.

The 7 organisations were:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Monitoring Service</b>	<b>Annual Funding</b>
<b>SACRO – Youth Justice</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>	<b>£100,664</b>
<b>Forth Valley Family Support</b>	<b>Corporate and Housing</b>	<b>£11,560</b>
<b>Committed to Ending Abuse (Falkirk &amp; District Women's Aid)</b>	<b>Corporate and Housing Services</b>	<b>£175,802</b>
<b>Central Scotland Fire and Rescue</b>	<b>Corporate and Housing</b>	<b>£4,798</b>
<b>Falkirk BID - Taxi</b>	<b>Corporate and Housing</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

<b>Falkirk BID – Delivery &amp; Promotion of Town</b>	<b>Development Services</b>	<b>£78,309</b>
<b>Cyrenians</b>	<b>Children’s Services</b>	<b>£173,305</b>

The Forth Valley Family Support Project was tendered and as such monitoring was included as part of the contract monitoring procedure and as such was not reported. Similarly the Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Project funding falls below the reporting threshold of £10,000.

Following a question in regard to the Committed to Ending Abuse Project the Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement undertook to provide information, from Police Scotland, on whether it was the case that domestic abuse increased when Old Firm football matches took place.

Members praised the Taxi Marshalling Service and asked whether local businesses contributed funding to the project. The Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement stated that while they did not, many contributed in kind, for example by providing food to marshals. Discussions were ongoing with taxi operators in regard to the extent of their contribution to funding for the project.

The committee considered the Falkirk Bid Project – delivery and promotion of town centres and asked whether, in light of the closure of Marks and Spencer, there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development and the Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement responded that there was evidence to suggest an increase in regard to the closure of Marks and Spencer. Mr Duff confirmed that work was ongoing to attract businesses to the town centre. In the main these had recently been small independent businesses, Cow Wynd business, as an example and suggested that the trend in future would be for similar businesses to move into the town centre, rather than large traditional stores.

Following a question, Ms Campbell outlined the work of the Cyrenians. Largely the work undertaken by the organisation was ‘on request’ and undertook to establish a generic email inbox so that the organisation could be easily contacted.

## **Decision**

**The committee approved the reports and acknowledged progress by the following organisations in meeting Council priorities:-**

- (1) SACRO – Youth Justice**
- (2) Forth Valley Family Support**
- (3) Committed to Ending Abuse (Falkirk & District Women’s Aid)**
- (4) Central Scotland Fire and Rescue**
- (5) Falkirk BID – Taxi Marshalling**
- (6) Falkirk BID – Delivery & Promotion of Town Centres**

## **(7) Cyrenians**

### **SE19. Following the Public Pound: Services to Children & Young People – 2017/18 Annual Reporting Statements**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting reporting statements for organisations funded under the Following the Public Pound (FPP) arrangements for the period April 2017 to March 2018 for the external organisations that provide services to children and young people.

Funding was provided by Children's Services to 13 external organisations to provide services which could not readily be provided by the Council. As part of the arrangements, monitoring statements had been prepared, by the relevant monitoring officer, for consideration by the Committee.

The organisations were:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
<b>Aberlour Early Years Outreach Service</b>	<b>£263,464</b>	<b>£227,705</b>
<b>Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees</b>	<b>£201,260</b>	<b>£168,811</b>
<b>Barnardo's Axis Service</b>	<b>£105,405</b>	<b>£105,405</b>
<b>Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service</b>	<b>£253,644</b>	<b>£281,583</b>
<b>Barnardo's Cluaran Service</b>	<b>£345,297</b>	<b>£345,297</b>
<b>Home-Start Falkirk West</b>	<b>£29,488</b>	<b>£28,014</b>
<b>NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children</b>	<b>£67,401</b>	<b>£68,472</b>
<b>NHS Forth Valley Speech &amp; Language Therapy Service</b>	<b>£465,040</b>	<b>£465,040</b>
<b>One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre</b>	<b>£115,654</b>	<b>£92,523</b>
<b>Quarriers Children's Rights Service</b>	<b>£86,200</b>	<b>£86,200</b>
<b>Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders</b>	<b>£22,255</b>	<b>£22,255</b>

<b>Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us</b>	<b>£42,375</b>	<b>£38,869</b>
<b>“Who Cares?” Scotland Advocacy Service</b>	<b>£27,970</b>	<b>£27,970</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,025,453</b>	<b>£1,958,144</b>

Following questions, the Director of Children’s Services gave a detailed overview of the Service’s Closer to Home Strategy. The aim was to reduce the Council’s reliance on external residential care. In addition to achieving improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people it would achieve significant budget savings.

In response to a question on the recruitment of foster carers, Mr Naylor stated that recruitment had been broadly consistent each year, with 5 or 6 recruited. The number of carers remained, taking into account leavers, at 60. It was intended to increase the number of foster carers to 90 thereby reducing reliance on expensive agency foster care places. He then summarised the recruitment process which would be employed and the support which was in place for carers, such as respite.

The committee sought information on the NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Project and in particular the reasons for the long waiting time, up to 26 weeks for an appointment. Mr Naylor confirmed the national target was 18 weeks and confirmed that despite Scottish Government funding there had been no decrease so far in waiting times. He then explained work which was ongoing in schools to support ‘lower level’ mental health issues which could reduce the number of interventions required by CAMHS.

## **Decision**

**The committee approved the reports and acknowledged progress by the following organisations in meeting Council priorities:-**

- (1) Aberlour Early Years Outreach**
- (2) Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees**
- (3) Barnardo’s Axis Service**
- (4) Barnardo’s Education and Family Support Resource Service**
- (5) Barnardo’s Cluaran Service**
- (6) Home-Start Falkirk West**
- (7) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children**
- (8) NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service**
- (9) One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre**
- (10) Quarriers Children’s Rights Service**
- (11) Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders**
- (12) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us**
- (13) “Who Cares?” Scotland Advocacy Service**

## **SE20. Following the Public Pound: Falkirk Community Trust**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on services provided by Falkirk Community Trust on behalf of the Council and which are reported under the following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

The report covered the reporting period, 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, and provided performance information in regard to 27 performance indicators.

The Trust General Manager gave an overview of services provided, performance, together with a summary of notable achievements.

Following questions in regard to the programming of events at the Bo'ness Hippodrome and the cost of family events the committee discussed performance issues. In response to a question on library provision, Mr Brown confirmed that use of libraries was increasing. Conversely he confirmed that uptake on the Kelpies tours had decreased compared to the previous year. This had been anticipated however, with an understanding that the tour would be, for many, a onetime experience. Overall income at the Helix had increased with income of approximately £1m generated from the visitor centre. In regard to the Kelpies, the Trust was working with Scottish Canals to develop joint ventures at the Kelpies.

The committee noted that the Trust had secured £1m from external sources. However, given that one of the reasons for establishing the Trust was that an ALEO would be better able to attract funding, members asked if the Trust planned to attract more in 2019/20. Mr Brown stated that each year the Trust constantly attracted £850,000 to £1m from external sources. He stated that the external funders themselves faced financial constraints and as such, the aim of the Trust was to generate income.

The committee discussed the plans for the Trust to stage a professional pantomime at Falkirk Town Hall in 2018 and sought assurance that where amateur local groups had been inconvenienced, suitable alternative arrangements had been put in place. The committee also sought similar assurance in regard to Stenhousemuir Gymnastic Club. The committee then discussed the Trust's plan for the Kinneil Estate and Kinneil House in particular. Ms O'Hare confirmed that there was a master plan in place in regard to developing Kinneil Estate. She stated that significant funding with regard to developing Kinneil House into a tourist attraction for public use. Any projects would require significant capital investment. In regard to the Estate, Historic Environment Scotland had secured significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £500,000, £400,000 of which would be used for projects along the Antonine Wall.

The committee then highlighted local issues in Bo'ness and Grangemouth which Mr Brown undertook to look at.

Members noted the recent improvement programmes at the Mariner Centre and asked Mr Brown to detail future investment plans at Bo'ness Recreation Centre. In response, Mr Brown referred to recent improvement work in regard to the pitches, flood lights and chimney and in response to a suggestion that it had not received its 'share' of funding citing the Mariner Centre Soft Play Project.

Mr Brown stated that the Mariner Centre was in the better location for a higher return of investment and that pro rata, Bo'ness Recreation Centre received its fair share of maintenance funding. It did however require significant investment in plant and equipment.

### **Decision**

**The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the Trust in meeting Council's priorities.**

## **SE21. Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership Update**

The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer, Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership.

The report set out the progress made by the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership in implementing its Strategic Plan and presented the Annual Performance Report, with performance information in regard to unscheduled care and local performance indicators.

An inspection of the homecare service had been carried out by the Care Inspectorate during May 2018. The Inspection Report had been published in July 2018. Grades awarded to services on how they were performing at the time of inspection against care inspectorate quality themes and statements had fallen in all three areas (Care and Support; Management and Leadership; and Staffing) as poor, poor and adequate respectively. An improvement plan had been implemented to address the main issues set out in the Inspectorate's Report. A follow up inspection would be carried out.

The committee discussed the review of the Homecare Service. Mr McElhom confirmed that a follow up on the review recommendations would be carried out in October. The overarching conclusion of the review had been that the pace of change was insufficiently fast to drive up performance. The service was, he emphasised, continually working to improve and would address the findings of the review citing a review of work rotas as an example of improvements that could be achieved in service delivery.

Following a question in regard to high levels of sickness and absence, Mr McElhom provided background to the reasons for absence which included the age and health profile of the workforce. Musculoskeletal injuries accounted for a significant, but not all, of the absence factors. Work was ongoing to improve staff morale which, he accepted, would be impacted

upon by changes such as the implementation of a new work rota. Absence was managed consistently according to policy however, Mr McElhom stressed that cultural change was required to address morale across the service.

In response to a question in regard to personal care Mr McElhom stated that delays in implementing the programme were not due to lack of funding or training. The timescale for implementation was being taken forward in negotiation with staff and trades union and he would like to see the service in place by 1 April 2019. The change represented a huge challenge for staff but it was not feasible to continue as is.

Members criticised the poor mobile phone reception at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital. The lack of signal meant that visitors and patients were effectively cut off from friends and families. Ms Templeman undertook to establish the extent of the problem as described and to provide a response.

### **Decision**

**The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership in meeting Council's priorities.**

## **SE22. Performance Report: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the local performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The report summarised performance against the local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-18. The Plan was based on:

- The Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services;
- Strategic priorities set by Scottish Ministers;
- National outcomes within the National Performance Framework; and
- The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013. This sets out 4 Strategic aims for the service and 7 national equalities outcomes.

The plan also identified 7 local priorities. These were:

- Priority 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Priority 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Priority 3 - Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Priority 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Priority 6 - Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

- Priority 7 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The committee sought further detail on instances of fire raising at Polmont Young Offenders institution. Mr Lockhart provided background and context, explaining the educational and preventative work undertaken by the Service.

Members considered instances of fires in dwellinghouses and asked whether the increase in electronic equipment in households, such as computers and computer games, had contributed to an increase in fires in the home. Mr Lockhart stated that kitchens remained the highest risk. However bedrooms were now a higher risk than previously. Although it could be expected that more electronics would mean more fires he stated that there was also a greater fire and safety awareness nowadays and so the number of fires was less than predicted. He also explained that in instances of domestic fires, alcohol and drugs continued to be a factor.

The committee discussed and praised the Safe Drive Stay Alive educational programme. In response to a question on its effectiveness, Mr Lockhart agreed that it was difficult to produce statistics because it was a preventative campaign and importantly, road traffic accidents could happen out with the area. This meant that while the number of accidents in Falkirk was decreasing, it was possible that accidents involving Falkirk citizens occurred out with the area. Following questions, Mr Lockhart outlined the methods employed, such as social media, to publicise the campaign.

Following questions, Mr Lockhart summarised the ongoing discussion with the Fire Brigades Union in regard to pay and the role of fire fighters. The roll out of the out of hours cardiac support had been put on hold pending the conclusion of the dialogue. This service would however provide significant benefits to the public.

## **Decision**

**The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the organisation in meeting their priorities.**