

FC61. Revenue Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan [MTFP]

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which presented the business cases for Falkirk Community Trust (the Trust) and the Integration Joint Board. Council was invited to consider providing feedback to the organisations on their business cases. Council was also invited to take a provisional decision regarding the level of Council Tax for 2019/20.

The funding agreement between the Council and the Trust required that the Trust to submit a draft business plan for approval by Council. The Trust's business case was provided as an appendix to the report and included:-

- cover letter from the Chief Executive
- briefing report from the Trust summarising the submission
- Business Strategy
- Business Growth Proposals
- Fees and Charges Proposals 2019/20
- Capital Proposals 2019/20

The Trust had been allocated a 5 year savings target to reduce Council subsidy by c.£5.5m with a specific target in year 1 of £1.25m. The Trust aimed to meet this through a combination of income generation, efficiencies and growth from investment.

The Trust business plan included a capital investment proposal to develop and extend the health and fitness provision at the Mariner and Stenhousemuir Gyms which would cost £1.7m. The Trust sought £1.1m for capital improvements from the Council. A further £0.6m for specialised equipment would be provided by the Trust.

Grangemouth Golf Club expressed an interest in taking over the operation and management of Grangemouth Golf Club from 1 April 2019. The Club sought an extension to the timescale to prepare their business case. The Trust would consider the extension; subject to conditions and that the Council provided funding of £50k to cover the estimated deficit.

The Integration Scheme for the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership set out the methodology for funding the Integration Joint Board. This required a business case to be presented to both the Council and the Health Board. The business case was provided as an appendix to the report and included:-

- Cover letter from the Chief Officer
- IJB Business Case 2019/20

Council was invited to set a provisional Council Tax for 2019/20. A 3% increase in Council Tax, combined with the forecast growth in property numbers, would see the 2019/20 yield grow by over £2.5m from the 2018/19 forecast out-turn. The total yield could be c.£66.2m.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Collie, moved that Council:-

- (1) agrees the Trust Business proposals, in principle, subject to adjustment following the outcome of the grant settlement;

- (2) notes the savings shortfall of £845k and agrees to the Council and Trust working jointly to meet that shortfall. Council acknowledges that until an agreed management plan to meet the shortfall is developed it will require to be covered from the Council's General Reserve;
- (3) agrees the IJB proposals in principle, subject to review following the confirmation of the Grant Settlement and the distribution of funding from the Barnett consequential for Health;
- (4) agrees the Capital commitment of £1.1m in capital improvements in the Mariner Centre and Stenhousemuir Gym as detailed at 4.1.7 of the report;
- (5) agrees to an additional contribution to the Trust in 2019/20 to cover Grangemouth Golf Club to allow the club to be transferred to the community;
- (6) agrees in principle, on Health and Safety grounds, to continue to the fund Fireworks event, but asks the Trust to redouble efforts to identify sponsorship for the event, and
- (7) agrees to provisional setting of Council Tax Band D rate for 2019/20 by 3% with final decision to be taken at the February Budget meeting where all relevant information is presented.

Council adjourned at 12.05pm to allow members of the Opposition to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened at 12.25pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Following discussion, Councillor Meiklejohn as the mover of the motion, with the consent of Councillor Collie as her seconder and the Provost, adjusted clause 3 of her motion as follows:-

- (1) notes the IJB proposals subject to review following the confirmation of the Grant Settlement and the distribution of the funding from the Barnett consequential for Health.

Having heard from Councillor Black regarding a potential amendment, Council adjourned at 12.45pm to allow the member to take advice from officers, and reconvened at 12.55pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Black then advised that she would not propose an amendment.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) **agreed the Trust Business proposals, in principle, subject to adjustment following the outcome of the grant settlement;**
- (2) **noted the savings shortfall of £845k and agreed to the Council and Trust working jointly to meet that shortfall. Council acknowledges that until an**

agreed management plan to meet the shortfall is developed it will require to be covered from the Council's General Reserve;

- (3) noted the IJB proposals subject to review following the confirmation of the Grant Settlement and the distribution of the funding from the Barnett consequential for Health;**
- (4) agreed the Capital commitment of £1.1m in capital improvements in the Mariner Centre and Stenhousemuir Gym as detailed at paragraph 4.1.7 of the report;**
- (5) agreed to an additional contribution to the Trust in 2019/20 to cover Grangemouth Golf Club to allow the Club to be transferred to the community;**
- (6) agreed in principle, on Health and Safety grounds, to continue to fund the Fireworks event, but ask the Trust to redouble efforts to identify sponsorship for the event, and**
- (7) agreed to provisional setting of Council Tax Band D rate of 2019/20 by 3% with final decision to be taken at the February budget meeting where all relevant information is presented.**