

EX21. Falkirk Council's Five-Year Business Plan

The Executive considered a report by the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Council's Five-Year Business Plan which was provided as an appendix to the report.

The Council would spend c.£2.58bn in the next five years but anticipated that savings in the region of £76m were likely to be required from the Council's General Fund budget over that period. To manage that effectively, the Council had developed a five-year business plan that brought together key strategies including the Medium Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan, Digital Strategy and Council of the Future Programme of Change.

This was a new approach in terms of financial planning. Previous budget decisions were taken on an annual basis. A longer term view of financial planning and transformation was required to make the necessary sustainable changes.

The five-year business plan set out:-

Council's Vision:-

- 'The place to be' from the Corporate Plan and what the Council of the Future looks like
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Budget - how the Council spends and what savings needed to be made

What's on the Horizon:-

- Putting customers and communities at the heart of services, the business plan outlined key considerations including political /legislative, economic, environmental, partnership, society/demographic, assets and the Workforce and Digital Plans.

What we will do:-

- Council of the Future Change Programme, Wave 2, for transforming how we do things whilst meeting the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- Corporate Plan Actions, what we will do operationally to deliver on the Corporate Plan priorities whilst making a contribution to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The business plan was critical to the Council's transformation and set out the five year roadmap to substantial savings to be achieved year-on-year to deliver on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and priorities. The approach was in line with recommendations from external audit which emphasised the need for pace, financial sustainability / value for money and the delivery of the Council of the Future transformation programme and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The governance framework consisted of existing arrangements for the Executive, Audit Committee and Council of the Future Board. Whilst the Council of the Future Board would have a key role in monitoring and ensuring the progress of key transformation projects, it was noted that all decisions requiring Elected Member approval would be brought forward to the Executive or Council as appropriate.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Bouse, moved that the Executive approves Falkirk Council's Five-Year Business Plan as the framework of future financial planning and transformation.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Executive agrees that the 5 year business plan contained in agenda item 8 should be referred to the full council meeting on 26th June in order that all councillors can be involved in the 5 year plan/budget cuts discussion.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 12 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (8) – Councillors Alexander, Bouse, Flynn, Garner, Harris, Hughes, Meiklejohn and Nicol.

For the amendment (4) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes, Nimmo and Reid.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.