

# RECORD OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF FALKIRK COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Councillors in attendance:

<b>Councillors:</b>	David Alexander	Fiona Collie	Lynn Munro
	David Balfour	Joan Coombes	Laura Murtagh
	Lorna Binnie	Paul Garner (for item 15(a) only)	Malcolm Nicol
	Allyson Black	Dennis Goldie	Alan Nimmo
	Jim Blackwood	Nigel Harris	John Patrick
	Gary Bouse	Gordon Hughes	Pat Reid
	Provost William Buchanan	John McLuckie	Depute Provost Ann Ritchie
	Niall Coleman	Cecil Meiklejohn	Robert Spears

Councillors not in attendance: Councillors Aitchison, Bissett, Flynn, Grant, Kerr and McCue.

Agenda Item No. 15(a)	Motion
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## **Motion**

At the beginning of August due to unforeseen circumstances our Scottish Welfare Fund team found itself with one person holding the fort rather than a team of 6. Our staff worked very hard to try and alleviate the situation but they were working against the odds and this meant that some of our most vulnerable citizens saw significant delays in receiving their community care grant.

Council recognises that in order to process and deliver crisis grants and community care grants from the Scottish Welfare Fund, it is vital to have a team of well trained staff, with back up from other resources where necessary.

Council acknowledges that that planned reduction in staffing from 7 to 4.5 was not realistic to provide required resilience.

Council recognises that improved, tailored, signposting could also help alleviate this issue, showing claimants where else they could get help, whilst awaiting their decision, will both help the individual and relieve pressure on the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Council asks that the sum of £67,352 per annum, be taken from reserves for the next 2 years to pay for another 2 FTE advisors. This will give some stability to the team and will ensure that the situation at the beginning of August 2019 does not happen again.

**Moved by: Councillor Black**

**Seconded by: Councillor Coombes**

## **Amendment**

Council requests the Director of Corporate and Housing Services to present a progress report in relation to the Social Welfare Fund at the December 2019 meeting of the Executive.

**Moved by: Councillor Hughes**

**Seconded by: Councillor Meiklejohn**

## VOTE

### For the motion (10)

Provost W Buchanan	J McLuckie
A Black	L Munro
J Blackwood	M Nicol
J Coombes	A Nimmo
D Goldie	P Reid

### For the amendment (14)

Depute Provost A Ritchie	P Garner
D Alexander	N Harris
D Balfour	G Hughes
L Binnie	C Meiklejohn
G Bouse	L Murtagh
N Coleman	J Patrick
F Collie	R Spears

**Decision: Amendment carried.**

Agenda Item No. 15(b)	Motion
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### Motion

Council:-

- (1) recognises and values the progress made in delivering an accessible online resource for paying bills etc;
- (2) asks that further work be done to enable those on low incomes to pay their bills in whatever way they find easiest;
- (3) will ensure that all 3 hubs are open at lunchtime and that members of the public are able to pay their bills at a time convenient to them and in particular during lunchtime;
- (4) asks that the Director of Corporate and Housing Services report back to the next meeting to confirm that this has been done and that if there are any budgetary implications to advise what those are, and
- (5) requests that the Scrutiny Committee considers the impact and effectiveness of the hubs as a subject for scrutiny.

**Moved by: Councillor McLuckie**

**Seconded by: Councillor Goldie**

### Amendment

Council requests the Director of Corporate and Housing Services to present a progress report in relation to the Support and Advice Hubs at the December 2019 meeting of the Executive.

**Moved by: Councillor Hughes**

**Seconded by: Councillor Meiklejohn**

## VOTE

### For the motion (12)

Provost W Buchanan	J McLuckie
A Black	L Munro
J Blackwood	M Nicol
J Coombes	A Nimmo
D Goldie	J Patrick
N Harris	P Reid

### For the amendment (11)

Depute Provost A Ritchie	F Collie
D Alexander	G Hughes
D Balfour	C Meiklejohn
L Binnie	L Murtagh
G Bouse	R Spears
N Coleman	

**Decision: Motion carried.**

### Notes

1. This voting record is subject to approval of the formal minute at the meeting of Falkirk Council on Wednesday 4 December 2019.
2. Only those items where a vote was taken are recorded here. For information about decisions reached on any other items considered at this meeting, please contact Brian Pirie, 01324 506110.