

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (top-left: a saltire, top-right: a stag's head, bottom-left: a ship, bottom-right: an eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom. The text "Agenda Item 3" is centered over the top half of the shield.

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

Councillors: David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Joan Coombes
Nigel Harris
Gordon Hughes
Cecil Meiklejohn (convener)
Lynn Munro
Alan Nimmo
Pat Reid

Officers: Mandy Brown, Planning Officer
Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer Health & Social Care Partnership
Karen Chambers, Committee Services Officer
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Kenny Gillespie, Head of Housing
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Laura McIntyre, Principal Economic Development Officer
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

EX50. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bouse, Garner and Nicol.

EX51. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bissett declared a non-financial interest in agenda item 7 (ref EX56) as the holder of an allotment and stated that he considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

EX52. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 27 August 2019 was approved.

EX53. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 27 August was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

**EX54. Audit Committee – 16 September 2019
Corporate Risk Management Update**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the Corporate Risk Management Update report which had been referred by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2019.

Information was provided on the Corporate Risk Register and on the progress with embedding Corporate Risk Management arrangements. The updated corporate Risk Register was attached to the report for approval.

Decision

The Executive approved the Corporate Risk Register.

EX55. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which sought approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2020-2021 to 2024-25 prior to submission to the Scottish Government, and agreement to progress actions to support delivery of additional housing projects.

The SHIP's purpose was to set out strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over the next 5 years in order to achieve the outcomes contained in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS).

Details of the resources and funding available to deliver affordable housing were set out, together with the list of projects covering the full 5 years of the SHIP.

The report also included information in relation to the Council's proposed new build projects and the requirements to acquire these sites, including the land identified at King Street, Stenhousemuir. The programme included some larger strategic sites, as well as continuing to develop some smaller infill development sites to meet specific housing needs.

A total grant funding requirement of £102 million is necessary to deliver all the projects detailed in the SHIP. There is a funding shortfall of c£35 million over the next 5 years, to deliver all the projects listed in the SHIP. Although the total available funding is not sufficient to meet the full list of projects, discussions were on-going with the Scottish Government regarding the potential to secure additional funding and with partners regarding timing and project deliverability.

In addition, the report advised that a request had been made by Link Housing Association for the Council to discharge title burdens. It was recommended the request be agreed and subject to identical contractual obligations replacing them.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) agreed the SHIP 2020-2021 to 2024-25 for submission to the Scottish Government;**
- (2) agreed to authorise officers to enter into negotiations to transfer the land at King Street, Stenhousemuir to the Housing Revenue Account;**
- (3) agreed to discharge the title burdens on Link Housing Association developments at Lochside Crescent, Redding, Lomond Drive, Langlees and Hazel Road, Banknock, and to replace these with identical contractual obligations, and**
- (4) noted that officers will adapt the SHIP in line with available resources in order to maximise the supply of affordable housing locally and provide updates to Members of any changes.**

Councillor Bissett left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

EX56. Dig In: Community Food Growing Strategy

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting a revised "Dig In": Community Food Growing Strategy, 2019-2024 following a recent consultation. An Allotments Action Plan detailing the Council's responsibilities in terms of meeting the demand for allotments in the area, was also included.

The Executive had agreed at its meeting on 15 January 2019 (ref EX101) to undertake a 12 week consultation exercise on the draft Community Food Growing Strategy. Details of the consultation exercise, the formal responses received and the proposed changes to the draft strategy, where relevant, were set out in the report.

The final strategy contained a series of action plans, which would be developed in phases. These detail how the Council and partner organisations would help groups set up and develop their community growing projects across the area, highlighted the resources required, and explained how progress will be monitored and reviewed.

The Allotments Action Plan, was a 5 year plan, which set out how the Council, by working with allotment organisations, aimed to deliver sufficient allotment space to meet local demand, and assist in setting up and managing new allotment sites within the local area. The Plan was attached as appendix 3 to the report.

Mandy Brown, Planning Officer gave a presentation on the “Dig In”: Community Food Growing Strategy.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the “Dig In”: Community Food Growing Strategy (2019-2024), attached as appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (2) the Allotment Action Plan, attached as appendix 3 to the report.**

Councillor Bissett re-joined the meeting following consideration of the previous item of business.

EX57. Falkirk Local Development Plan – Revised Supplementary Guidance SG10 Education and New Housing Development

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the revised Supplementary Guidance on Education and New Housing Development (SG 10) for approval and, subject to the outcome of referral to Scottish Ministers, adoption.

The Executive had agreed at its meeting on 19 February 2019 (ref EX120) to undertake a 6 week statutory consultation exercise on the draft revised SG10. It had also agreed that if significant objections were raised during the public consultation, a further report be brought for members’ consideration.

Appendix 1 to the report, provided a detailed summary of the important issues/ comments received during the consultation process on the draft guidance, the recommended Council response, together with details of resultant changes that were suggested be made to the guidance.

A copy of the revised guidance was attached as Appendix 2 to the report. Approval of the revised SG10 would enable it to be submitted to Scottish Ministers for their approval, prior to it proceeding to the final stage of adoption.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the comments received on the consultative draft of the revised SG10;**
- (2) agreed the suggested Council responses and the resultant changes made to the guidance as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (3) agreed to refer the revised SG10 to Scottish Ministers, and thereafter adopt it subject to any intervention or modifications which Scottish Ministers may direct.**

EX58. Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services summarising the work undertaken to prepare an outline business case for the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone, and sought agreement for this to be forwarded to the UK and Scottish Governments for approval as a means to progress this initiative.

The Executive had, at its meeting on 16 October 2018 (ref EX73), agreed to move to the next stage of the bid process and develop the Outline Business Case (OBC).

The Investment Zone initiative was intended to accelerate economic growth in the Falkirk area and aligned closely with the Falkirk Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) programme and other investment programmes being pursued by public and private sector partners in the Falkirk-Grangemouth area.

A presentation was given by Rhona Geisler and Laura McIntyre in respect of the bid. Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone aimed to deliver transformational, inclusive and clean economic growth. It has 3 themes, Innovative Industry, Strategic National Infrastructure and Great Places.

It is anticipated there will be significant returns on investment, and delivery will generate an additional 6,000 jobs and boost the economy by around £400 m annually.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress of work on the Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone initiative;**

- (2) endorsed the Investment Zone Outline Business Case (OBC), summarised in Appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (3) agreed that this be forwarded to the UK and Scottish Governments for their approval.**

EX59. Capital Programmes Update 2019/20

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided details of the forecast position for the General Fund Services and Housing Capital Programmes along with the Prudential Indicators.

The General Fund Services Capital Programmes was approved by Council on 27 February 2019 whilst the Housing Capital Programmes was approved by Council the previous month, on 23 January 2019.

The Chief Finance Officer spoke to the report and confirmed the 2019/20 budgets for both programmes were part of a five year plan and as such there would be movement in spend across the years. The approved 2019/20 budget for the General Fund had been revised to £41.734m.

The forecast spend for the General Fund was £41.2m, which was £0.5 less than budget. The forecast spend for the Housing Capital Programme was £44.6m.

Decision

The Executive noted the:-

- (1) forecast spend for both the General Fund Services (£41.2m) and Housing Capital Programmes (£44.6m);**
- (2) Prudential Indicators, and**
- (3) external borrowing requirement.**

EX60. Residential Short Breaks – Thornton Gardens, Bonnybridge

The Executive considered a report by the Head of Integration in respect of a proposal to relocate the residential short breaks service from the Rowans bungalow, owned by NHS Forth Valley at the Lochview Hospital site but managed by the Social Work Adults Service, to a council owned property at Thornton Gardens, Bonnybridge.

The Chief Officer of Health and Social Care partnership explained that this arose because the Rowans bungalow had developed a major structural fault and the current tenant at Thornton Gardens, Bield Housing Association Limited (Bield), had ceased their residential care service there and wished to renounce the lease.

The lease with Bield contained provisions governing liability as between the landlord and tenant for funding obtained by Bield in 1991 to build the property. There is an outstanding Housing Association Grant owed by Bield to the Scottish Government. Discussions had taken place between the Council, Bield and the Scottish Government to resolve the question of liability by agreement.

Decision

The Executive:

- (1) noted the requirement for the residential short breaks service delivered currently at the Rowans to relocate due to the building having developed a structural fault;**
- (2) noted the proposed relocation of the residential short breaks service to the Council owned facility at Thornton Gardens, Bonnybridge, and**
- (3) to facilitate the relocation of the residential short breaks service, authorised:**
 - (i) acceptance of the renunciation of the current lease at Thornton Gardens by the tenant Bield, so returning the beneficial ownership of the property to Council;**
 - (ii) acceptance by the Council of the continuing Housing Association Grant liability equivalent of £524,630 which is tied to the property on the terms agreed with Scottish Government as set out in paragraph 4.7 below.**

EX61. Decision Taken Under Delegated Powers

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services informing of the decision taken under delegated powers. The decision taken was:-

- Award of contract for refurbishment of upper floor of the Mariner Centre to form new Health and Fitness Facility.

Decision

The Executive noted the decision taken under delegated powers.