

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of special meeting of Falkirk Council held in the Municipal Buildings,
Falkirk on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 2.00 p.m.**

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| <u>Councillors:</u> | David Aitchison | Fiona Collie | John McLuckie |
| | David Alexander | Joan Coombes | Cecil Meiklejohn |
| | David Balfour | Jim Flynn | Lynn Munro |
| | Lorna Binnie | Paul Garner | Laura Murtagh |
| | Robert Bissett | Dennis Goldie | Malcolm Nicol |
| | Allyson Black | David Grant | Alan Nimmo |
| | Jim Blackwood | Nigel Harris | John Patrick |
| | Gary Bouse | Gordon Hughes | Pat Reid |
| | Provost William Buchanan | James Kerr | Depute Provost Ann Ritchie |
| | Niall Coleman | Adanna McCue | Robert Spears |

Officers: Danny Cairney, Senior Service Manager Corporate Finance
Douglas Duff, Head of Planning and Economic Development
Jack Frawley, Team Leader – Committee Services
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children’s Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services

FC42. Sederunt

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call.

FC43. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

FC44. Referral from the Executive – Council HQ/Arts Centre - Update

With reference to Standing Order 33 the Provost advised that two deputation requests had been received from the Healthy High Street Group and from Falkirk Delivers.

Council agreed to hear the deputations.

Margaret Foy addressed the Council on behalf of the Healthy High Street Group, following which members asked questions of her.

At this point Councillor Bissett stated that a representative of the Bo'ness Networking Group was present and sought clarification on the status of a deputation request which they had submitted. The Chief Governance Officer advised that a late deputation request had been received after the deadline.

Council unanimously agreed that the matter was urgent and therefore to suspend the Standing Order and hear the deputation.

Jamie MacSween then addressed the Council on behalf of Falkirk Delivers, following which members asked questions of him.

Madelene Hunt then addressed the Council on behalf of the Bo'ness Networking Group, following which members asked questions of her.

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the Council HQ/Arts Centre - Update report which had been referred by the Executive on 29 October 2019 to this meeting.

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

- (1) noted the progress in the delivery of the Council's civic headquarters (HQ) and arts centre replacement project;
- (2) noted the outcome of the options appraisal contained in the report and agreed to progress further consideration of options 4 & 5 as outlined in table 1 and summarised in appendix 3 of the report, as a basis for development of the project specification;
- (3) agreed that a further report be prepared for the meeting of the Executive in January to confirm the proposed specification and approach to procurement of the project, and
- (4) agreed to work with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and partners on the scope to include additional office space to meet partners' accommodation needs in the town centre and commission work to assess the zero-carbon potential for the new facility at a cost of £45k, to be funded by SFT.

Councillor Munro, seconded by Councillor Nicol, moved, as an amendment, that Council agrees:-

- (1) to instruct officers to look at opening up the east end of the High Street to traffic to its junction to Cow Wynd;
- (2) to instruct officers to bring forward proposals to relocate council staff into vacant High Street area premises;
- (3) to instruct officers to bring forward a spend to save project for Council Headquarters;
- (4) to put proposals for an Art Centre on hold due to the huge cost and debt implication of the proposed project, and
- (5) that all decisions relating to this are remitted to full Council.

Council adjourned at 3.40pm and reconvened at 4.20pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Bissett gave notice of a further amendment. The Provost stated that it would be helpful for Council in its deliberations to know the terms of the further amendment at this point.

Councillor Bissett indicated that he was minded to move the following in addition to the motion that:-

“Council agrees in the interim between now and the procurement process, a report comes to the next full Council meeting, to look at immediate ways to support the town centre”.

Councillor Munro, with the consent of the Provost, Councillor Nicol as her seconder, and the unanimous agreement of Council then withdrew her amendment.

Councillor Nicol left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Coombes, moved, as an amendment in addition to the motion that:-

Council agrees in the interim between now and the procurement process, a report comes to the next full Council meeting, to look at immediate ways to support the town centre.

Following discussion on the timing of reports Councillor Bissett, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Coombes as his seconder, agreed to adjust the terms of his amendment as follows:-

Council agrees in the interim between now and the procurement process, a report comes to the January meeting of Council, to look at immediate ways to support the town centre.

Councillor Meiklejohn then, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Alexander as her seconder, agreed to adjust the terms of her motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the progress in the delivery of the Council's civic headquarters (HQ) and arts centre replacement project;**
- (2) noted the outcome of the options appraisal contained in this report and agreed to progress further consideration of options 4 & 5 as outlined in table 1 and summarised in appendix 3 of the report, as a basis for development of the project specification;**
- (3) agreed that a further report be prepared for the meeting of the Executive on 14 January 2020 to confirm the proposed specification and approach to procurement of this project;**
- (4) agreed to work with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and partners on the scope to include additional office space to meet partners' accommodation needs in the town centre and commission work to assess the zero-carbon potential for the new facility at a cost of £45k, to be funded by SFT, and**
- (5) agreed in the interim between now and the procurement process, a report comes to meeting of Council on 22 January 2020, to look at immediate ways to support the town centre.**