

FC37. Falkirk Council/Falkirk Community Trust Joint Working

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the actions taken following the meeting of 26 June 2019 in relation to the joint working between Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust, identifying the next steps and timelines in relation to the 2020/21 budget process.

A community consultation on Transforming Services opened on 16 September 2019 and would remain open until 31 October 2019. The purpose of the consultation was to test the principles that the Council and partners had been working towards with regards to changing services and ultimately reviewing assets. The consultation sought to engage communities in what that meant in practice while not at the time being specific about the impact this would have on individual communities or buildings.

The target audience for the consultation was those who lived or worked within the Falkirk Council area. In addition to the survey, focus group sessions were planned in Denny, Bo'ness and Grangemouth in order to better understand the effect of applying the principles.

The Council, Trust and appropriate partners would prepare a prospectus for each town that would seek to address the following:-

- Identifying the current and future use of schools as community resources first and foremost
- The needs of those communities now and in the future
- Identifying properties that are underutilised, in poor condition or not used by that community
- Identifying what services need to be provided in each community e.g. older persons lunch clubs, health and well being activities, advice and support services etc.
- What is the provision of assets in the future for that community including areas for investment, disposal and other use?

The Trust was required to submit its annual business plan and associated documents by 15 November each year. Council had given a commitment to work together with the Trust to prepare a five year investment and savings plan and this work remains ongoing. It was proposed that Council postpone its requirement of the Trust to submit its Business Plan from 15 November 2019 until 6 January 2020. This would allow additional time for the Joint Working Group to reflect on the consultation feedback, to discuss the implications and to offer initial direction and guidance to the Trust on the way ahead.

Council adjourned at 2pm and reconvened at 2.10pm with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Provost Buchanan and Councillors Kerr and Reid.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the actions taken to implement the decision made by Council on 26 June 2019;**
- (2) noted the intention to report back on the outcomes of the consultation exercise to Council on 4 December 2019, and**
- (3) agreed that the deadline for submission of the Falkirk Community Trust Business Plan for 2020/21 is extended to 6 January 2020.**