

EX73. Council HQ/Arts Centre – Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the progress of work relating to the council's civic headquarters (HQ) and arts centre replacement project.

Work had taken place to specify the Council's civic and office headquarters/arts centre requirements in order to prepare for procurement of this facility. At the Council's budget meeting in February 2019 a capital allocation of £45m was established (£30m for offices and £15m for the arts centre replacement of the town hall). Falkirk Community Trust (FCT) commissioned a project to develop a brief and specification for an arts centre to replace Falkirk Town Hall. It was intended that the Council should finalise its requirements in order to commence procurement for the replacement facility. This involved seeking delivery of a site in the town centre as defined in the Local Development Plan.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved that the Executive:-

- (1) notes the progress in the delivery of the Council's civic headquarters (HQ) and arts centre replacement project;
- (2) notes the outcome of the options appraisal contained in this report and agrees to progress further consideration of Options 4 & 5 as outlined in Table 1 and summarised in Appendix 3, as a basis for development of the project specification;
- (3) agrees that a further report be prepared for the meeting of the Executive in December to confirm the proposed specification and approach to procurement of this project, and
- (4) agrees 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.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Executive agrees to refer the report to Council and to request that the Provost agrees a special meeting to allow a full discussion of the proposals.

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 (5) – Councillors Alexander, Bouse, Garner, Hughes and Meiklejohn.

For the amendment (7) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes, Harris, Munro, Nicol, Nimmo and Reid.

Decision

The Executive agreed the amendment.