

## **FC51. Falkirk Council/Falkirk Community Trust Joint Working Group: Feedback on Community and Stakeholder Consultation**

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive which set out the results of the consultation exercise requested by Council on 26 June 2019 in relation to the joint working between Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust (FCT). Next steps were identified to take the work forward in the wider context of the Strategic Property Review (SPR).

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 being specific about the impact this would have on individual communities or buildings.

A total of 1,743 responses were received. The survey results were provided as an appendix to the report and the key findings were:-

The most notable outcomes related to the findings that a majority did not wish to travel further to access improved facilities and services and that proximity appeared to be of greater importance than the quality of the facility. In addition there were positive responses in relation to statements about sharing buildings and resources, using schools as main venues and closing buildings that were poorly used, in poor condition or too expensive. There was a strong view that investment should be in buildings that could be used for the largest variety of activities.

There was an urgent imperative for the joint working group to be in a position to make recommendations that took cognisance of the consultation feedback, strategic property perspective, investment and savings proposals from the Council and Trust and the overall financial position. The next step was to hold the SPR workshop for Elected Members which would be done on a locality basis:-

- to consider the practical application of the SPR principles for each locality;
- to review the property assets owned and used by the Council (and its partners) to meet future service needs;
- to give thought, for each locality, to future use, investment and disposal of assets, and
- to consider the way forward to enable the property strategy and its implementation programme to be finalised.

### **Decision**

#### **Council noted:-**

- (1) the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise, and**
- (2) that these outcomes would be considered as part of the Strategic Property Review.**