

The background of the slide is a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. It features a crown at the top with four maple leaves. The shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left shows a ship on wavy water; top-right shows a stag's head with a cross above its antlers; bottom-left shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water; bottom-right shows an eagle with spread wings perched on a branch. A banner at the bottom contains the motto 'A NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 3

Minutes

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings,
Falkirk on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 9.30 a.m.**

Councillors: David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Gary Bouse
Joan Coombes
Paul Garner
Nigel Harris
Gordon Hughes
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
Lynn Munro
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo
Pat Reid

Officers: Paul Ferguson, Revenue & Benefits Manager
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
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services

EX120. Apologies

There were no apologies.

EX121. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EX122. Minute

Decision

**The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 18 February 2020
was approved.**

EX123. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 18 February 2020 was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX124. Referral from Corporate Partnership Forum

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which sought approval of a revised Family Leave policy. The Corporate Partnership Forum had considered the Family Leave policy on 5 February 2020 and had agreed to refer it to the Executive for approval.

The Family Leave policy had been put into the revised style policy format and combined both the teaching and non-teaching policies into one. Further clarity was included in relation to teachers' paternity leave during school holidays and confirmation that probationer teacher service was included in the calculation to qualify for maternity pay.

Updated information from pension legislation was included for LGPS unpaid leave. Legislative changes were anticipated to come into effect in April 2020 which would impact on the policy. If that was the case the policy would be updated to reflect the new legislation in relation to:-

- **Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Act**
The Act would give all employed parents a day-one right to 2 weeks' leave if they lost a child under the age of 18, or suffered a stillbirth from 24 weeks of pregnancy. Employed parents would also be able to claim pay for this period, subject to meeting eligibility criteria.
- **Neonatal Leave and Pay**
The proposal was that parents receive one week of Neonatal Leave and Pay for every week that their baby was in neonatal care, up to a maximum number of weeks which was still to be determined. This would apply to parents of babies who had spent a minimum of two continuous weeks in neonatal care immediately after birth.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) approved the immediate implementation of changes to the Family Leave policy;**

- (2) **noted the likely legislative changes for Bereaved Parents and Neonatal Parents as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report, and**
- (3) **agreed that the flexibility set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report was implemented once the legislation was passed.**

EX125. Council of the Future

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on progress of the Council of the Future (COTF) Programme of Change since October 2019.

Wave Two Council of the Future was launched as part of the Council's Five-Year Business Plan in May 2019. This enabled the Council to take a longer-term view of the financial plan and transformation deliverables, make the necessary sustainable change happen and successfully deal with the challenges facing the Council in the medium term. A summary of the key project deliverables was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted:-

- (1) **the progress made in the Council of the Future change programme; and**
- (2) **that future quarterly update reports would be provided.**

EX126. Asset Surplus to Requirements Land adjacent to the Department of Works and Pensions, Callendar Gate, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk.

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to sell land adjacent to the Department of Works and Pensions premises, Callendar Gate, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) **agreed to declare the area of land at Callendar Gate surplus to operational requirements and, and**
- (2) **authorised the Director of Development Services to dispose of the property by negotiation.**

EX127. Exclusion of Public

If so resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 & 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the said Act.

EX128. Irrecoverable Debts 2019/20

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which sought approval for a number of debts in excess of £5,000, which were unlikely to be recoverable, to be written out of the accounts in 2019/20.

Decision

The Executive approved, subject to further recovery action being taken should the opportunity arise, that the following debts in excess of £5,000 be written out of the accounts in 2019/20:-

- (1) Council Tax debts totalling £33,286.94 as detailed in appendix A to the report;**
- (2) rent debts totalling £12,211.32 as detailed in appendix B to the report;**
- (3) Housing Benefit Overpayments debts totalling £41,916.66 as detailed in appendix C to the report;**
- (4) Non-Domestic Rates debts totalling £1,023,660.22 as detailed in appendix D to the report, with an appropriate adjustment to the Contributable return, to Scottish Government, for 2018/19;**
- (5) Sundry Account debts totalling £121,054.10 (Inclusive of any VAT) as detailed in appendix E to the report, and**
- (6) Temporary Accommodation charges totalling £46,712.64 as detailed in Appendix F to the report.**

EX129. Minute

The Executive considered an Extract of Draft Minute of Meeting of the Executive held on 18 February 2020.

Decision

The Executive approved the Extract of the draft Minute of Meeting of the Executive held on 18 February 2020.