

FC15. Falkirk Council's Three-Year Business Plan 2021/22- 2023/24

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive which sought approval of Falkirk Council's Three-Year Business Plan. Over the next three years, the Council would spend c.£1.5bn on services to communities. The budget gap for those years was estimated at £28.8m. It was anticipated that over the three year period around 25% of the necessary savings could be delivered through the Council of the Future transformation projects.

The new Council Priorities had been finalised using feedback from Elected Members and community consultation and engagement activity. To ensure the priorities underpinned the Council's transformation, an evaluation of existing Council of the Future projects was undertaken. This found that:-

- Many projects in last year's business plan had rolled forward, as per planned timelines, though some had been extended by up to six months due to the impact of lockdown.
- Some key projects had been re-scoped to better meet the new Council Priorities and immediate need for recovery actions.
- New projects had been identified to reflect the Corporate Plan priorities.
- Delivery of the savings necessary to close budget gaps and redirect resources would be delivered through business as usual activities and major transformation of key services.

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

- (1) agrees Falkirk Council's Three Year Business Plan;
- (2) notes that separate reports will be submitted to Elected Members on budget savings options, and
- (3) notes that updates will be provided to the Executive.

As an amendment, in substitution for the motion, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that:-

Council notes the recommended Three Year Business Plan but continues the item for 3 months when the outcome of the SPR consultation will be known and there will be a more realistic understanding of the economic and social consequences of the Covid 19 crisis.

Council adjourned at 10.55am and reconvened at 11.10am with all members present as per the sederunt. Council then adjourned at 11.35am and reconvened at 11.45am with all members present as per the sederunt.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (18) – Depute Provost Ritchie; and Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Binnie, Bouse, Coleman, Collie, Flynn, Garner, Grant, Harris, Hughes, McCue, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Nicol, Patrick and Spears.

For the amendment (12) – Provost Buchanan; and Councillors Aitchison, Bissett, Black, Blackwood, Coombes, Goldie, Kerr, McLuckie, Munro, Nimmo and Reid.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.