

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on a rocky outcrop. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held remotely on Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Officers: Sally Buchanan, Fairer Falkirk Senior Coordinator
Douglas Duff, Acting Director of Development Services
Jack Frawley, Team Leader – Committee Services
Kenny Gillespie, Head of Housing & Communities
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Andrew McNair, Planning Officer
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate & Housing Services
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

In accordance with section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Convener had directed that the meeting would be conducted by video conference to allow remote attendance by elected members.

In accordance with section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public were excluded from this meeting as it was likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be a real and substantial risk to public health due to infection or contamination with coronavirus.

EX9. Apologies

An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Bissett.

EX10. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EX11. Minute

Minute of Meeting of the Executive held on 13 April 2021.

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 13 April 2021 was approved.

EX12. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 13 April 2021 was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EX13. Referral from Audit Committee – Corporate Risk Management Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which presented the Corporate Risk Dashboard, Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Improvement Plan for approval.

At its meeting of 12 April 2021 (ref AC6) the Audit Committee agreed to refer the Corporate Risk Management Update report to the Executive for consideration and approval. The report referred by the Audit Committee was provided as an appendix to the report to the Executive. As part of its consideration the Audit Committee was provided with an undertaking that risks in regard to bringing Falkirk Community Trust back in-house would be highlighted in future iterations of the Register and dashboard.

Decision

The Executive approved the Corporate Risk Dashboard, Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Improvement Plan as set out in the appendices to the report.

EX14. Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 Supplementary Guidance SG05: Green Infrastructure and New Development

The Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which sought approval of SG05: Green Infrastructure and New Development.

SG05 was new supplementary guidance. The topic of the guidance was 'green infrastructure' which was a general term to describe all natural or semi natural spaces including public parks, amenity greenspace within development, wildlife sites, sports pitches, play spaces, waterbodies, woodlands and the active travel links between these facilities.

SG05 had been prepared to help applicants incorporate well designed green infrastructure into new developments and achieve wider sustainability benefits in the process. In summary, the guidance covered:-

- how green infrastructure could be integrated into the design process, including some evaluation tools that could be used to review and improve the design and layout of a development;
- the key principles and good practice for specific types of green infrastructure which were grouped under the themes of 'Well Being, Water and Wildlife'. Various projects in the Council area had been used to showcase good practice and inspire applicants to formulate quality proposals for green infrastructure. The Helix, Forth Valley Hospital and Larbert Woods, Zetland Park, and Carron Dams Heritage Trail are just some of the local projects featured in SG05;
- requirements for the provision of recreational open space in new development;
- how compensation for the loss of recreational open space associated with a development proposal would be calculated, and
- particular requirements for the management and maintenance of green infrastructure.

Officers held a workshop in Autumn 2019 with representatives from across the Council, the development industry, and key agencies. Over 900 key agencies, organisations and individuals were notified by email of the commencement of the consultation process and the availability of consultative draft SG05 on the Council website. Press adverts were placed in the Falkirk Herald and Bo'ness Journal and a Facebook post also advertised the start of the consultation. Consultation took place over a 6 week period between 21 January 2021 and 4 March 2021. Responses were received from the following five individuals/organisations:-

- Helen Scott
- Historic Environment Scotland
- NatureScot
- Paths for All
- Scottish Water

Detailed summaries of the comments received and the Council's draft responses were contained in an appendix to the report. The consultation process, however, did not raise substantive issues, requiring major amendments to SG05. Four of the five responses welcomed the guidance. One response conveyed an objection to the Council's preference for open space to be maintained by an appointed property factor, citing homeowners

had little control over increases in factor fees. Officers responded saying that the Council already maintained a large estate of open space. Unless costs for maintenance were met in full, the Council generally did not seek to take on responsibility for maintaining new areas of open space in private housing developments.

Decision

The Executive agreed to submit SG05: Green Infrastructure and New Development, as set out at appendix 2 to the report, to Scottish Ministers and to adopt the guidance following clearance from Scottish Ministers

EX15. Covid-19 Support for People Funding

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the deployment of Support for People Funding for the period 2020/21 along with proposals for future spend of the funding in 2021/22.

In March 2021 the Scottish Government awarded a further £986k funding to support people, the table below shows how the funding was proposed to be allocated along with carryover from the previous year:-

Further Funding and Underspend (£986k + £120k)	Allocation
Shortfall in £100 Spring Payments	£104,486
Shortfall in Family Pandemic Payments (£100 x 2)	£208,972
2021 Food Fund – CVS Falkirk	£250,000
2021 Volunteer Expenses Fund – CVS Falkirk	£60,000
Fuel Support – CTR Exempt Young People	£12,000
Fuel Support – shielders in receipt of CTR and not previously supported	£38,700
Fuel Support – low income households with overnight care workers	£4,000
Covid-19 Digital Exclusion Fund – phase 2	£65,000
Additional income max (CAB)	£50,000
Shortfall in free school meals during summer holidays	£272,455
Continue to provide free school meal payments for self-isolating pupils	£20,000

Continue to provide fuel support for low income households self-isolating	£20,000
Total	£1,105,613

The proposals included £272k to support the shortfall in providing direct payments in lieu of income related free school meals during the summer holidays. To date there had not been confirmation of funding from the Scottish Government to support free school meals over that period. If funding was available to support the provision of direct payments in lieu of free school meals the shortfall funding would be used to continue to pay £3.50 per day to the wider cohort of pupils. If further funding was not awarded then it was proposed to direct payments of £2 per day to the same group of pupils at a total cost of £413k. This would require reallocation of funding from other areas.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) approved the further use of the funding to support the activities detailed in the table above, and**
- (2) agreed to provide direct payments in lieu of free school meals during the school holidays with the level of payment dependent on the availability of further funding as described in section 5.7 of the report.**

EX16. Exclusion of Public

The Executive resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the said Act.

EX17. Falkirk Gateway Update Report

The Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided an update on the progress of the Falkirk Gateway project.

Decision

The Executive agreed to continue the item to a future meeting and requested that a briefing for members was arranged in advance of the report being considered.