

**RECORD OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF FALKIRK COUNCIL  
ON 14 DECEMBER 2022**

**Councillors not in attendance:** Claire Brown and William Buchanan, and Alan Nimmo for item 13(d)

<b>Agenda Item No.6</b>	<b>Tackling Poverty in Falkirk - Additional Support to Low-income Households</b>
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**Motion**

Council:-

- (1) notes the action already undertaken;
- (2) agrees the plans for further action;
- (3) agrees the proposal to add a further £190k to the Household Support Fund, and
- (4) agrees that free school meal and bridging payments would continue at current funding levels for December 2022 and revert to Scottish Government eligibility criteria for the remainder of the financial year.

**Moved by: C Meiklejohn**

**Seconded by: F Collie**

**Amendment**

Council:-

- (1) notes the action already undertaken;
- (2) agrees the plans for further action;
- (3) agrees the proposal to add a further £190k to the Household Support Fund, and
- (4) agrees that free school meal and bridging payments will continue at current funding levels for the remainder of the financial year;
- (5) recognises the value of the work that a range of officers have undertaken and approves of the approach of ensuring that all staff in all services understand the importance of addressing poverty issues;
- (6) thanks staff in Advice Services across Falkirk for delivering over £13 million in financial gain to people across the Falkirk Council area – 13 times the cost of the services;
- (7) asks officers to provide a report to Council on the ways in which the Advice Services across Falkirk could work with Education and Health and Social Care Services to undertake income maximisation campaigns throughout 2023/2024 to promote take up of benefits related to disability physical and mental health problems (as well as low income) by all age groups, and
- (8) asks officers to provide a report to council on the local economy multiplier – estimating the benefits to the local economy of increased incomes from benefits spent in the local economy.

**Moved by: A Hannah**  
**Seconded by: A Nimmo**

### **VOTE**

<b>For the motion (16)</b>		<b>For the amendment (12)</b>	
Depute Provost D Balfour	G Forrest	D Aitchison	A Nimmo
L Binnie	P Garner	M Anslow	S Paterson
G Bouse	J Kerr	Provost R Bissett	J Redmond
J Bundy	C Meiklejohn	A Hannah	A Ritchie
F Collie	L Murtagh	A Kelly	R Spears
B Deakin	S Patrick	B McCabe	E Stainbank
S Devine	J Robertson		
J Flynn	I Sinclair		

**Decision: motion carried.**

<b>Agenda Item No.13</b>	<b>Motion – (a) Reinstate Free After Three in Falkirk Town Centre</b>
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### **Motion**

At its Budget Meeting in March, Council agreed to withdraw the Free After Three parking arrangements at Council owned car parks in Falkirk Town Centre achieving a saving of £50k.

Council recognises that this was an error which has had a detrimental effect on the Town Centre that is not justified by the small saving achieved. The Council agreed in its plan that one of its three priorities was a thriving economy. Maintaining this cut is not consistent with that priority.

Council accordingly resolves to restore the Free After Three provision in Falkirk Town Centre with immediate effect with the income loss (estimated at £20k) met for this financial year from reserves.

Council also agrees that the budget for this provision should be reinstated for future financial years.

**Moved by: Provost R Bissett**  
**Seconded by: E Stainbank**

### **Amendment**

Council agrees that we must improve accessibility to Falkirk High Street; notes that measures taken to improve accessibility must align with the council's three key strategic aims – community empowerment, reducing inequalities, and a thriving green economy – and financial sustainability; believes that improving Active Travel access to the High Street is a more prudent and sustainable way to spend taxpayers' money; and asks officers to explore ways to improve accessibility to our High Street in a way which is both environmentally and financially sustainable.

**Moved by: J Bundy**  
**Seconded by: J Kerr**

### **VOTE**

<b>For the motion (12)</b>		<b>For the amendment (16)</b>	
D Aitchison	A Nimmo	Depute Provost D Balfour	G Forrest
M Anslow	S Paterson	L Binnie	P Garner
Provost R Bissett	J Redmond	G Bouse	J Kerr
A Hannah	A Ritchie	J Bundy	C Meiklejohn
A Kelly	R Spears	F Collie	L Murtagh
B McCabe	E Stainbank	B Deakin	S Patrick
		S Devine	J Robertson
		J Flynn	I Sinclair

**Decision: amendment carried.**

<b>Agenda Item No.13</b>	<b>Motion – (b) Re-opening of Public Toilets</b>
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#### **Motion**

Council notes that it is now more than six months since the decision was taken at the Budget meeting to close the public toilets at Falkirk, Grangemouth and Bo'ness.

Council accepts that this was the wrong decision which had negatively impacted on town centres and removed an important facility.

Council further notes that all three facilities remain intact needing only to have water and electricity re-connected.

Council resolves to re-open the toilets as soon as is practicable and in particular as soon as staff can be recruited to service them.

Council acknowledges that this will cost £12.5k per month for the remainder of this financial year and agrees that this should be met from reserves and that the budget for 23/24 should be restored for ongoing provision.

**Moved by: A Nimmo**  
**Seconded by: A Ritchie**

#### **Amendment**

The Council agrees that public toilets are important to empowering our communities; recognises that they help reduce inequalities as it stops residents from unnecessarily spending in shops to use bathroom facilities; and encourages the Council to seek Community Asset Transfer of these facilities.

**Moved by: J Kerr**  
**Seconded by: J Flynn**

## **VOTE**

### **For the motion (12)**

D Aitchison	A Nimmo
M Anslow	S Paterson
Provost R Bissett	J Redmond
A Hannah	A Ritchie
A Kelly	R Spears
B McCabe	E Stainbank

### **For the amendment (16)**

Depute Provost D Balfour	G Forrest
L Binnie	P Garner
G Bouse	J Kerr
J Bundy	C Meiklejohn
F Collie	L Murtagh
B Deakin	S Patrick
S Devine	J Robertson
J Flynn	I Sinclair

**Decision: amendment carried.**

### **Agenda Item No.13**

### **Motion – (c) Reports to Council**

#### **Motion**

Council recognises that to allow sustainable outcomes for its communities, it requires accurate information be provided by officers as part of the decision-making process. With a new Council and relatively new Corporate Management team in place, it is timely to review the format and content of reports provided to Council and its committees. Any review would consider how reports distinguish between fact and opinion. This will help members and officers assess the types of information contained in reports and give due weight to both.

It is proposed, in the spirit of collaborative leadership, that a member-officer working group is established, comprising representatives of Councillor groups and the Chief Executive, Chief Governance Officer and the 3 Service Directors.

**Moved by: B McCabe**

**Seconded by: R Spears**

#### **Amendment**

The Council recognises the importance of receiving balanced reports to inform decision-making but recognises that setting-up a committee to discuss the presentation of reports is not a prudent use of the Council's limited resources; understands that in the field of politics, there are occasions where the evidence does not point to one clear solution and seeks that reports reflect this fact; and therefore, asks officers to consider how they present reports to ensure that they are balanced and clearer align with the three priorities within the Council's strategic vision.

**Moved by: J Kerr**

**Seconded by: J Bundy**

## VOTE

For the motion (12)		For the amendment (16)	
D Aitchison	A Nimmo	Depute Provost D Balfour	G Forrest
M Anslow	S Paterson	L Binnie	P Garner
Provost R Bissett	J Redmond	G Bouse	J Kerr
A Hannah	A Ritchie	J Bundy	C Meiklejohn
A Kelly	R Spears	F Collie	L Murtagh
B McCabe	E Stainbank	B Deakin	S Patrick
		S Devine	J Robertson
		J Flynn	I Sinclair

**Decision: amendment carried.**

<b>Agenda Item No.13</b>	<b>Motion – (d) Convenor Remuneration – Vote 1</b>
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### **Motion**

Council acknowledges implementation of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 scheme should be fair, equitable and applied in an open and transparent way. Council will recall that when the current settlement was agreed, there was concern among members that some roles, in particular the Scrutiny Convener and Champions, were not remunerated.

Council is asked to endorse the immediate remuneration of Scrutiny. Council further agrees to establish a short life working group with one representative from each group, supported by officers, to consider the current scheme and make recommendations that would improve its application.

**Moved by: R Spears**

**Seconded by: B McCabe**

### **Amendment**

The terms of the motion subject to:-

Delete sentence

“Council is asked to endorse the immediate remuneration of Scrutiny.” and in the following sentence delete “further”.

**Moved by: A Hannah**

**Seconded by: E Stainbank**

### VOTE

For the motion (2)	For the amendment (9)	Abstentions (16)	
B McCabe	D Aitchison	Depute Provost D Balfour	G Forrest
R Spears	M Anslow	L Binnie	P Garner
	Provost R Bissett	G Bouse	J Kerr
	A Hannah	J Bundy	C Meiklejohn
	A Kelly	F Collie	L Murtagh
	S Paterson	B Deakin	S Patrick
	J Redmond	S Devine	J Robertson
	A Ritchie	J Flynn	I Sinclair
	E Stainbank		

**Decision: amendment carried.**

<b>Agenda Item No.13</b>	<b>Motion – (d) Convenor Remuneration – Vote 2</b>
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### **Motion**

Council agrees to establish a short life working group with one representative from each group, supported by officers, to consider the current scheme and make recommendations that would improve its application.

**Moved by: A Hannah**

**Seconded by: E Stainbank**

### VOTE

For the motion (10)	Against the motion (16)	Abstention (1)
D Aitchison	Depute Provost D Balfour	B McCabe
M Anslow	L Binnie	
Provost R Bissett	G Bouse	
A Hannah	J Bundy	
A Kelly	F Collie	
S Paterson	B Deakin	
J Redmond	S Devine	
A Ritchie	J Flynn	
R Spears		
E Stainbank		

**Decision: motion not carried.**

## Notes

1. This voting record is subject to approval of the formal minute at the meeting of Falkirk Council on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
2. Only those items where a vote was taken are recorded here. For information about decisions reached on any other items considered at this meeting, please contact Brian Pirie, 01324 506110.