

The background of the slide is a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. It features a crown at the top with four thistles. The shield is divided into four quarters: top-left shows a castle tower, top-right shows a stag's head with a cross between its antlers, bottom-left shows a sailing ship on waves, and bottom-right shows an eagle with spread wings. A ribbon at the bottom contains the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 3

Minutes

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of Falkirk Council held remotely on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

<u>Councillors:</u>	David Aitchison	Jim Flynn	Alan Nimmo
	Margaret Anslow	Gordon Forrest	Siobhan Paterson
	Depute Provost David Balfour	Paul Garner	Sarah Patrick
	Lorna Binnie	Anne Hannah	Ann Ritchie
	Provost Robert Bissett	Alf Kelly	Jack Redmond
	Gary Bouse	James Kerr	Jim Robertson
	James Bundy	Brian McCabe	Iain Sinclair
	Fiona Collie	Cecil Meiklejohn	Robert Spears
	Bryan Deakin	Laura Murtagh	Euan Stainbank
	Stacey Devine		

<u>Officers:</u>	Karen Algie, Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services
	Malcolm Bennie, Director of Place Services
	Sally Buchanan, Library Service & Fairer Falkirk Manager
	Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer - Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership
	Sophie Dick – Democratic Services Graduate Trainee
	Paul Ferguson, Revenue & Benefits Manager
	Jack Frawley, Team Leader - Committee Services
	Tracey Gillespie, Human Resources Manager
	Steven Kirkwood, Chief Finance Officer – Health & Social Care Partnership
	Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
	Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
	Gemma McArthur, Committee Officer
	Gary McGregor, Roads, Bridges & Flooding Co-ordinator
	Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
	Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
	Lesley O'Hare, Cultural Manager
	Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
	Amanda Templeman, Chief Finance Officer
	Martin Thom, Head of Integration

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

FC42. Sederunt

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call. An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Buchanan.

FC43. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

FC44. Minutes and Information Bulletin

- (a) Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 28 September 2022 – agreed as a correct record;
- (b) Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 27 October 2022 – agreed as a correct record;
- (c) Volume of Minutes – Volume 2 2022/23 – noted, and
- (d) Information Bulletin – Volume 2 2022/23 – noted.

FC45. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous special meeting on 27 October was provided. Item 591 – Adaptions to Housing - was the subject of a report on the agenda for the meeting and accordingly fell from the action log.

Decision

Council noted the rolling action log.

FC46. Referral from Executive - Treasury Management Interim Review 2022/23

Council considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which referred the Treasury Management Interim Review 2022/23 to Council for consideration. The report supported the Council Plan enabler of Financial Sustainability and had been referred to Council at the meeting of the Executive held on 4 October 2022. The report considered by the Executive provided information on:-

- Economic and Interest Rate Outlook
- Borrowing Strategy
- Investment Strategy
- Prudential Indicators
- Treasury Management Advisers
- Elected Member Training, and
- Benchmarking.

Decision

Council noted the Treasury Management Interim Review 2022/23.

FC47. Tackling Poverty in Falkirk - Additional Support to Low-income Households

Council considered a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on work which had progressed to provide additional support to low-income households in line with the decision of the Executive at its meeting of 21 June 2022. The work in the report supported the Council Plan priorities of promoting opportunities and educational attainment and reducing inequalities.

The report provided information on action taken to date. This included:-

- Household support fund re-launched at the start of September 2022.
- Free swimming for GoCard holders which was introduced on 1st September 2022.
- Poverty awareness training was provided to 133 staff during Challenge Poverty week to increase understand of poverty and the support available. A further session was held with the Council's senior leadership team to increase their understanding of poverty and consider how they could tackle poverty within their own services.
- Leaflets, posters and a webpage detailing support to help with increasing cost of living had been developed.
- A campaign was carried out over the summer to promote pension credit to the residents of the high flats.
- Promoted the advice and support services to parents and carers via schools.
- Advice and Support Hub teams worked with services and communities to reach out to existing support groups to raise awareness of the support that they could provide.
- Carried out a short engagement to gather views on 'warm banks' which would operate from libraries.
- Provided pre-employment support to 150 unemployed parents since March 2022.
- Continued work to develop and expand the Community Link Work Programme across the Falkirk area.

Further action which was planned included:-

- Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery payments of £75 would be offered to each household in receipt Council tax Reduction by 31 January 2023.
- Align free school meal payments during school holidays with national criteria

- Implementation of Council wi-fi at all libraries. This means that there will be consistent connectivity for Council provided devices, such as Council laptops and the iPads provided to children and young people through the Connected Falkirk programme.
- Offer monthly Think Poverty sessions to staff across the Council and include in induction for new staff.
- Offer GoCard holders a free tea or coffee until the end of February 2023.
- Work on an alternative concession card scheme for those on income related benefits was being carried out in line with a wider pricing review.

Demand for support from the second phase of the household support fund had exceeded expectations. There was £190k available from the funding previously provided by the Scottish Government to support people experiencing financial insecurity. It was proposed to add this funding to the budget for the household support fund to maximise support to people over winter.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Collie, moved that 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.

As an amendment, Councillor Hannah, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the terms of the motion subject to the following alteration to clause (4) and insertion of additional clauses as below:-

- (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.

Councillor Bundy gave notice of a further amendment.

Council adjourned at 11.35am and reconvened at 12noon with all members present as per the sederunt.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 28 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

For the amendment (12) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, McCabe, Nimmo, Paterson, Redmond, Ritchie, Spears and Stainbank.

The motion was carried and became the substantive motion against which the further amendment was considered.

As a further amendment, Councillor Bundy, seconded by Councillor Kerr, moved the terms of the motion subject to the replacement of clause (4) with the following:-

- (4) agrees that free school meal and bridging payments will continue at current funding levels for December 2022 and revert to Scottish Government eligibility criteria for the remainder of the financial year and asks officers to explore collaborating with the Soil Association Scotland on their Food for Life programme to provide food to our young people meeting the standards of the programme and supporting better outcomes for health, our economy and the environment; and to report back to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive.

Councillor Meiklejohn, with the consent of the Provost, and Councillor Collie as her seconder, agreed to adjust the terms of the motion to incorporate the terms of the further amendment. Having incorporated that terms of the further amendment into the motion the further amendment accordingly fell.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the action already undertaken;**
- (2) agreed the plans for further action;**
- (3) agreed the proposal to add a further £190k to the Household Support Fund, and**
- (4) agreed 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 and asked officers to explore collaborating with the Soil Association Scotland on their Food for Life programme to provide food to our young people meeting the standards of the programme and supporting better outcomes for health, our economy and the environment; and to report back to a future meeting of the Education Children and Young People Executive.**

FC48. FTH Closure: Voluntary Arts Support

Council considered a report by the Director of Place Services which provided an update on progress made to date in relocating hall hires for Falkirk Town Hall (FTH) from 8 February 2023 – 31 December 2023. The report was linked to the Council Plan strategic enabler of Financial Sustainability and had a secondary link to the strategic priority of Supporting Stronger and Healthier Communities.

A range of voluntary sector, Council, and commercial hires were previously held at Falkirk Town Hall and made up approximately 40% of its annual programme. The venue also hosted regular visits by the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service. Following the decision to close the Town Hall the Service had been working through all bookings at FTH with a priority focus on January - June 2023 to ensure that, where possible, alternative locations for all bookings were identified along with any cost implications. Work would continue to relocate lets in the latter part of the year.

Where possible lessees had been relocated to Falkirk Council venues, principally, Grangemouth and Bo'ness Town Halls and Larbert High School. Other non-Council venues which had offered availability included the Beancross, Trinity Church and the Dobbie Hall.

There was no other purpose-built performing arts venue in the Falkirk Council area and the nearest theatres in Central Scotland were Lanternhouse in Cumbernauld and the MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling. As a result, it was anticipated that some lessees would have to compromise on both the scale and complexity of the technical aspects of their shows.

A budget of £10k was proposed to be allocated to assist Voluntary Sector companies with unanticipated costs due to the relocation. As financial information relating to each relocation was still emerging it was recommended that the allocation was increased in line with reasonable demand (with a consequent reduction from the allocation for external match funding bids). It was recommended that discretion on the use of the funds would be passed to the Council's Culture and Helix Manager. There should be no additional financial impacts on the Council.

Decision

Council agreed to delegate authority to the Council's Culture and Helix Services Manager to increase the £10k voluntary sector fund to support local groups as required on a value for money basis from the £50k external match funding pot agreed at Council in September 2022.

FC49. Budget Report

Council considered a report from the Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which provided an update on budget related matters. The Financial Strategy was a multi-year document and whilst the focus was on 2023/24, any financial decisions should be considered in that longer term context. The Council Plan highlighted Financial Sustainability as a key enabler to help the Council deliver on its three core priorities.

An updated gap position was set out as £67m for the next four years. However, there were a number of outstanding factors which would impact on the budget gap, including:-

Government grant confirmation (the Scottish Budget for 2023/24 was due to be published on 15 December)

Pay Award settlements – for teachers in 2022/23 and all staff groups in future years

IJB funding settlement (usually included in the financial circular provided by Scottish Government)

The main movements in the funding gap were pay awards and energy estimates. Services had been working on a range of proposals in advance of the budget setting. However, even if all proposals were accepted there would still remain a gap of £40m over the next four years.

On 1 November the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery wrote to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) outlining consideration for policy flexibilities which could support the challenging resource position facing councils as a result of the 2022/23 pay deal.

The Scottish Government announced its Emergency Budget Review on 2 November 2022. The review identified £615m of in year savings to tackle the challenges of rising inflation. Added to the £560m of savings identified in September, the total in year movement in the 2022/23 budget was almost £1.2bn. The EBR included a reprioritisation of spend of £400m within the health and social care budget and £150m of savings from capital and financial transactions. The savings identified were mainly to help fund the additional pay uplifts for 2022/23 which were estimated at approximately £714m.

The UK Government Autumn Statement was presented on 17 November and the key messages were:-

- Tax increases from a variety of sources
- Increased payments to households
- Reductions in departmental budgets
- Increase in borrowing

The Scottish Government had issued a finance circular which allowed the Council to consider changing the statutory accounting treatment for Service Concession Arrangements (SCAs). For Falkirk Council this was relevant to the accounting arrangements for Class 98 and the NPDO schools. Work continued with the Council's Treasury Advisors, Link Asset Services, to understand how these changes could impact on Falkirk Council. SCAs would be an important tool in the budget process. However, any SCAs used would need to be paid back. In effect service concessions allow the Council to borrow back some money in the short term which must be repaid over the longer term.

To support Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) a temporary ZBB officer post was put in place as part of the Programme Management Office. However, to date the roll out of ZBB had not been as successful as initially hoped. Children's Services managed to deliver their target of £0.5m of savings but mainly through alternative means. The ZBB review of Transport had been more successful with a report presented to Executive in October 2022. However, it had not been possible for changes to be fully implemented in 2022/23 that would deliver the £0.5m target, albeit savings beyond £0.5m were anticipated over a number of years. The ZBB approach still required difficult decisions to be made. ZBB was a methodology that could be applied to any area of service review. It was resource intensive and its suitability for use would be dependent on the area under review.

A budget survey would be published online. The purpose of the survey was to inform the public of the financial challenge that the Council faced and to get their views on various areas of spend, including their views on Council Tax. This work would sit alongside more detailed budget consultations on individual proposals, for example the Strategic Property Review and the Libraries Plan.

The Council usually set rents and the Housing Investment Programme in January of each year. The Scottish Government passed the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act in October 2022. This legislation put a rent

freeze in place until at least 31 March 2023. The Scottish Government had indicated that they would make a further announcement on 14 January 2022 to confirm if the rent freeze would be extended. As a result, it was proposed that the Housing rent setting paper would not be brought to the 18 January 2023 Council meeting and that a meeting in February was arranged. The decision on rent setting levels had a direct impact on the affordability of the Housing investment Programme and the two aspects must be considered at the same time.

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

- (1) notes the report, and
- (2) agrees that the Council meeting arranged for January 2023 will instead take place in February on a date to be arranged.

As an amendment, Councillor Hannah, moved the terms of the motion with the addition of a new clause (3):-

- (3) as a member of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, publicly support COSLA's Save Our Services Campaign to increase Local Government Funding.

Councillor Meiklejohn, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Garner, as her seconder, adjusted the motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment. The amendment accordingly fell.

Councillor McCabe gave notice of a further amendment. Having heard from the Chief Finance Officer regarding the timing of the budget decisions for Council, Councillor McCabe intimated that he no longer required to move a further amendment.

Council adjourned at 1.10pm and reconvened at 2.05pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the report;**
- (2) agreed that the Council meeting arranged for January 2023 would instead take place in February on a date to be arranged, and**
- (3) as a member of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, publicly support COSLA's Save Our Services Campaign to increase Local Government Funding.**

FC50. IJB Business Case 2023/24

Council considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which presented the IJB Business Case for 2023/24. It was normal practice for Council to gain early sight of the IJB's Business Plan and savings options before concluding deliberations at the Budget meeting in February/March. The IJB Business Case was provided as an appendix to the report.

In line with previous years' Local Government Financial Settlement, the anticipated service payment to the IJB for 2023/24 was based on the Scottish Government's requirement that the current budget plus any new social care funding would be passed on in full to the IJB. Within the Business Case, the IJB had identified an overall budget shortfall of £10.4m, of which £5.5m related to services funded by Falkirk Council.

The IJB had identified saving options to a value of £7.8m, with £3.7m relating to Adult Social Care, although £1.4m of these were flagged red under their RAG risk rating. The IJB's financial plan also assumed that funding for the 2022/23 pay award would be passed on to the IJB. This was still under review and discussions with the IJB were ongoing.

Decision

Council noted the position set out in the report and the savings options identified by the IJB.

FC51. Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2021-22

Council considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer which provided an overview of how the statutory responsibilities had been fulfilled by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) during 2021-22. CSWOs were required to submit an Annual Report in accordance with Scottish Government guidance.

The Annual Report was provided as an appendix to the report and provided information on:-

- Governance and Accountability;
- Service Quality and Performance;
- Resources, and
- Workforce.

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

- (1) notes the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer
- (2) agrees to its onward submission to Scottish Government and the Integration Joint Board, and

- (3) acknowledges the commitment, skills and experience of social work staff in continuing to deliver services in challenging circumstances.

As an amendment, Councillor Kerr moved the terms of the motion subject to the alteration of clause (3) to read as follows:-

- (3) acknowledge the commitment, skills and experience of social work staff in continuing to deliver services in challenging circumstances; and calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a clear process for accreditation for social care workers to attract more people into this field by presenting a clear path for career progression.

Councillor Collie, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Meiklejohn, as her seconder, adjusted the motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment. The amendment accordingly fell.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer;**
- (2) agreed to its onward submission to Scottish Government and the Integration Joint Board, and**
- (3) acknowledged the commitment, skills and experience of social work staff in continuing to deliver services in challenging circumstances; and calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a clear process for accreditation for social care workers to attract more people into this field by presenting a clear path for career progression.**

FC52. Falkirk Integration Joint Board Report

Council considered a report by the Chief Officer - Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership which presented an update of the work of the Partnership (HSCP) over the last 12 months. The report provided information on the continued efforts in response to ongoing system pressures and service redesign work.

The report also included information on:-

- HSCP Recruitment Campaign
- Winter Planning
- HSCP Transformation Priorities
- Home Support and Supported Living Contract
- Future Model for Care at Home Services
- Future Model for Day Opportunities
- Slow Stream Rehabilitation Bedded Care

- Equipment and Adaptations Service
- Falkirk Community Hospital Masterplan
- Carers Strategy
- Tackling Poverty in Falkirk

Decision

Council noted the report.

FC53. Execution of Deeds

Council considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which provided details of those deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council.

Decision

Council noted signing and sealing of the Deeds listed in the appendix to the report.

Council adjourned at 3.45pm and reconvened at 4.05pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

FC54. Motions

Four motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 29 were set out below. The four motions were reserved to Council.

(a) Reinstate Free After Three in Falkirk Town Centre

Provost Bissett, seconded by Councillor Stainbank, moved that:-

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.

As an amendment, in substitution for the motion, Councillor Bundy, seconded by Councillor Kerr, moved that Council:-

- (1) agrees that we must improve accessibility to Falkirk High Street;
- (2) 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;
- (3) believes that improving Active Travel access to the High Street is a more prudent and sustainable way to spend taxpayers' money, and
- (4) asks officers to explore ways to improve accessibility to our High Street in a way which is both environmentally and financially sustainable.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 28 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (12) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, McCabe, Nimmo, Paterson, Redmond, Ritchie, Spears and Stainbank.

For the amendment (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

Decision

Council agreed the amendment.

(b) Re-opening of Public Toilets

Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Ritchie, moved that:-

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.

As an amendment, in substitution for the motion, Councillor Kerr, seconded by Councillor Flynn moved that 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.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 28 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (12) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, McCabe, Nimmo, Paterson, Redmond, Ritchie, Spears and Stainbank.

For the amendment (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

Decision

Council agreed the amendment.

(c) Reports to Council

Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Spears, moved that:-

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.

As an amendment, in substitution for the motion, Councillor Kerr, seconded by Councillor Bundy, moved that 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.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 28 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (12) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, McCabe, Nimmo, Paterson, Redmond, Ritchie, Spears and Stainbank.

For the amendment (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

Decision

Council agreed the amendment.

Councillor Nimmo left the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

(d) Convenor Remuneration

Councillor Spears, seconded by Councillor McCabe, moved that:-

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.

As an amendment, Councillor Hannah, seconded by Councillor Stainbank, moved the terms of motion subject to the following alterations:-

Delete sentence:-

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

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 27 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (2) – Councillors McCabe and Spears.

For the amendment (9) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, Paterson, Ritchie and Stainbank.

Abstentions (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion. The Provost noted that there was not general agreement on this. A vote was then taken for or against the substantive motion.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 27 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the substantive motion (10) – Provost Bissett and Councillors Aitchison, Anslow, Hannah, Kelly, Paterson, Redmond, Ritchie, Spears and Stainbank.

Against the substantive motion (16) – Depute Provost Balfour and Councillors Binnie, Bouse, Bundy, Collie, Deakin, Devine, Flynn, Forrest, Garner, Kerr, Meiklejohn, Murtagh, Patrick, Robertson and Sinclair.

Abstention (1) – Councillor McCabe.

Decision

Council did not agree the substantive motion.

Councillors Ritchie and Spears left the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

FC55. Exclusion of Public

Council was 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7 to that Act.

Councillor Stainbank left the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

FC56. Equal Pay and Holiday Pay Update

Council considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which provided an update on Holiday Pay claims as well as additional case law in relation to leave entitlement for part year workers. The report also provided an update on negotiations relative to “second wave” equal pay claims.

This work supported the Enabler of Valued Sustainable Workforce as the Council sought to ensure equality in pay and terms and conditions for all employees.

Decision

Council noted:-

- (1) progress of the settlement of equal pay claims for the different representatives and individuals;**
- (2) progress of the settlement of holiday pay claims, and**
- (3) changes required for leave entitlement of part year workers.**