

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2010
Meeting: SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 16 June 2010
Author: DIRECTORS OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Reports were submitted to the Housing and Social Care Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2010. The purpose of this Report is to refer recommendations made by the Housing and Social Care Committee to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

2. ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT AND SHOPMOBILITY – ORDER OF MALTA DIAL-A-JOURNEY LTD

- 2.1 Committee considered a Report by the Director of Development Services providing information on the accessible transport, taxicard booking and shopmobility services provided by Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey Ltd. The Report sought agreement to further consideration being given to the procurement of these services.
- 2.2 Committee was invited to refer the following recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee, namely that:-
- (1) consideration be given to procuring the Dial-a-Journey accessible transport service operations from 1 April 2011 through a tendering process (possibly in conjunction with Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils);
 - (2) investigations be carried out into the best method of procuring the associated Taxicard booking service and Shopmobility service;
 - (3) in order to test the market, it would be desirable to invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified organisations who may be interested in operating such services, and
 - (4) a Report on the options available from April 2011 be presented to the Housing and Social Care Committee in due course, before referring recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 2.3 Councillor Blackwood, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.
- 2.4 By way of an amendment Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved the following in substitution of the recommendations:-

“In order to enable Members to take an informed view on future methods of funding for Dial-a-Journey, Taxicard and Shopmobility Services, further investigation should be carried out as facts and figures contained within this Report are outdated and therefore do not provide Members with an accurate picture.

Consideration of this item be continued and Officers in Transport Planning and Social Work Services requested to carry out an options appraisal, including an impact assessment on both the service, and the organisation with a Report to be brought back to the next Housing and Social Care Committee.”

- 2.5 In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 9 Members present, with voting as undernoted :-

For the Motion (6) – Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, C MacDonald, McLuckie, McNeill and Patrick.

For the Amendment (3) – Councillors Jackson, A MacDonald and Meiklejohn.

Accordingly, **AGREED** the recommendations as contained in paragraph 2.2 above.

- 2.6 **Policy and Resources Committee is therefore invited to approve the recommendations as detailed in paragraph 2.2 above.**

3. **SMALL REPAIR AND HANDYPERSON SERVICE**

- 3.1 Committee considered a Report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services referring to the pilot projects for a Small Repair Service and Handyperson Service and providing an update on the outcomes of the respective pilots. The Report contained proposals on the eligibility criteria for the services and on their future financial arrangements.

- 3.2 Committee was invited to:-

- (1) note the findings of the Pilot Evaluation;
- (2) introduce a Small Repair and Handyperson Service on a permanent basis as outlined in Section 5 of the Report;
- (3) agree the outlined options for delivery which will be met within the existing PSHG budget;
- (4) agree the principle of charging and proposal to introduce a charge of £12.50 per hour for the Small Repairs and Handyperson Service, as outlined in Paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 of the Report, and
- (5) to refer the Report to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- 3.3 Councillor Blackwood, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

- 3.4 By way of an amendment Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that recommendation 10.4 be deleted and substituted with the following:-

“agree that in order to maximise the number of people able to access the service, the qualifying age should remain at 60, consistent with Care and Repair eligibility criteria.”

- 3.5 In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 9 Members present, with voting as undernoted :-

For the Motion (6) – Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, C MacDonald, McLuckie, McNeill and Patrick.

For the Amendment (3) – Councillors Jackson, A MacDonald and Meiklejohn.

Accordingly, **AGREED** the recommendations as contained in paragraph 3.2 above.

- 3.6 **Policy and Resources Committee is therefore invited to approve the:-**

- (1) **introduction of a Small Repair and Handyperson Service on a permanent basis as outlined in Section 5 of the Report;**
- (2) **outlined options for delivery which will be met within the existing Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) budget, and**
- (3) **principle of charging and proposal to introduce a charge of £12.50 per hour for the Small Repairs and Handyperson Service, as set out in Paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 of the Report.**

4. ALLOCATION OF NEW BUILD COUNCIL HOUSES

- 4.1 Committee considered a Report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services outlining a lettings initiative for the initial allocation of new Council houses which are being provided under the new house building programme.

- 4.2 Committee was invited and **agreed** to:-

- (1) the proposal to operate a letting initiative giving preference to existing Council tenants for letting general needs new-build properties, and
- (2) to refer the Report to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- 4.3 **Policy and Resources Committee is therefore invited to approve the proposals to operate a letting initiative giving preference to existing Council tenants for letting general needs new build properties.**

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is invited to approve:-

- (1) consideration of procuring the Dial-a-Journey accessible transport service operations from 1 April 2011 through a tendering process (possibly in conjunction with Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils);
- (2) investigations being carried out into the best method of procuring the associated Taxicard booking service and Shopmobility service;
- (3) that, in order to test the market, it would be desirable to invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified organisations who may be interested in operating such services;
- (4) that a Report on the options available from April 2011 be presented to the Housing and Social Care Committee in due course, before referring recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee;
- (5) the introduction of a Small Repair and Handyperson Service on a permanent basis as outlined in Section 5 of the Report;
- (6) the outlined options for delivery which will be met within the existing Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) budget;
- (7) the principle of charging and proposal to introduce a charge of £12.50 per hour for the Small Repairs and Handyperson Service, as outlined in Paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 of the Report, and
- (8) the proposals to operate a letting initiative giving preference to existing Council tenants for letting general needs new build properties.

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Director of Corporate and
Neighbourhood Services

PP
Director of Development Services

Date: 26 May 2010