

AGENDA ITEM 1(c)
DRAFT

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2010 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Ritchie, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Constable, Fry, Kenna, Patrick and Spears.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Finance and of Development Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Heads of Business Services and of Policy Performance and Review and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None

FC47. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Living Wage

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that:-

“Council congratulates the Scottish Government for committing itself to supporting the Living Wage campaign for low paid workers in the Public Sector throughout Scotland.

Council agrees to:-

1. Commit to supporting the Living Wage campaign orchestrated through the STUC.
2. Seek a report from the Chief Executive on the financial cost to the local authority of the implementation of the Living Wage figure of a minimum £7.15 per hour.
3. Also seek to carry out an equalities check on any proposals and any other issues coming from the support in principle of the campaign”.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that:-

“Council congratulates the Labour Party and the Scottish Executive for committing itself to supporting the Living Wage campaign for low paid workers in the public sector throughout Scotland and the UK.

Council further congratulates the UK Government for tackling tax avoidance and agreeing tax status with countries that currently do not have any.

Council agrees:-

1. to commit to supporting the Living Wage campaign orchestrated through the STUC.
2. to seek a report from Chief Executive on the development of a Falkirk Council poverty strategy and that the living wage is considered as part of that strategy.
3. that the Chief Executive writes to CoSLA to look at this as part of the national pay strategy to ensure consistency across local government.

Council then adjourned for ten minutes to allow Members to consider the terms of the Motion and Amendment and reconvened with all Members present as per the sederunt.

On a division, 11 Members voted for the Motion and 16 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

(b) Pest Control Service

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved that:-

“Council notes that the charging regime put in place for the use of the Pest Control Service fails the fairness test in two important areas.

These are:-

- The poll tax nature of the charges where the poorest pay the same as the richest for the same service.
- The requirement to pay the charge up front thus robbing the poorest of an affordable payment plan.

Council agrees that this is unfair and in conflict with the Council’s equalities policies and therefore agrees to the following changes:-

- (a) a staggered table of payments is formulated that begins at zero for those on benefit or state pension rising with income.

- (b) individual payments plans be agreed with the applicant that allows low paid groups a realistic period to pay off accounts such as occurs with other charges, and
- (c) a report to come back to Members on (a) & (b) above, as well as a full report on the reasons why take up of the service has halved since charges were introduced in April”.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor C MacDonald, seconded by Councillor CR Martin, moved that:-

“Council accepts that the Administration will bring forward a universal “poverty proofing strategy” and seeks a report from the Chief Executive on the development of a Falkirk Council poverty strategy and that the charging policy for pest control services all considered as part of that strategy”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 27 Members present, with voting as undernoted :-

For the Motion (11) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Thomson.

For the Amendment (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

(c) School Crossing Patrols

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved that:-

“Council notes that in the last few months three School Crossing Patrols have been axed by the current Labour/Tory Administration making a total of 16 since the Administration came to power in 2007.

Council further notes the lack of opportunity to properly scrutinise the decisions to discontinue these important services and therefore agrees that in future any proposal to terminate a School Crossing Patrol Service must be authorised by the Environment and Community Safety Committee to ensure proper scrutiny, openness and transparency”.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor C MacDonald, seconded by Councillor CR Martin, moved that:-

“Council continues to support the extremely generous criteria that has governed the provision of school crossing patrols in the Falkirk Council area since 1998.

Council continues to support the impartial criteria lead by officers and condemns the Falkirk Council SNP Group for yet again trying to politicise a very emotive issue”.

On a division 11 Members voted for the Motion and 16 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

(d) Traffic Calming Scheme, Larbert Road, Bonnybridge

The Provost advised that the above Motion had been withdrawn.