

FALKIRK COUNCIL

EXTRACT OF MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 31 MAY 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

PR19. KINSHIP CARE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 15 February 2011 by the Acting Director of Social Work Services (a) presenting an update on developments in Kinship Care; (b) seeking approval for the revised policy and procedures, a copy of which were attached as an appendix to the Report, which had been developed in response to the decision taken by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17 November 2009, and (c) proposing an increase to the allowances paid to Kinship Carers of looked after children and to other linked payments.

Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Fry, moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment and in substitute for recommendations 6.4 and 6.5 in the report, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Committee:-

- (1) instructs the Acting Director of Social Work Services to bring forward a report to Committee benchmarking Falkirk Council's level of payment against other authorities; and
- (2) set as a policy position, Falkirk Council will pay either the Scottish average or the rate contained within the paper, whatever is the greater figure, and this be reflected in the report to be brought back by the Acting Director of Social Work Services.

On a division, 3 Members voted for the Motion, 3 Members voted for the amendment and one Member abstained.

There being an equality of votes and in terms of Standing Order 21.6 the Convener used his casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to approve the Kinship Care Procedures as amended;
- (2) that the 8 week payment in lieu of benefits be aligned with the Kinship Care Allowance;
- (3) that the Residence Allowance rate be set at £10 above the approved Kinship Carer weekly allowance;

- (4) that the Kinship Care Allowance is increased to £40 per week, effective from 1st July 2011; and
- (5) to request that the Acting Director of Social Work update Members on developments in this area as appropriate.