

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the LEISURE, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2012 at 9.30 A.M.**

**LTC5. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL BILL CONSULTATION - RESPONSE**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 31 August 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on the draft response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved approval of the draft response.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Turner, moved the proposed response subject to the following adjustments, in relation to questions 9, 10, 13 and 39:-

‘Question 9 - “The partnership between local authorities and the Third Sector delivers when there is a true sense of partnership and local authorities work with Third Sector partners to develop their skills in not only delivering valuable services by also understanding and dealing with areas such as tendering where smaller Third Sector Partners may be at a disadvantage to the detriment of longer term relationships”.

Question10 - “Yes, there is a clear need for the Public Sector to follow the National Standards for Community Engagement as a minimum standard for community engagement. This should not stop local authorities and other public sector bodies from establishing more extensive consultation processes to suit local need”.

Question 13 - “Each and every department of every public sector organisation should have at its core the principle of community engagement. We view this as a duty of all managers and so see no need to establish another expensive managerial post but believe that legislation to enshrine the National Standards for Community Engagement would assist with the process of establishing community engagement as an ethos within existing management structures”.

Question 39 - “Yes. The local authority would prepare a full qualifying criteria under existing or amended legislation and work with the community to deliver positive outcomes”.

The Convener agreed a 10 minute adjournment, to allow Members to consider the terms of the Amendment. The meeting reconvened with all Members present as per the sederunt.

On a division, 5 Members voted for the Motion and 5 voted for the Amendment.

In accordance with Standing Order 21.6, in the case of an equality of votes, the Convener used his casting vote for the Motion.

Accordingly, **AGREED** that the Report be approved as the Council's response to the consultation on the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill.