

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL****MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2007 at 10.30 AM.**

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Head of Educational Support; Service Manager (S Stirrat), Housing and Social Work Services; Transport Planning Manager (J Angel); Acting Director of Law and Administration Services and Democratic Services Manager (I Tough).

FC26. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that Item 14 on the agenda relating to “Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme – Funding” be taken in public and considered at Item 2 on the agenda.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council resolve in terms of section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the item of business relating to the “Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme – Funding on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of part 1 of schedule 7A of the said Act.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Amendment and 14 voted for the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude from the meeting the press and public for Item 14 Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme – Funding on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of part 1 of schedule 7A of the said Act.

**DECLARATIONS
OF INTERESTS:**

Item 3 – Falkirk Tourist Information Centre. In terms of Standing Order 14.2 and paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Angus MacDonald declared a non-financial interest in relation to this item on the basis of his chairmanship of the National Mod 2008 Falkirk Committee and further declared that, in terms of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the said Code of Conduct he had concluded that no member of the public acting reasonably would consider that he might be influenced by his interest in his role as a Councillor. Councillor MacDonald therefore participated in the discussion and decision on the item.

FC27. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 27 June 2007.

With reference to paragraph FC24 (b) CoSLA, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that in terms of Standing Order 33.3 Standing Orders be suspended to enable further consideration of the appointment of members to CoSLA.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council does not suspend Standing Orders for this matter.

On a division 14 Members voted for suspension of Standing Orders and 18 voted against.

Accordingly, and in terms of Standing Order 32.1 which requires at least two thirds of Members present and voting to agree a suspension of Standing Orders, **AGREED** that Standing Orders are not suspended.

- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes of Meetings held since 11 June 2007.
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 2.

FC28. MULTI AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS, NATIONAL ACCOMODATION STRATEGY FOR SEX OFFENDERS

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Kenna.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Housing and Social Work Services Committee held on 4 September 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Goldie, moved the recommendations agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2007.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Council approve the recommendations detailed in the report submitted to the Housing and Social Services Committee at its meeting on 4 September 2007.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 32 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely that the recommendations contained within the report considered at the meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 4 September 2007 be approved with an additional recommendation that Council authorise the Housing and Social Services Convener to write to the Justice Secretary to consider the naming of registered sex offenders.

FC29. FALKIRK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors J Constable, McNally and Coleman.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September 2007.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor C R Martin moved that Council:-

(1) note the contents of the Report;

- (2) agree that the Director of Community Services should work with Visit Scotland to implement the plan outlined in the Report to move the Tourist Information Centre to the Falkirk Wheel and establish an information point in the Town Centre; and
- (3) receive an update/progress report in due course.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that the proposal to relocate the Falkirk Tourist Information Centre be rejected.

In terms of Standing Order 19.7, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor A MacDonald as the seconder, Councillor J Constable amended the text of his amendment to that which was considered at the meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September 2007 as follows:-

That the proposal to relocate the Falkirk Tourist Information Centre be opposed by the Council and, should VisitScotland pursue their proposed course of action, the Council will review its financial contribution to that organisation.

During the course of debate and in terms of Standing Order 25.2, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that “the question be now put”. The Provost having ruled that in his opinion, the matter had been discussed sufficiently, the Council proceeded to a simple vote. 18 Members voted for the motion “that the question be now put” and 14 Members voted against the motion. Accordingly, the mover of the original motion was invited to sum up before original motion was not to the vote.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion and 14 voted for the Amendment.

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

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was **AGREED** to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit with a view to completing the business, following a short adjournment for lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1.20 pm and reconvened at 2.00 pm with all Members present as per the sederunt.

FC30. LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2006 – 2009: ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2007

In terms of the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors J Constable, McNally and Coleman.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September 2007.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Mahoney moved (a) that the content of the Report submitted to the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 18 September

2007 be noted; and (b) that the content of the Report does not indicate that there are any proposals to introduce parking charges in outlying areas.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that the Council undertakes that any surveys undertaken will not result in an introduction of parking charges in outlying areas of the district.

During the course of the debate and in terms of Standing Order 25.2, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved that “the question be now put”. The Provost having ruled that in his opinion, the matter had been discussed sufficiently Council proceeded to a simple vote. 18 Members voted for the motion “that the question be now put ” and 14 Members voted against the motion. Accordingly, the mover of the original motion was invited to sum up before the original motion was put to the vote.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 32 Members present with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

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

FC31. PORTFOLIO MANGEMENT PLAN

In terms of the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors A MacDonald, Hughes and Coleman.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 25 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Community Services submitted to the meeting of Economic Development Committee held on 25 September 2007.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Lemetti, moved acceptance of the recommendations as contained within the Report considered at the meeting of the Economic Development Committee on 25 September 2007.

By way of an amendment, Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that, to avoid any further delay, the existing property disposal plan and £13m investment programme be implemented according to the timescale agreed under the previous administration.

During the course of the debate and in terms of Standing Order 25.2, Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Gow moved that “the question be now put”. The Provost having ruled that, in his opinion, the matter had been insufficiently discussed, continued the debate.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion and 14 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to note the proposal to undertake a comprehensive review and update of the Portfolio Management Plan, as detailed in the Report considered by the Economic Development Committee at its meeting on 25 September 2007, and
- (2) that a further Report be submitted to a future meeting of the Economic Development Committee detailing the outcome of the review including revised timescales for delivery.

FC32. REFERRAL FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2007: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 September 2007 by the Acting Director Law and Administration Services enclosing a Report on Education and Leisure Committee Membership considered by the Education and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 28 August 2007.

AGREED to endorse the recommendations as approved by the Education and Leisure Committee on 28 August 2007 and specifically to delegate to the Committee power to appoint new Members to the Committee within the structure approved by Council.

Councillor C Martin left the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

FC33. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982; NEW RESOLUTION

With reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held 27 June 2007 (Paragraph FC12 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising that no public representations had been received following public notification of the proposed Resolution under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

AGREED:-

- (1) to make a new Resolution in terms of the report and appendices approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 12 June 2007 and at Falkirk Council on 27 June 2007, and
- (2) to approve the publication of a notice in the Falkirk Herald on 11 October, which notice shall, inter alia, identify the date of coming into operation of the Resolution as 1 August 2008.

FC34. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 17 September 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services proposing an alteration to the Council's Scheme of Delegation as it refers to the determination of town and country planning decisions and confirming that the proposed amended Scheme of Delegation will represent an interim position pending further amendments that will be required consequent upon Regulations which are anticipated to be forthcoming in terms of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006.

At this point, Council agreed to a short adjournment to allow Members to consider the terms of adjustments to the Scheme of Delegation suggested by Councillor J Constable.

On re-convening, **AGREED** to approve the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation as outlined in the Report and as detailed in the appendix thereto.

FC35. LICENSING BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 14 September 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising of a vacancy in the membership of the Licensing Board and seeking appointments to certain outside bodies.

(a) Licensing Board

AGREED to appoint Councillor McNally as a Member of the Licensing Board.

(b) CoSLA Executive Groups

Council considered the appointment of Members to CoSLA's Executive Groups as detailed below:-

Health and Wellbeing Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor Goldie to the CoSLA Health and Wellbeing Executive Group.

Education, Children and Young People Executive Group

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald nominated Councillor Waddell.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor J Constable nominated Councillor Coleman.

17 Members voted for Councillor Waddell and 13 voted for Councillor Coleman.

Accordingly, **AGREED** that Councillor Waddell be appointed to CoSLA's Education, Children and Young People Executive Group.

Community Wellbeing and Safety Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor Mahoney to the CoSLA Community Wellbeing and Safety Executive Group

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor C Martin to the CoSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group.

Resources and Capacity Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor Patrick to the CoSLA Resources and Capacity Executive Group.

Strategic Human Resources Management Executive Group

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald nominated Councillor Nimmo.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna nominated Councillor Jackson.

17 Members voted for Councillor Nimmo and 13 Members voted for Councillor Jackson.

Accordingly, **AGREED** that Councillor Nimmo be appointed to CoSLA's Strategic Human Resources Management Group.

(c) Cornton Vale Prison Visiting Committee

AGREED to appoint Ms Ann McFarlane to Cornton Vale Prison Visiting Committee and instruct Officers to continue with arrangements to attract a further lay member to the remaining vacancy.

(d) Forth Valley Area Waste Strategy Working Group

AGREED to note the appointment of the Leader of the Council and the Convener of the Environment and Heritage Committee to the Forth Valley Area Waste Strategy Working Group.

FC36. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - 2008

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 18 September 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services detailing a proposed programme of meetings for the period January to December 2008.

AGREED to approve the programme of meetings as detailed within the appendix to the Report and to note that special meetings may be called if necessary.

FC37. NOTICES OF MOTION

In terms of Standing Order 14.2 and paragraph 5.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors McNeill and Nicol declared financial interests in relation to the following item on the basis of their occupancy of retail properties in the Grangemouth area. Accordingly, in terms of paragraph 5.16 of the said code of conduct they left the meeting for the duration of the item.

(a) **Regeneration Programme**

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved as follows:-

“Council notes with satisfaction the progress made in the regeneration of our district centres during the time of the previous Administration and looks forward to the completion of these within the timescale of this Council.

Council therefore resolves to develop a programme for the regeneration of smaller areas of population.

Officers are therefore instructed to bring forward a report to Economic Development Committee with a detailed audit of the needs of our smaller areas of population as the first step towards the formation of individual regeneration plans”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved:-

“ Council notes with appreciation the excellent work carried out by the Economic Development team in developing the district centres regeneration programme and the initiative taken by the Administration in not only making available financial support to retailers but also in including the enhanced involvement of retailers and other local interests in a detailed communication plan.

Council notes with satisfaction the roles of the Convener and Depute Convener in negotiating successfully with ASDA Grangemouth for the removal of directional signs to La Porte Precinct as part of local retailer support.

Council endorses the decision of the Economic Development Committee to bring forward a report on the future regeneration of village centres which was neglected by the previous administration.

Council resolves further to renew its commitment to Falkirk Town Centre regeneration as its next priority and to commence preparatory work on this project without further delay”.

On a division, 15 Members voted for the Amendment and 14 voted for the Motion.

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

In terms of Standing Order 25.2 (iii), the Provost moved and Council **AGREED** to adjourn the meeting at this point with the remaining items of business to be continued to a re-convened meeting to be held on a date to be agreed in consultation with Group Leaders.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL****MINUTE of RE-CONVENED MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2007 at 9.30 AM.**

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fry

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Heads of Economic Development and of School Improvement; Services Manager (Strategic Development) Housing and Social Work Services and Democratic Services Manager

OPENING REMARKS

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, the Provost and Members expressed condolences following the recent death of Councillor Goldie's mother and in respect of the recent sudden death of former Councillor David Speirs. Members observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to both.

FC38. NOTICES OF MOTION**(b) Graduate Work Experience Scheme**

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved as follows:-

“The My Future's in Falkirk Strategy has been the most successful economic development program ever within the Falkirk Council area, particularly in relation to providing opportunities for young people.

However, despite our successes there remain outstanding issues affecting the long term viability of the Falkirk economy, one of which is the loss of university graduates, particularly to the south.

One reason for this is the general insistence on the requirement of experience for graduates within their field of educational achievement.

Council therefore resolves to seek to establish a graduate work experience scheme both within the local authority itself and within our wider area through the recently established Business Panel.

Council therefore resolves to approve the principle of a Graduate Work Experience scheme and calls on officers from both Economic Development and Education to bring forward a joint report on the details required to establish this scheme locally”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved as follows:-

Council recognises that there is a need to increase the level of graduates in the Falkirk Council area, which is currently 15.6% compared to 23.6% in Scotland. Council also notes that the number of pupils entering higher education in the Falkirk Council area is currently 24% - 6% lower than Scotland and a 5% drop in 3 years.

Council resolves, therefore, to investigate how current national developments, such as existing Scottish Executive graduate schemes, the “Closing the opportunity gap” initiative and the work being done at a national level on workforce planning for local authorities, due to be considered soon by CoSLA, can be developed further in our area. Council recognises that working primarily within national schemes has the advantage of access to national funding and economies of scale.

Council resolves to have early discussions with the Falkirk Business Panel and the Council’s other relevant partners in order to consider the means to improve the level of qualifications in the Falkirk area workforce and to recruit and retain graduates in our area.

Council resolves further that relevant officers bring forward to the Economic Development Committee a report on the outcome of the discussions and on the proposal for dealing with this issue by national and local initiatives.

On a division 17 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 voted for the Motion.

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

(c) Local History Teaching

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved as follows:-

“Council note with satisfaction the recent erection of two community led monuments to important areas of local history and heritage.

The monument to the Scottish patriots who died for Scottish independence at the first battle of Falkirk is one in a link of significant sites and memorials to Falkirk’s important role in this period of our history.

The last land battle fought on Scottish soil was the 1820 uprising where the Weavers sought to rise against the state under the slogan “Scotland Free or a Desert” and took place at Bonnymuir, recently recognised by the 1820 Society.

During the period of the last Administration with Falkirk Council the teaching of local history was driven up the educational curriculum with various initiatives. There is currently scope within the parameters of the development of the local history curriculum for further such initiatives such as the teaching of the history of the Radical Movement of 1920 in local schools.

Council therefore calls on the Education Committee of Falkirk Council to bring forward a report that ensures the teaching of Falkirk’s role in the Scottish Wars of Independence and the Radical Movement of 1820”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved as follows:-

“Council notes with satisfaction the recent erection of two community led monuments to important areas of local history and heritage. Council undertakes to open immediate discussions with the relevant organisations to examine the feasibility of the Council taking responsibility for the future maintenance of both monuments.

Council notes with satisfaction that all children in Falkirk schools study the Wars of Independence at some point in their primary or secondary curriculum.

Council proposes that Education Services bring forward a cross curricular project covering the transition years of p7/s1. The material and content of the course will be centred on local resources and tailored to the local area of the High School cluster. Most schools will choose appropriate subjects relevant to the pupils’ experience and the local environment of the area e.g. they may choose to consider local topics, such as the Redding Pit Disaster, the building of the Charlotte Dundas in Grangemouth or the Radical Movement from 1820 and its later development into the Scottish Trade Union Movement”.

The meeting adjourned for a short time at this point to consider the terms of the Amendment.

On reconvening, and in terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of roll call, there being 31 Members present with Members voting as undernoted

For the Motion (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

For the Amendment (17) Provost Reid and Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Councillor Spears entered the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC39. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 September 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

AGREED to note the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the deeds specified in the appendix attached to the Report.

FC40. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

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 Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

FC41. RENT DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME - FUNDING

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Alexander and Spears.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2007, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Work Services submitted to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2007.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Spears moved as follows:-

- (1) that the department has failed to make the Best Value case in terms of the contract for a Falkirk wide Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme;
- (2) that Council awards the contract to the lowest bidder, and
- (3) refers the matter to the Best Value and Audit Forum for further consideration.

Councillor Coleman gave notice of a further amendment. Following debate the meeting adjourned for a short time to enable Members to discuss matters with Officers and to receive advice.

On reconvening, and with the consent of all Members, **AGREED** to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Best Value and Audit Forum for further discussion and then to Policy and Resources Committee for determination.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Meeting: EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
Date: 30 October 2007
Author: HEAD OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks committee's agreement in principle to consultation being undertaken with relevant stakeholders on the appointment of headteachers with responsibility for more than one primary school.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At present, headteachers in seven Falkirk Council primary schools are regularly class committed. The management demands on headteachers have increased, making this traditional approach to school management increasingly inappropriate. The absence of the headteacher from school during the school day is a regular occurrence, leading to the disruption of teaching in class.
- 2.2 All Scottish local authorities have experienced a diminishing number of applicants for promoted posts. Falkirk Council has had to re-advertise a number of headteacher posts in the primary sector in recent years. It can be particularly difficult to recruit applications for smaller schools.
- 2.3 A number of Scottish local authorities have already moved to appoint headteachers with responsibilities covering more than one school. HMIe reports show that schools can be very effectively managed in this way.
- 2.4 When Falkirk Council had difficulty recruiting a headteacher for Limerigg Primary School, the headteacher of Drumbowie Primary School took temporary responsibility for the management of both schools. The evaluation of this demonstrated the clear need to engage fully with parents in cases where a headteacher might be appointed to manage more than one school.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Director of Education is authorised to initiate consultations with headteachers, the relevant trade unions and the parents' forum with a view to establishing processes for determining:
- circumstances in which the appointment of a headteacher to more than one school would be deemed appropriate;
 - the management arrangements which would be required in each school jointly managed by one headteacher; and

- the consultation processes which would apply in each case before a decision to appoint such a shared headteacher was taken.

3.2 It is proposed that any headteachers appointed on this basis would be relieved of any regular class commitment.

4. RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no additional financial costs associated with these proposals.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 **Members are asked to approve the proposal that the Director of Education should begin consultations on the principle of appointing headteachers with responsibility for more than one school in the primary sector.**

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Head of School Improvement

Date:

Contact Officers: Ann Carnachan/Willie Campbell, ext 6685/6703

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SHARED SERVICES
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 13 November 2007
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scottish Executive provided funding in 2006 as part of the Building a Better Scotland Strategy to allow partners to develop proposals on how Shared Services could be taken forward and benefits realised.
- 1.2 This Council along with Stirling, Clackmannanshire, East Dunbartonshire and Perth & Kinross received a sum of £350,000 at that time to fund the development of a Business Case for a shared services solution to provide finance, procurement, HR and payroll services to the five Councils.
- 1.3 Commensurate with the terms of the funding provided, the Business Case was prepared, submitted to the Improvement Service and duly considered at the National Shared Services Board.
- 1.4 The outcomes of the Business Case so far as they relate to our own Council were reported to and discussed at the October meeting of Best Value and Audit Forum.
- 1.5 At that meeting Members of the Best Value and Audit Forum were advised that correspondence had just been received from Cosla/Improvement Service on proposed future steps in relation to shared services and this matter would be reported to Policy & Resources Committee.

2. NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 Correspondence was received in October setting out the National Board for Shared Services vision on how the matter of shared services is to be taken forward and the potential resources available to Councils to support this. A copy of the letter received is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 It is the view of The National Board for Shared Services that the adoption of a common operating model for support services can make partnership working between Councils and with other parties much easier. The diagnostic work of the Edinburgh and Glasgow pathfinder projects has now been completed and it is suggested that a transferable common operating model can be drawn from this work.

- 2.3 The Minister has approved funding of up to £150k per Council to support this roll out of diagnostic work to fund additional capacity and external support. Councils can consider the model individually within their Council or can group themselves together with other Councils and pool this funding to take forward a shared version of the model.
- 2.4 Diagnostic work requires to be substantially completed this year with final deliverables expected by June 2008.
- 2.5 The key milestones are:
- Councils confirm in principle a bid for resources;
 - Proposals are submitted; and
 - Scottish Government issue approval letters and release of RSG.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 **Note the correspondence received in relation to future funding of shared services;**
- 3.2 **Agree that the Council submit an application for funding; and**
- 3.3 **Agree to receive further reports on this matter.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Date: 30 October 2007
Ref: AAE1107
Contact Name: Stuart Ritchie

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2007**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 14 November 2007
**Author: DIRECTORS CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES AND
OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following reports were presented to the Housing and Social Services Committee on 6 November 2007 and the recommendations, as noted, referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **Citizens Advice Bureaux – Performance and Progress**
- **Workforce Development and Training**

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that consideration of the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to

- (1) note the proposal for the redesign of the post of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Children's and Families and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) Establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget;
- (3) Establish the Practice Learning Assessor/Co-ordinator post by utilising existing funding within the Specific Grant for Social Work Training and the income generated by the provision of social work practice learning opportunities; and
- (4) Refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **Proposed Development for Short-Term Residential Care Home for Children: Update on Consultation**

Councillor Goldie seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McNally seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations as contained within the Report be deleted and replaced by the following:

Agree to carry out full community consultation including holding a public meeting to properly obtain the views of residents throughout the entire area, and that consideration be given to the preparation of a community infrastructure investment package to the same level as that in Slamannan.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation that has taken place, to date, involving residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises in Wallace Crescent, Polmont; and
- (2) endorse the proposal development and refer to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES – ACCOMMODATION NEEDS**

- **STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approves the recommendations of the Housing and Social Services Committee.



.....
Director of Housing and Social Work Services



.....
Director of Corporate and Commercial Services

JB/RG/com rep P&R
13.11.07 Referrals from HSS

AGENDA ITEM

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: BO'NESS FORESHORE FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME
Meeting: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 13 NOVEMBER 2007
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme (BFPS) was confirmed by Scottish Ministers on 3 August 2007. Members will recall that at the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 August 2007, approval was sought to proceed with the final stage in the statutory process of serving notice on affected parties and placing an advert in appropriate newspapers.
- 1.2 At the meeting on 14 August 2007 Members asked that consideration be given to extending BFPS to include Blackness. A properly formulated Flood Prevention Scheme requires quite lengthy processes and procedures to be followed in submitting required information at various stages and ultimately obtaining the necessary approvals. The geographic extent of the scheme is established at a very early stage in the process, i.e. within the first year of the five year application period to approval for BFPS. It would therefore not be possible, at this late stage of the approval process, to modify/extend BFPS to include Blackness.
- 1.3 During the initial appraisal of the potential estuary flooding within the area it was determined that the 3Km of foreshore between the end of the existing Bo'ness shore protection works and Blackness had relatively higher shore ground levels and had no properties, thus, none requiring to be protected. There is, therefore, no link, in shore protection terms, between Bo'ness and Blackness. Another material consideration relative to Flood Prevention Schemes obtaining approval is that they must have a positive Cost Benefit Analysis factor greater than 1.0. At Blackness itself with only a few houses being directly affected/damaged by estuary surge tidal flooding it is extremely unlikely that the appropriate Cost Benefit Analysis would produce a factor greater than 1.0 required for approval by The Scottish Government.
- 1.4 The only way of including Blackness within the extent of the Scheme itself would effectively require starting again and creating a new flood prevention scheme for Bo'ness and Blackness. Such a step would delay the Scheme for at least 2-3 years and due to potential Cost Benefit Analysis problems outlined in 1.3 above there is no guarantee that the Blackness element of the scheme would be approved for inclusion.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Tenders were issued for BFPS on Monday 24 September 2007 with a return date of Friday 2 November 2007.
- 2.2 The evaluation process and tender acceptance of the contract for Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme will require to be undertaken following the return of tenders on 2nd November 2007.

2.3 A report will be sent to the Scottish Government for consideration and confirmation of the Tenders before award is made by Falkirk Council, as this scheme is 80% government funded.

2.4 The programmed completion date for the contract of September 2010 calls for the contractor to start on site in March 2008 to maximise the available time for construction works due to the requirements outlined in the Construction Method Statement agreed by SNH and the Scottish Government.

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 In order to meet the required timescales it is therefore recommended that this contract is accepted by the Director of Development Services under delegated powers, and the details of the award reported to members at the meeting of this Committee in January 2008.

3.2 I intend taking a report to a future Environment and Heritage Committee which will set out our current actions and proposals to mitigate any flooding which occurred in the Council area. Blackness along with other towns and villages at risk of flooding from the estuary will feature in this report.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

4.1 **Confirm that Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme proceed in its present form.**

4.2 **Grant the Director of Development Services delegated powers, in respect of the contract for Bo'ness Foreshore Flood Prevention Scheme contract, to accept the lowest economically advantageous tender.**

4.3 **Request that the Director of Development Services report the outcome of the procurement to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in January 2008.**

.....
Director of Development Services
5 November 2007

Contact Officer: Robert McMaster, Ext 4865

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REFERRALS FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES
Date: 13 NOVEMBER 2007
Author: DIRECTORS OF CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES AND OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following reports were presented to the Community Health and Safety Committee at its meeting on 23 October 2007 and, following consideration, it was agreed that they be referred on to Policy and Resources Committee for approval:

- Food Service Plan 2007-08
- Better Health, Better Care – Response to the Scottish Government Discussion Document

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee endorses the recommendations as outlined in the attached reports and as approved by Community Health and Safety Committee on 23 October 2007.

.....
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Date: 1 November 2007

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2007
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 14 November 2007
Author: DIRECTORS CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES AND OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following reports were presented to the Housing and Social Services Committee on 6 November 2007 and are referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Motions and amendments are noted where appropriate.

- **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX – PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS**
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that consideration of the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the proposal for the redesign of the posts of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Children and Families) and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget;
- (3) establish the Practice Learning Assessor/Co-ordinator post by utilising existing funding within the Specific Grant for Social Work Training and the income generated by the provision of social work practice learning opportunities; and
- (4) refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR CHILDREN: UPDATE ON CONSULTATION**

Councillor Goldie seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McNally seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations as contained within the Report be deleted and replaced by the following:-

That Committee agree to carry out full community consultation including holding a public meeting to properly obtain the views of residents throughout the entire area, and that consideration be given to the preparation of a community infrastructure investment package to the same level as that in Slamannan.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED**:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation that has taken place to date, involving residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises in Wallace Crescent, Polmont, and
- (2) endorse the proposed development and refer the matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES – ACCOMMODATION NEEDS**

- **STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approves the recommendations of the Housing and Social Services Committee.

.....
Director of Housing and Social Work Services

.....
Director of Corporate and Commercial Services
JB/RG/com rep P&R
13.11.07 Referrals from HSS

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2007**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 14 November 2007
**Author: DIRECTORS CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES
AND OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following reports were presented to the Housing and Social Services Committee on 6 November 2007 and are referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Motions and amendments are noted where appropriate.

- **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX – PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS**
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that consideration of the Report be continued until it had been considered by the Best Value and Audit Forum.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the proposal for the redesign of the posts of Training and Development Manager (Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Children and Families) and SVQ Centre Manager;
- (2) establish the Registered Managers Award/SVQ Assessor post by utilising existing and Specific Grant funding within the Social Work Training budget;
- (3) establish the Practice Learning Assessor/Co-ordinator post by utilising existing funding within the Specific Grant for Social Work Training and the income generated by the provision of social work practice learning opportunities; and
- (4) refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR CHILDREN: UPDATE ON CONSULTATION**

Councillor Goldie seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McNally seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations as contained within the Report be deleted and replaced by the following:-

That Committee agree to carry out full community consultation including holding a public meeting to properly obtain the views of residents throughout the entire area, and that consideration be given to the preparation of a community infrastructure investment package to the same level as that in Slamannan.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the motion and 5 for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED**:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation that has taken place to date, involving residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises in Wallace Crescent, Polmont, and
- (2) endorse the proposed development and refer the matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- **LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES – ACCOMMODATION NEEDS**

- **STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approves the recommendations of the Housing and Social Services Committee.

.....
Director of Housing and Social Work Services

.....
Director of Corporate and Commercial Services
JB/RG/com rep P&R
13.11.07 Referrals from HSS

Falkirk Council

Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5th December 2007
Subject: REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

1. The Housing and Social Services Committee on 3rd December 2007 considered a report on Housing Allocations.
2. The report recommended that:
 - Members note the work of the Allocations Review Group, to date, and the management decision to temporarily increase by 38 properties, the Council's stock of temporary accommodation for homeless applicants.
 - Members note that work will now focus on a comprehensive review and the evaluation of alternative allocation framework options and will include:
 - o reviewing best practice and guidance in relation to housing allocations
 - o consulting with relevant stakeholders
 - o taking account of local housing needs and affordability issues

and once this work is concluded, specific proposals for a revised allocations framework will be presented to Members.

Members agree the following recommendations for interim changes to the allocations policy framework and refer these for approval to Falkirk Council.

- o that from 1 January 2008 for a period of six months or until a revised allocations framework is implemented, allocations be made only to applicants in "reasonable preference" groups as set out in Section 4.1
- o that the number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers
- o that social points be awarded to large families to reflect appropriately the degree of overcrowding experienced.
- o that applicants be able to change their Top 5 areas at any time.

3. Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeil, moved the recommendations contained within the report with the following additional recommendation:
“to authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council’s concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation.

4. By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that the recommendations to the Report be substituted with the following:

“Members note the work of the Allocations Review Group and the management decision to temporarily increase by 38 properties the Council’s stock of temporary accommodation to homeless applicants with some concern. Previous reports approved by Council and committee and practices undertaken by the department have always contained consultation with the Local Member as well as a commitment to evenly spread the burden across geographical areas. Committee noted with disappointment that not only were Local Members not consulted on this exercise but were not even informed of the outcome. Committee agrees that this is unacceptable and in breach of previous agreements and the principal of openness and accountability.

Members agree to the following steps:

- i. Call on officers to bring forward a report within 6 weeks outlining the impact on the housing of homeless applicants with an increase of points within the existing system.**
- ii. The number of offers made to existing applicants remains at its current level.**
- iii. The level of Social Point be awarded to large families to reflect the number of bedrooms deficient within an application to be the equivalent of the removal of the cap on the amount of Overcrowding Points Due.**
- iv. Applicants be able to change their top five areas at any time.**

Committee notes that the Allocations Review Group, unlike the previous Allocations Review Group does not contain any Elected Members. Committee recognises the important role that members play in their community and agrees that the Allocations Review Group contain cross party representation of groups represented within the Council membership.

The remit of the group will be to:

- Review the findings of the Communities Scotland Report when this becomes available.**

- **Review best practice and guidelines in relation to housing allocations**
- **Consult with the relevant stakeholders including Elected Members.**
- **Taking account of local housing needs and affordability issues.**

Once the extended review group has concluded specific proposals will be presented to a seminar organised for all Members before being placed on an agenda for the Housing and Social Work Committee.

5. Following an adjournment to consider the terms of the amendment 7 Members voted for the motion and 4 for the amendment.
6. Council is therefore asked to approve the following recommendations:
 - i. to authorise the Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary conveying the Council's concern that the duties placed on Councils in relation to homelessness are not matched by sufficient funding or the ability to provide new build accommodation.
 - ii. From 1 Jan 2008 for a period of six months or until a revised allocations framework is implemented, allocations be made only to applicants in "reasonable preference" groups as set out in Section 4.1 of the report;
 - iii. The number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers;
 - iv. Social Points be awarded to large families to reflect appropriately the degree of overcrowding experienced, and
 - v. Applicants be permitted to change their Top 5 areas at any time.

.....
 Janet Birks
Director of Housing and Social Work Services
 4th December 2007
 JB/RG/com reports FC

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

MEETING: HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2007

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work undertaken with regard to reviewing the housing allocations policy since the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 4 September 2007. The report will set out recommendations for interim changes to address issues of immediate concern.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Members are aware that the current allocations framework was established 25 years ago and there is now a need to review the framework to ensure that:

- it complies with current good practice and legal requirements
- it is responsive to the needs of individuals and communities
- it is open, transparent and customer focused
- it is supported by comprehensive processes and systems

2.1 An Allocations Review Group has been established to:

- examine in detail the current policy
- review best practice and guidance in relation to housing allocations
- consult with relevant stakeholders
- take account of local housing needs and affordability issues

To date, the work of the Allocations Review Group has focused on examining in detail the current policy with regard to the requirements set out above. The findings of the Group are discussed below together with recommendations relating to a number of the policy areas. These recommendations are proposed as interim measures aimed at improving the existing framework whilst further work continues over the next six months to review best practice and guidance in relation to allocations, consider local housing needs and affordability issues and carry out detailed consultation with relevant stakeholders to assess different approaches to letting houses. Once this work has been concluded, specific proposals for a comprehensive review of the Allocations framework will be presented to Members.

3.0 THE CURRENT ALLOCATIONS POLICY

3.1 Compliance with Current Good Practice and Legal Requirements

The Allocations Review Group is concerned that the current policy framework does not ensure that allocations are made to applicants within the main need based categories. Section 20(1) of the Housing (S) Act 1987 as amended by the Housing (S) Act 2001 sets out that the authority in allocating its housing stock, must give reasonable preference to the following housing needs groups:

a) to persons who

- *are occupying houses which do not meet the tolerable standard; or*
- *are occupying overcrowded houses; or*
- *have large families; or*
- *are living under unsatisfactory housing conditions (including applicants with high medical priority)*

b) to homeless persons and persons threatened with homelessness.

Benchmarking across other local authorities indicates that, in Falkirk, the level of allocations to homeless households is low. The allocations framework permits applicants with little or no need to be made offers of housing ahead of applicants with need due to the award of waiting time and retained tenancy points. Landlords are not prevented from giving points for the length of time an applicant has been on the list or the time spent in a particular house, provided such points are available to anyone on the list. However, applicants with homeless or move-on points are not currently awarded waiting time points or retained tenancy points.

Some applicants who are homeless choose to apply as waiting list applicants as they gain more points, have a wider choice over their house type and location and are likely to be permanently housed more quickly than being assessed as homeless and in priority need. Also applicants assessed as homeless and in priority need receive fewer offers than other applicants. This is contrary to the Code of Guidance on Homelessness.

3.2 Responsiveness to the needs of individuals and communities

Currently there are 12,539 applicants on the Council's housing waiting list and 4911 (39%) of these applicants have some element of housing need. Analysis of allocations over the last four years indicates that a very high proportion of allocations are made to applicants with housing needs and that this proportion has been increasing each year from 88% of allocations in 2003-2004 to 92% of allocations in 2006-2007.

A further 4943 applicants (39%) of applicants on the waiting list have no statutory housing need and are seeking to meet possible future housing needs or meet housing aspirations. All applicants are awarded waiting time points for every year spent on the list, with the exception of applicants awarded move-on and homeless priority as the Allocations Policy aims to house these applicants quickly. 12% of applicants have voluntarily suspended their housing application and during the period of voluntary suspension, these applicants continue to accrue waiting time points.

Despite the fact that the percentage of allocations to homeless applicants increased from 26% of all allocations in 2003-2004 to 37% in 2006-2007, analysis shows that the average time taken to house applicants assessed as homeless has increased significantly over the same period. In 2003-04, the average time taken to house a homeless applicant in permanent accommodation was 43 days and this rose to an average of 90 days in 2006-07. Factors impacting on the time taken to house homeless applicants have been identified as follows:

- The number of homeless presentations and the number of applicants determined as homeless and in priority need has increased significantly. In 2003-2004, the number of homeless presentations was 1633 and the number of applicants determined to be homeless and in priority need was 746. By 2006-07, the number of homeless presentations rose to 1955 with 1032 applicants determined to be homeless and in priority need. Members will be aware of the national target that by 2012, every homeless person in Scotland will have a right to permanent accommodation.
- Since April 2005, applicants with homeless priority can be made two offers of housing with homeless points. Since April 2005, over one third of first offers of housing to homeless applicants have been refused.
- The relative weightings of points categories within the Allocations system is detrimental to homeless applicants. As discussed at 3.1 above, some applicants who are homeless choose to apply as waiting list applicants as they will gain more points, have a wider choice over their house type and location and are likely to be permanently housed more quickly than being assessed as homeless and in priority need.

The increase in the time taken to house homeless applicants is exacerbating pressures on temporary accommodation which the Council has a statutory obligation to provide for all homeless applicants who need it. As a result, the number of placements in Bed & Breakfast accommodation is high and above the level of budget provision available. As the Code of Guidance on Homelessness stresses that local authorities should explore all alternatives to B & B accommodation and use it only as a last resort, an additional 38 properties across the Council's stock have been identified for use as temporary accommodation. Work is also ongoing with local RSLs to identify properties for this purpose from their stock. Increasing the stock of temporary accommodation is an interim measure to address the current pressures and proposals for meeting the needs of homeless people in the context of the 2012 target will be set out in a Homelessness Strategy which will be brought for Members' consideration in early 2008.

3.3 **Openness, Transparency and Customer Focus**

Feedback from a sample of service users surveyed in August 2007 indicates that the majority of housing applicants are satisfied with our housing application and related information about the allocations process. However the survey highlights that the majority of applicants do not understand the points system, generally do not perceive the points system as fair and are not satisfied that they are kept informed about progress with their application and prospects of getting a house. The majority of respondents to the survey felt that they should be able to choose a house in a system where available houses are advertised rather than being offered one. These are issues which require to be considered in developing a revised allocations framework and the on-going consultation with Members regarding the information provided to permit local scrutiny and strategic overview of allocations will contribute to ensuring the openness and transparency of the allocations process.

3.4 **Comprehensive Systems & Processes**

The Allocations Review Working Group has also identified a number of areas where review and clarification of the policy and our operating procedures is required. For example, across local offices there is a lack of consistency in the application of some allocations procedures. There are limited mechanisms in place to ensure the validation of applicant details or the quality and consistency of allocations decisions. In addition, anomalies within the IT database supporting the allocations process have been identified. Work to review operating procedures is currently in progress and issues which require a decision by Members are set out below.

4.0 **PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM CHANGES TO THE EXISTING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

In order to immediately address the weaknesses and issues identified by the Allocations Review Group as well as alleviate the pressures on temporary accommodation, it is recommended that a number of amendments be made to the existing allocations policy. It is emphasised that these are interim measures to improve existing arrangements pending the outcome of a comprehensive review and evaluation of alternative allocation framework options in full consultation with service users and all relevant stakeholders. The interim measures proposed are set out below:

4.1 **Restricting Allocations to “Reasonable Preference” applicants**

For a six month period, restrict the allocation of available stock to only applicants to whom the authority must give reasonable preference. These groups are set out in Section 3.1 above. The six month period should start as from 1 January 2008 and the position will be reviewed at the end of this period when a further report will be presented to Members.

During this 6 month period, two thirds of properties will be allocated to applicants with homeless or move-on points, with the remaining third of allocations being made to applicants with other statutory needs i.e. those with lacking amenity points, overcrowding points, children in flats points, high medical points (Category A+ and A priorities) and cases where social or management points have been awarded.

Applicants with high medical priority will be considered first for any allocations to properties which are adapted or suitable for adaptation to meet their needs. All other properties, other than those adapted for special needs or particular age groups, will be assigned for allocation to homeless or other reasonable preference applicants in the proportions of 2:1 at the point of recording on the void management system. This will ensure that applicants across the range of reasonable preference categories have access to all house types and locations across the Council's stock.

Where a property has been assigned for a group for which there is no appropriate applicant, the property will be re-assigned for the other group. Where there is no suitable applicant from either group or where properties are refused more than 5 times by applicants in the reasonable preference categories, the properties will be offered to other applicants according to their points on the waiting list.

4.2 **The Number of Offers of Housing**

As noted above, homeless applicants are not given the same number of offers of housing as other applicants. Homeless applicants can have 2 offers with homeless priority points while other applicants can have 5 offers before their application is suspended for 12 months. It has already been noted above that increasing the number of offers to homeless applicants from 1 to 2 offers has impacted on the time taken to house homeless applicants. It would be counter-productive to increase the number of offers to homeless applicants in line with other applicants – rather the number of offers to other applicants should be reduced to 2 offers to ensure parity across all applicant types. Benchmarking across other local authorities indicates that many other authorities make a maximum of 2 offers to housing applicants. It is therefore recommended that the number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers.

4.3 **Applicants with Large Families**

In response to a number of cases raised by Members, detailed analysis of applicants with overcrowding points has been carried out. This has identified that there are a small number of applicants with large families where the degree of overcrowding experienced is not being adequately reflected by the overcrowding points which have been awarded. The reason for this is related to the way the allocations IT database links Applicant File records to Property File records to produce waiting lists. Within the database, it is not possible to overcome the problem by increasing the level of bedroom deficiency points as applicants affected would then not be included on waiting lists for properties which improved their circumstances but did not meet all of their needs. Within the current IT framework, it is possible to add additional points using the social points category to reflect the actual degree of overcrowding without impacting on the waiting lists on which the applicants appear. It is therefore recommended that Members approve the award of social points in such cases to ensure that the applicants in the most overcrowded circumstances are given appropriate priority on the waiting list.

4.4 **Changes to Top 5 Areas**

The introduction of Area Preference points in 2005 has proved successful in helping applicants into housing in the areas where they want to live. However, the practice of allowing applicants to amend their choices of top 5 areas once every six months is restrictive and does not meet customer needs and choices. It is recommended that applicants be able to amend their choice of Top 5 areas on their housing application at any time.

5.0 **CONCLUSION**

The Allocations Review Group has completed the first stage of the review of the allocations framework. This involved considering in detail the current policy in terms of compliance with current good practice and legal requirements, responsiveness to individuals and communities, transparency and customer focus and systems and processes. As a result, a number of operational procedures and processes are being reviewed and Members are being asked to consider a number of recommendations for interim changes to the current policy. If approved, all applicants and other stakeholders will be advised of these changes. The aim of these amendments and reviews is to improve the existing framework whilst the Allocations Review Group continues with the next stage of the comprehensive review of the allocations framework. This will entail consideration and appraisal of different options for letting houses in full consultation with service users and other stakeholders.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the work of the Allocations Review Group to date and the management decision to temporarily increase by 38 properties, the Council's stock of temporary accommodation for homeless applicants.

6.1 Members are also asked to agree the following recommendations for interim changes to the allocations policy framework and refer these for approval to Falkirk Council:

1. From 1 Jan 2008 for a period of six months or until a revised allocations framework is implemented, allocations be made only to applicants in "reasonable preference" groups as set out in Section 4.1
2. The number of offers made to all applicants be reduced to 2 offers
3. Social points be awarded to large families to reflect appropriately the degree of overcrowding experienced
4. Applicants be able to change their Top 5 areas at any time

6.2 Members are also asked to note that work will now focus on a comprehensive review and evaluation of alternative allocation framework options and will include:

- reviewing best practice and guidance in relation to housing allocations
- consulting with relevant stakeholders
- taking account of local housing needs and affordability issues

and once this work is concluded, specific proposals for a revised allocations framework will be presented to Members.



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Janet Birks
Director of Housing and Social Work Services

Date 15 October 2007

Contact Officer: Liz MacEwen..... Ext. 4008

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council is required by Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the 1983 Act), as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (the 2006 Act), to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of Parliamentary elections for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area and to keep these polling districts under review.
- 1.2 In designating polling districts, the Council must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances. Each electoral ward is to be divided into two or more separate polling districts, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 1.3 Section 18B of the 1983 Act requires the Council to designate polling places for each polling district in a constituency, and to keep these under review. In so doing, the Council must:-
- (a) ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
 - (c) have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place or the designation of which as a polling place it is reviewing;
 - (d) ensure the polling place for a polling district is within the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district; and
 - (e) ensure that the polling place for a polling district is small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 In terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 2005, the Falkirk area comprises two Parliamentary Constituencies, namely (1) Falkirk, with an electorate (as at December 2006) of 79,234, and (2) Linlithgow and East Falkirk, with an electorate of 78,670 (of whom c34,500 reside within the Falkirk Council area, and the remainder within West Lothian). The Chief Executive of Falkirk Council is Returning Officer for the Falkirk constituency and the Chief Executive of West Lothian Council is Returning Officer for Linlithgow and East Falkirk.
- 2.2 Falkirk Constituency comprises the following:-
Ward 2 – Grangemouth (part)
Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock (whole)
Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst (whole)
Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert (whole)
Ward 6 – Falkirk North (part)
Ward 7 – Falkirk South (whole)
Ward 8 – Lower Braes (part)
Ward 9 – Upper Braes (part)
- 2.3 Linlithgow and East Falkirk Constituency comprises:-
Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness (whole)
Ward 2 – Grangemouth (part)
Ward 6 – Falkirk North (part)
Ward 8 – Lower Braes (part)
Ward 9 – Upper Braes (part)
- 2.4 It should be noted that, while a section of Ward 6 - Falkirk North sits within Linlithgow and East Falkirk, this specific small area is unpopulated. Therefore, all electors in Ward 6 reside within the Falkirk Constituency.
- 2.5 The edited polling scheme attached hereto (Appendix 1) provides details of all polling districts and indicates the current designated polling place and electorate for each. The existing arrangements are the result of work undertaken in 2006 to ensure that electoral registers published on 1 December 2006 reflected the introduction of Multi-Member Wards. These arrangements were in place for the May 2007 elections.

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 Section 18C of the 1983 Act requires the Council to complete a review of polling districts and polling places in its area before the end of the period of 12 months starting with the date on which Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 came into force i.e. by 31 December 2007. Reviews are thereafter required every four years.
- 3.2 In terms of the 2006 Act, the Council is required to publish notice of any review. Accordingly, a notice intimating the commencement of the review and inviting representations and suggestions for alternative premises was published in the local press in September 2007.

3.3 The following persons were required to be consulted and were entitled to make representations as part of the review:-

- Constituency Returning Officers
- Electors within the constituencies falling within Falkirk Council (or parts thereof)
- Persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities

3.4 In addition, Central Scotland Police, the Electoral Registration Officer, elected Members and Community Councils were consulted and submissions gathered over recent months on an ad hoc basis were also taken into account.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

4.1 A deadline of 2 November 2007 was set for receipt of representations in relation to the current arrangements. A summary of the comments received is appended hereto (Appendix 2).

4.2 The Returning Officers for both Constituencies were consulted; neither had any amendments to make to the existing arrangements other than to address the issues raised through the public consultation process and summarised in Appendix 2.

4.3 No comments have been received to date from Capability Scotland, who were invited to comment in relation to disability access issues. It should be noted, however, that work has been ongoing in recent years to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act in relation to all polling places. Of the 65 venues currently in use as polling places, only two require temporary ramps to be provided for disabled access for polling purposes.

4.4 The feedback received from elected Members is noted on the summary contained at Appendix 2. Verbal feedback in relation to the current polling places in Ward 6 - Falkirk North suggests that consideration should be given in the near future to addressing anomalous polling district boundaries in the vicinity around Falkirk town centre, Hallglen and Camelon, with a view to recognising new house building and increasing population and identifying suitable premises to be utilised as polling places at future elections.

4.5 Education Services have expressed concerns regarding the number of schools used as polling places (currently 21 in total) and have requested that alternative premises be investigated. This exercise is ongoing, although it should be noted that in many areas, particularly rural areas, there is often no alternative. Members will be updated in this regard as other options are identified and investigated.

4.6 On completion of this review, the Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in the review and publish such other information as is prescribed in the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Order 2006. This will be undertaken by relevant Officers at the conclusion of the review process and will include publication of the following:-

- (a) all correspondence sent to the returning officer in connection with the review;

- (b) all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority considered to have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with different forms of disability;
- (c) all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
- (d) the minutes of any meeting held by the authority to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review;
- (e) details of the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review; and
- (f) details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

4.7 In terms of the 2006 Act, a further review of polling places will require to be undertaken within the next 4 years. During this period, polling places will be reviewed as a matter of course in advance of proposed elections and any necessary changes will be reported to Council for consideration. In addition, the action identified in paragraphs 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 will be undertaken and reported back to Members for consideration/approval, as appropriate.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members are requested to:-

- (1) note the terms of the Report and the comments received in response to the public consultation process; and
- (2) authorise relevant Officers (a) to address the issues raised, as summarised in Appendix 2 hereto, taking necessary action and reporting back to Council with the final proposals in relation to the current review, and (b) to take action in relation to the issues requiring further consideration, as identified in paragraphs 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6, and report back to Members for consideration/approval, as appropriate.

.....
Chief Executive

Date: 16 November 2007

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01324 50611 and ask for Dale Robb.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FIRST PERIODICAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland, in pursuance of the Scotland Act 1998 as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, has commenced a general review of the constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The Commission announced the commencement of the review on 3 July 2007, advising that it is required to submit its report to the Secretary of State for Scotland by 30 June 2010.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Report is to notify Members of the review and its implications and to outline the review process, for Members' information, in advance of the Commission publishing its provisional proposals for revised constituencies in Spring 2008.

2. CURRENT POSITION, IMPLICATIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The review will cover the 70 mainland constituencies and the Western Isles constituency as well as the eight regions. In terms of the 2004 Act, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands are excluded from the constituency review. The review of the regions will, however, include all 73 constituencies.
- 2.2 The constituency review will include the Scottish Parliamentary constituencies of Falkirk East and Falkirk West, both of which fall within the administrative boundaries of the Falkirk Council area.
- 2.3 The Boundary Commission expects to publish its provisional proposals relating to the constituency review in Spring 2008, leading into a one month statutory consultation period thereafter. Determining local inquiries and allowing for minor modifications to final proposals is expected to take up to April/May 2008, with local inquiries being conducted and completed by September 2008 and inquiry reports and proposal modifications completed by December 2008.
- 2.4 The legislative requirements to consult widely and, where necessary, to hold local public inquiries, leads the Commission to conclude that its provisional proposals for the regions, which must comprise aggregations of whole constituencies, will not be published until June 2009, with the local inquiry process being completed by September 2009.
- 2.5 In terms of the 2004 Act, the Commission is required to submit a report on its review to the Secretary of State for Scotland not later than 30 June 2010.

- 2.6 The electoral quota for the review will be calculated using the electoral register in force at the enumeration date for the review, which was 3 July 2007. The electorate figure given at that time for the Falkirk Council area (both Falkirk East and Falkirk West constituencies) is 113,697. On the basis of the number of local government electors on the register (excluding Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands) at the time of the May 2007 elections, that number will be around 54,500. The Commission does not anticipate any significant increase or decrease from that figure.
- 2.7 With the statistics as detailed in the previous paragraph, Falkirk Council's theoretical entitlement is for 2.07 constituencies, suggesting that there will be minimal change likely to take place across the current Falkirk East and Falkirk West boundaries.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are requested to note:-

- (1) the terms of the Report and the implications of the First Periodical Review of Constituencies for the Scottish Parliament being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland, and
- (2) that further update reports will be submitted to Council as the Review progresses.

.....
Chief Executive

Date: 16 November 2007

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Press announcement by the Boundary Commission for Scotland issued on 3 July 2007.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01324 50611 and ask for Dale Robb.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 - 2011
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents to Members the new Draft Corporate Plan for the Council. This plan covers the period from 2008 until 2011. The Draft Corporate Plan is presented at this stage for approval. It will be revised over the coming weeks as details emerge in respect of the Single Outcome Agreement the Council will be required to agree with the Scottish Government. This Single Outcome Agreement, while not changing the key priorities of the Council, will help define some of the key indicators on how we will measure progress in achieving our priorities. This Draft plan will also be the subject of consultation with stakeholders.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update for Members in respect of the previous Corporate Plan and notes performance against targets set.

2. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 – 2011

- 2.1 The Draft Corporate Plan for 2008 – 2011 is attached to this report as appendix one for consideration.
- 2.2 As reported to Policy and Resources Committee in August, the purpose of the Corporate Plan is to set out the Council's strategic direction and priorities for the medium term. It sets out how the Council corporately will address the issues it feels important both in service delivery and community leadership terms. The Draft Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 draws on a number of sources to identify challenges and determine priorities. These include:
- The Council's priorities;
 - The priorities contained within the Strategic Community Plan;
 - The national strategic objectives;
 - The key issues and challenges facing the area – an analysis of socio demographic and economic information; and
 - Issues, challenges and opportunities facing our Services over the coming years e.g. changes in customer profile, expectations etc.
- 2.3 While the objectives within the plan are high level, they must have some underpinning critical success factors in order that we can measure progress. Members will be aware that the Scottish Government is working to develop a Single Outcome Agreement with each Local Authority. Outcome Agreements will set out a number of indicators that will

measure progress against specifically agreed outcomes. The details of the proposed Outcome Agreements have not yet been finalised. In addition, the Council has not yet been advised of our final financial settlement. The Corporate Plan is therefore presented to Members as a Draft and will be refined over the coming months following a period of consultation with stakeholders and with further information on the detail of the Single Outcome Agreement and the financial settlement.

- 2.4 Although the Plan will be a public document, its main purpose is as a working tool for Members and Services of the Council. It has to be sharply focused and pertinent to the needs of its key users.

Elected Members

- 2.5 Objectives of the Corporate Plan for Elected Members:

- To ensure there is clarity as to the strategic context within which Falkirk Council operates;
- To enable agreement and commitment to the Council's strategic priorities;
- To set out the objectives the Council will aim for, so as to achieve the priorities laid down by Elected Members; and
- To enable Members to monitor the achievement of these objectives through subsequent reports to Policy and Resources and the relevant internal Scrutiny Committees.

Services of the Council

- 2.6 Objectives of the Corporate Plan for Services of the Council:

- To ensure that the priorities set by Members are clear and transparent;
- To enable corporate level budgeting to reflect these priorities;
- To enable CMT to easily monitor how the Council is working to achieve these priorities; and
- To enable Service Plans to be prepared with confidence that they are reflecting the priorities set by Members.

Communities and Partners

- 2.7 As mentioned previously, while the plan is an internal planning document, it must allow our community planning partners and our communities to see how and what the Council is doing to deliver on the vision for our area and our common objectives as set out in our Strategic Community Plan. This is particularly important given the development of the Single Outcome Agreement.

- 2.8 In 2008/09 the Single Outcome Agreement will be an agreement between the Scottish Government and the Council only. However, it is intended that this will be extended to all key public sector partners within the Community Planning Partnership in following years. As such, there should be discussion with partners and communities prior to finalising the Corporate Plan and the underpinning Agreement.

3. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008 – 2011

3.1 The Draft Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 is set out in Appendix One of this report. The Plan sets out how the Council area has changed over the last 10 years and the vision for our area. As there are many ways to achieve change, the Council has prioritised its actions under our goals and values.

Goals and Values

3.2 The goals, values and priorities contained within the Corporate Plan are aligned with the vision and themes contained within the Strategic Community Plan. In developing the new Corporate Plan, the goals of the Council have been reviewed. The revised goals of the Council are proposed as being:

- Further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy;
- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

3.3 The goals are underpinned by our values and our commitment to stimulate partnership working amongst agencies, organisations and citizens. Again in reviewing the Corporate Plan, the values of the Council were examined. It is suggested that we retain our core values of:

- Public Service;
- Performance; and
- Partnership.

3.4 In order to embed our values within the organisation, we will develop a number of specific actions. These include:

- Providing information in plain English and in a format understood by our citizens;
- Reviewing the way we engage with our communities;
- Implementing our Human Resources Workforce Strategy;
- Improve our customers' experience of the services they receive; and
- Modernising the way we deliver services.

3.5 The plan then sets out under each of the revised goals the key challenges we must address, and then sets our key objectives, critical success factors and strategic actions.

3.6 The key priorities for the next four years are:

Further Developing a Thriving, Sustainable and Vibrant Economy

- 3.7 We recognise the economic changes the area has undergone during the last 10 years. Our priorities set a challenging agenda for the Council in terms of supporting wealth creation through ensuring the right conditions are in place for a thriving business sector, and at the same time making sure we have a skilled workforce to support such business growth.

Therefore our priorities are:

- Our area will be recognised as having a culture and ethos of aspiration and ambition;
- The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase;
- The area's workforce will be highly skilled; and
- The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of our local economy.

- 3.8 This will include:

- Raising education attainment;
- Improving care facilities for working parents;
- Developing a skills strategy for a competitive workforce;
- Improving transport links; and
- Having an excellent range of business locations.

Continuing to Improve Health, Safety and Wellbeing of Our Citizens and Communities

- 3.9 The health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities is integral to everything the Council does. We recognise our role in corporate parenting and emergency planning, as well as health promotion and community safety. Within these priorities there is particular emphasis on vulnerable people and providing the necessary interventions that will allow all people to benefit from increased health and well-being.

Our priorities are therefore:

- Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices and lifestyles in order that they can live longer;
- People will have equitable access to local health, support and care;
- Our citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing; and
- Our citizens will be protected.

- 3.10 This will include:

- Ensuring the safety of our estates and green spaces;
- Continuing to improve our paths network and open spaces;
- Identifying further areas of service integration with NHS Forth Valley;
- Developing our community warden service; and
- Promoting safer routes to schools.

Increasing Our Efforts to Tackle Disadvantage and Discrimination

3.11 In tackling disadvantage and discrimination we must ensure all members of all our communities feel able to play a part in our vision. This includes the youngest and the oldest people in our area. While our area is increasing in prosperity there are some groups who may require support to fully participate in community life. The priorities noted in the Plan address the inequalities that are still evident in our area.

Our priorities are:

- Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs;
- Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area;
- Vulnerable children will be protected; and
- Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services.

3.12 This will include:

- Working with established groups to address issues of discrimination;
- Continuing to support older people to live in their own homes and within their own communities;
- Participating in the provision of new social housing;
- Developing plans for our villages;
- Reviewing the Council's approach to corporate parenting; and
- Improving the image of areas of need.

Enhancing and Sustaining An Environment in Which People Want to Live, Work and Visit

3.13 The priorities set out under this goal reflect the Council's dual role as a community leader and service provider. While we provide vital services that ensure our environment is of the best quality, we also must ensure that the pressures on our area as it grows do not have a negative impact for future generations.

Our priorities are:

- We will be greener;
- We will improve the built environment;
- Our open spaces will be attractive, accessible and safe; and
- Our profile will reflect our area as a destination of choice.

3.14 This will include:

- Promoting state of the art recycling centres and facilities;
- Promoting sustainable procurement;
- Lobbying for improvements to the rail service in the district;
- Implementing our open spaces strategy;
- Developing a playground and parks development and maintenance strategy; and
- Increasing the promotion and marketing of our area to tourists.

- 3.15 The final section in the Plan sets out the key planning processes for the Council i.e. how we will take these strategic actions through our service planning process, as well as reviewing and reporting on progress against these. The Plan then sets out the way the Council is organised to deliver on these priorities i.e. our Services.
- 3.16 It is recommended that Members consider the Draft plan. Following this, it is proposed that the Draft is subject to further refinement following consultation with stakeholders as the detail of the Single Outcome Agreement is finalised. The final Plan will be presented to Council at its meeting in March for approval and to reflect feedback from consultation and the development of the Single Outcome Agreement.

4. EXISTING CORPORATE PLAN - PROGRESS IN 2006/07

- 4.1 The table below summarises the overall performance of the Council against the 81 performance indicators that measure progress in the existing Corporate Plan. It should be noted some indicators are collected through the biannual Council survey and are therefore not available this year.

Overview of 2006/07 Performance Information

Improved	Decreased	Stayed the Same	Not Comparable	Not Reported
46	25	6	2	2

- 4.2 Appendix two sets out the key performance indicators in more detail with the following section providing commentary on some of the Council's achievements in 2006/07.

Goal 1 - Increasing jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens

- 4.3 During 2006/07, the Council created or secured over 684 jobs through support to local businesses. Although the number of businesses receiving start up support through the National Business Gateway decreased slightly during 2006/07, the service continues to provide an invaluable service to local businesses. The Council also worked with Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley to safeguard a development opportunity on the former ALCAN site, totalling some 15.5 hectares with the potential to create up to 700 jobs.
- 4.4 Whilst the number of day visitors coming from outwith the area to visit Big in Falkirk has fallen compared with the previous year, the visitor expenditure increased by just over £1 million. In 2006/07 visitor expenditure totalled £75.7 million. This has also been supported by an increase in visitor numbers to Callendar House. Following increased marketing and promotion, Callendar House attracted 28,472 visitors, the highest recorded figure. Callendar House was also nominated as Radio Forth's 'Favourite Visitor Attraction'.
- 4.5 For the third year running, the Council increased the number of modern apprentices and skillseekers it manages. The total number of modern apprentices and skillseekers managed during the year, increased to 201. An example of the Council's innovation in this area was being the first Local Authority in Scotland to engage Laboratory Technicians in Education Services.

Goal 2 - Enabling our citizens to live healthily and safely

- 4.6 Investment has also been made to improve the area's infrastructure so that community safety is further improved. This includes investing in traffic management and calming measures at four key sites, from which measurable speed reductions have resulted. A total of 2,374 lighting columns were structurally tested and 2,718 columns electrically tested to ensure that our communities remain well lit. This will help deter potential crime and help address citizens' perceptions of the fear of crime.
- 4.7 The Council also performs well in tackling delayed discharges from hospital, with our performance improving from 61 delayed discharges in 2005/06 to 46 in 2006/07. This remains well ahead of the Scottish average of 62. Positive steps taken during the year have included the development of 24/7 Crisis Care homecare service, to prevent both hospital admissions and delayed discharges.
- 4.8 Whilst the number of people participating in Health Promotion activities has reduced between 2005/06 and 2006/07, the number of people participating in healthy lifestyle and physical activity programmes has increased by 47% over the same period. The profile of such programmes was raised with the area hosting a number of new international sports events, in partnership with Event Scotland. Major events took place at Grangemouth Stadium, including the Celtic Cup, the British Schools Athletics Championships, the Primary and Secondary Schools Championships, the Scottish Women's League Athletic cup finals and the British Power Lifting Championships.

Goal 3 - Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms

- 4.9 The percentage of eligible primary and secondary school pupils entitled to free school meals has risen for the third consecutive year. In 2006/07, 92% of primary and 72% of secondary school pupils took up their entitlement, compared to 77% and 60% in 2005/06 respectively. Work is ongoing to revise menu and choice options to help ensure continuous improvement in uptake.
- 4.10 Falkirk Council, through an innovative pilot project 'Community Benefits in Procurement', has been endeavouring to optimise the way in which we procure services, to optimise training and employment outcomes for the benefit of local citizens. This has meant the inclusion of 15 modern apprenticeship opportunities and up to 10 other employment opportunities within the tendering and contractual arrangements, for the building of four new high schools across the Falkirk Council area. Other contractors are currently entering into similar voluntary arrangements, to deliver targeted training and employment opportunities within a range of town centre and other physical regeneration opportunities. We have produced a 'Doing Business Guide' to aid local companies in better understanding and participating in tendering for contracts with the Council.
- 4.11 The number of people obtaining welfare benefits advice rose 17,150 in 2006/07. In addition to Council Benefit Services, funding was targeted on the three Citizen Advice Bureaux serving the area. The funding was targeted at low income families or groups, experiencing financial exclusion or multiple debts. In 2006/07 this supported 637 clients raise £422,690 in income and negotiate £615,781 in debts.
- 4.12 The Council remains focused on reducing the number of school leavers identified as 'Not being in Education, Employment or Training', known as the NEET Group. A

partnership approach is being employed, involving the Council, Forth Valley College, Careers Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Communities Scotland and Jobcentre Plus, support this key initiative. This partnership working has led to 82% of school leavers progressing to positive destinations. The Council's strategy has been commended by the Scottish Executive as being one of the most effective in Scotland.

Goal 4 - Create and sustain an environment in which people want to live, work and visit

- 4.13 With the help of the people of the Falkirk Council area, the Council reduced the amount of waste it sent to landfill in 2006/07 by nearly 6,500 tonnes, compared to the previous year. This was supported by an increase in the amount of municipal waste recycled to 36% in 2006/07, compared to 30% in 2005/06. The Council also seeks to improve on recycling its own resources and received an award for being the 'most innovative Council' for internal recycling solutions.
- 4.14 The Council continues to give priority to improving the quality of its social housing stock and surrounding environments. This was underpinned by the Council securing Housing Estate Regeneration funding, totalling £2.8m. In 2006/07, the Council invested an additional £5.1m to improve the quality of its social housing stock. In 2006/07, 73 additional homes were made available, well ahead of a local target of 33.
- 4.15 The regeneration of our town centres is progressing with the completion of public realm improvements in Bo'ness town centre heritage area. This will include the restoration of the Grade A listed Hippodrome Cinema. The Council's preferred developer for Stenhousemuir town centre, started work in March 2007. This will include the provision of shops, a major foodstore, library, healthcare facility and community centre. Work is ongoing to progress the regeneration of Denny and Grangemouth town centres.

Progress On Our Values

- 4.16 The values underpinning the Council's achievements include a strong commitment to stimulating working partnerships amongst agencies, organisations, citizens and communities. This recognises the importance of local partnership working in delivering on priorities that sit under the Council's goals. The Council has made some significant progress in further improving partnership working.
- 4.17 During 2006/07 the Council led a wide-ranging review of the Community Planning Partnership. The review has led to a number of significant changes in the way in which the partnership does its business, with a much greater emphasis being placed on outcomes and applying robust and constructive challenge to the groups operating within the partnership. The changes made are bedding in well, with a new performance management framework being well progressed. One of the other changes made, entailed running a 'Partner's Day' to promote cross-agency working and further raise awareness of the Strategic Community Plan.
- 4.18 Two Local Community Plans have been developed for Grangemouth and Denny, in partnership with local communities and Community Planning partners. These two plans will provide a template for the development of four other Local Community Plans covering the remainder of the Council area. Funding was attracted from both Europe and the Scottish Executive, to encourage older people to engage with Local Community

Planning. This included a group of six older learners travelling to a European seminar in Portugal, to share experiences with their European counterparts.

- 4.19 The Council enjoyed continuing success in attracting key groups of workers into the area, including teachers. In February 2006, a survey undertaken by The Scottish Executive placed Falkirk Council top in Scotland for teacher recruitment. One means of retaining teaching staff includes showcasing good leadership practice amongst senior staff through the annual 'Learning to Achieve' Conference. This has spawned the development of a programme for leadership skills, accessible throughout the year.
- 4.20 In addition to all of the above, Services are currently reviewing their approach to all aspects of Best Value to ensure we understand our customer needs, report performance to Members and the public appropriately and ensure we focus service improvement efforts where our customers tell us these are needed.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The new Draft Corporate Plan sets out a challenging agenda for the next four years. It is proposed that the new plan be subject to further discussion with key Community Planning Partners. These discussions will take place in the new year with the aim of finalising the plan for Member consideration at the March meeting of Falkirk Council.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 6.1 **Members agree the Draft Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011; and**
- 6.2 A report be considered in March on the outcome of consultation and progress in relation to the Single Outcome Agreement.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 26 November 2007
Ref: A/B/Corporate Plan Report
Contact Name: Fiona Campbell Ext: 6004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Falkirk Council Corporate Plan – December 2003.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL
CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011
INTRODUCTION**

This is Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan, covering the period from 2008-2011. Since our last plan was published, the Council, working closely with our partners and communities, has made great progress towards the vision of our area as "the place to be". This plan sets out the next stages of this journey and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is our foundation for development over the coming years, reaffirming our commitment to the vision for our area and establishing our priorities for 2008-2011, as well as the actions we will take to achieve them.

The Corporate Plan recognises the radical transformation of the Falkirk Council area over the last decade. We are now one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland, with a growing reputation as an exciting place with enormous possibilities, and as a Council that is prepared to be bold, innovative and ambitious for our communities. It is a time of opportunity for the Council and the area and strong community leadership will be critical in ensuring that we achieve our full potential.

The plan builds on the Council's record of success over the last decade which brought us iconic new buildings, such as The Falkirk Wheel, an exciting strategy to transform our town centres, better housing, good parks and open spaces, new roads, business parks and schools.

The Council is well respected, has a culture of efficiency and continuous improvement and takes its community leadership role very seriously. We have an impressive track record of delivering high quality services, while maintaining the second lowest Council tax in mainland Scotland. We are committed to building on our existing strong local partnerships and making sure our citizens are at the heart of everything we do.

We believe our community now has higher ambition and increased civic pride and we now have a growing external reputation which we will build on as we move forward.

OUR VISION

In partnership with our communities, the Council's vision of the Falkirk Council area is as "the place to be in the third millennium". This vision is set out in the Strategic Community Plan and has been at the forefront during the development of our Corporate Plan. The vision is that:

- ❖ The legacy of our past and the potential of our future are protected.
- ❖ Our area is at the centre of Scotland.
- ❖ Our future is as one of the most culturally diverse and distinct areas in Scotland.
- ❖ Our future has investment in jobs, learning, homes and leisure for all.
- ❖ Our area is **'the place to be'** in the third Millennium.

We believe it is challenging and unique to our area. The Falkirk Council area has strong local communities, each with its own distinctive landmarks, industries, events, achievements and heritage. We had to channel these assets into a cohesive vision, while recognising the individual communities that make up the Falkirk Council area. Along with our partners, we agreed that all our activities should have a clear link with and make a positive contribution to promoting and achieving this long-term vision and this Corporate Plan sets out our priorities for 2008-11.

A commitment to sustainability, equality of opportunity and social inclusion and cohesion is central to our vision. We want to make sure everyone in the area feels part of it, especially those who are most disadvantaged or socially marginalised. Engaging young people positively is one of our top priorities. The Falkirk Council area is home to more young people than most areas in Scotland. They are the future of our area and we want them to equip them with the skills, ambition and self believe to realise their potential.

Equally we recognise that in order to have healthy and vibrant communities, we must make sure people of all ages feel part of our vision and our future. This includes our youngest and oldest citizens.

The Council already has a strong track record in establishing innovative and effective partnerships, linked to our strategic priorities, across a range of sectors. We work closely with other public organisations as well as the private sector, involving key stakeholders and the community through initiatives such as the business panel and My Future's in Falkirk and we will enhance this partnership working in the coming years.

We have a firm foundation to build on. The Falkirk Council area is one of the country's fastest growing, more houses are being built, our crime rates are among the lowest in the UK, our clear-up rates are high and we are one of the best connected places in Scotland, with major motorways, excellent rail connections and expanding port facilities at Grangemouth.

In order to achieve our vision we have four goals. These are:

- ❖ **Further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy;**
- ❖ **Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;**
- ❖ **Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and**
- ❖ **Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.**

Our Values are:

- ❖ **Public Service**
- ❖ **Performance**
- ❖ **Partnership**

In drafting this Corporate Plan, we have had regard to a number of challenges and priorities. These include national strategic priorities. We note that their stated priorities align broadly with our own.

FURTHER DEVELOPING A THRIVING, SUSTAINABLE AND VIBRANT ECONOMY.

The Falkirk Council area has undergone a substantial economic change over the last 10 years. The effects of this change could have been devastating but instead presented us with opportunities. Our area is one of the best linked areas in Scotland and we have used this to our advantage for centuries. We must continue to exploit this geographical advantage if our area is to thrive and prosper.

We understand that businesses create jobs and wealth and are the driving force behind any successful economy. A strong partnership with businesses will provide a sound platform for further developing our economic advantages.

In order to compete successfully and collaborate with the neighbouring city regions, we must promote ourselves to take maximum advantage of our central geographic location and strong transport links. We will forge new alliances with businesses to deliver an economic infrastructure required to support a vibrant local economy for our area and Scotland as a whole.

We also know that in order for our area to have a wealthy and prosperous future we must harness the ambitions and talents of all our citizens and in particular our young people. We must ensure there are exciting future opportunities for people to work in our area and that our young people have the skills and confidence to benefit from these.

Falkirk town centre has always punched above its weight in terms of attracting shoppers to our area. However we recognise all of our town centres are important as a focal point within our communities. They not only provide diverse shopping opportunities but also promote civic pride. We must work with our local business and communities to ensure all our town centres not only survive but also thrive.

Our area will be recognised as having a culture and ethos of aspiration and ambition	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Having an excellent business environment; ❖ Raising the aspirations of our children and families; ❖ Raising the employability of our workforce; ❖ Increasing the number of locally developed and incoming businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Working with Forth Valley College to ensure they have a state of the art campus and facilities; ❖ Ensuring our Schools are of the highest quality to promote learning and achievement; ❖ Continuing to develop our successful business support; ❖ Continuing to encourage and facilitate the diversification of the local economy; ❖ Increasing entrepreneurship; ❖ Increasing levels of employment.

The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase.	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reducing the number of young unemployed adults; ❖ Having fewer people on working age benefits; and ❖ Increasing employment and average wage earnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Encouraging social justice for all including young, elderly, migrant populations; ❖ Supporting individuals to come off working age benefits; and ❖ Providing money and debt advice services in conjunction with partners.

Our workforce will be highly skilled	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing effective teaching and learning; ❖ Providing training opportunities for young people and workless families; ❖ Being an exemplar employer ❖ Ensuring our schools curriculum meets the needs of the local economy and employers; and ❖ Ensuring the best possible start for all children – 0-8 agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving leaver destinations for young people; ❖ Raising education attainment especially of secondary school leavers; ❖ Providing opportunities for people within work to continue to learn; ❖ Having an excellent range of business locations; ❖ Developing a skills strategy for a competitive workforce; and ❖ Improving the range of support and childcare facilities for parents.

The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Upgrading our town centres; ❖ Developing an excellent transport network; and ❖ Promoting strong public private sector partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring all our town centres benefit from modern communications including wireless networks; ❖ Managing our car parks to maintain the viability of our town centres; ❖ Ensuring a good supply of business properties; ❖ Developing the potential for the growth of Grangemouth Port; and ❖ Improving our transport links.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

The health of the people in our area is improving and has been for the last 10 years. We recognise that ensuring people have the best possible life chances is predicated on good health, safety and wellbeing.

While overall people's health is improving, there are problems associated with ill health that have deep-rooted causes that cannot be solved quickly. Poor health impacts on people's chances of employment, income, socialisation and community participation. Ill health is not a problem solely for the health service. While we must make sure our partners provide the essential services people require when they are unwell, we have a responsibility for supporting and providing opportunities for people to improve their own health through the provision of leisure, sports and social activities.

Everyone wants to feel safe in the area they live in. While the Falkirk Council area is one of the safest in Scotland, we understand our citizens do have concerns about their personal safety, particularly at night. Vandalism, graffiti and other forms of anti-social behaviour have an impact on people's quality of life. As a Council we have a responsibility for making sure people who are victims of such behaviour are protected and listened to, while at the same time ensuring the perpetrators of such crimes understand fully the consequences of their actions.

The structure, geography and economy of our area has also posed some significant risks that we must manage and address with our public and private partners..

Some of our most vulnerable citizens require support and care to stay in their own homes and communities. As our population ages we must ensure our essential care and support services meet the challenges this poses. We also have a key responsibility to ensure our most vulnerable children are protected and thrive.

Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices and lifestyles in order they can live longer.	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Offering increased opportunities to participate in physical activity; ❖ Reducing harmful and underage substance misuse; ❖ Promoting a healthy diet; and ❖ Reducing individual stress and therefore the reliance on prescribed drugs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing opportunities to participate in sports, leisure and physical activity in a variety of settings; ❖ Offering healthy food choices in all our premises; ❖ Taking forward the work of the substance action team; ❖ Promoting a good work/ life balance; ❖ Ensuring the safety of our estates and green spaces; ❖ Continuing to improve our paths network and open spaces; and ❖ Further developing our approach to health and well-being.

People will have equitable access to local health, support and care.	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing services through local health centres and community hospitals; ❖ Supporting the opening of the new acute hospital; ❖ Improving access to services and facilities for disabled people; and ❖ Ensuring consistent access to children's services at a local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Identifying further areas of service integration with NHS Forth Valley; ❖ Participating in a pilot Social Enterprise Health Trust; ❖ Promoting and supporting the development and delivery of modern facilities for health and social care; ❖ Continuing to improve access to our premises for disabled people; ❖ Ensuring all our schools are health promoting; and ❖ Implementing locality based children's teams.

Our citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well being.	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving levels of attendance at school; ❖ Ensuring older people feel supported at the heart of their communities; ❖ Encouraging people to be motivated, involved and empowered; and ❖ Reducing antisocial behaviour and bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing diversionary activities for young people; ❖ Consulting people in order that they can influence decisions on care services; ❖ Supporting people to take more control of their packages of care; ❖ Developing our community wardens services; ❖ Developing community activities that include older people; and ❖ Providing a network of facilities for young people;

Our citizens will be protected	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring positive outcomes for looked after children; ❖ Ensuring civil contingency arrangements are robust; ❖ Reducing accidents on our roads; ❖ Ensuring our citizens are advised how to minimise their risks; ❖ Promoting activities that work across generations; and ❖ Ensuring people feel safer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing wrap around family support services; ❖ Developing a specific retirement community; ❖ Developing a therapeutic unit; ❖ Further developing our enforcement teams; ❖ Supporting our looked after children through full time education; ❖ Reducing the contamination of land in our area; ❖ Promoting safer routes to schools; and ❖ Ensuring robust emergency planning arrangements are in place.

INCREASING OUR EFFORTS TO TACKLE DISADVANTAGE AND DISCRIMINATION

Everyone in our area must feel and play a part in helping achieve our vision. There are many people who do not get the chances and opportunities we should all be able to take for granted due to lack of income, poor health or disability. Equally some people do not know how to access our services or are disadvantaged by virtue of their lack of skills. To address this we must make sure we provide the support necessary to address disadvantage and discrimination.

The men, women and children who live, work, study in or visit the Falkirk Council area are diverse. They are different ages, abilities, races and ethnic backgrounds, different sexual orientations and with different faiths. While different groups and their experiences overlap, their ideas about themselves and their communities can be different.

The diversity of our communities is one of our areas greatest assets. We must ensure this strength in diversity is harnessed and everyone can play their part in their individual and our collective communities.

Our area, like many others, has communities that require particular attention. This can be due to historic reasons or can be because they are undergoing change. We must focus on the strengths of such areas and work with communities to ensure they flourish along with the rest of our area. We must make sure we have houses people can afford to buy and rent that are of the highest possible standard.

Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Providing services that promote the interests of vulnerable groups; ❖ Positively promoting equality of opportunity across our services; ❖ Working with vulnerable and isolated older people to ensure they maintain their links with their local communities; and ❖ Supporting people who move into our area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure the voices of vulnerable groups are heard in service design and provision; ❖ Working with established groups to address issues of discrimination; ❖ Continuing to support older people to live in their own homes and within their own communities; and ❖ Providing opportunities for older and younger people to understand each other's lifestyles and points of view.

Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of affordable housing for young people and families; ❖ Continuing to upgrade our housing so it meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard; ❖ Ensuring private rented sector meets the needs of some of our most vulnerable communities; ❖ Ensuring the viability of our outlying villages and towns; and ❖ Meeting the needs of homeless people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Participating in the provision of new social housing; ❖ Continuing our investment programme in our housing stock; ❖ Working with private landlords to ensure private tenants have appropriate standards of accommodation that are safe and legal; ❖ Working in partnership to provide new and affordable housing; ❖ Ensuring the provision of a diversity of housing to meet the needs of people with special needs; ❖ Implementing our homelessness strategy; and ❖ Developing plans for our villages.

Vulnerable children will be protected	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improving the support and nurturing we provide to looked after children; ❖ Ensuring positive life chances for young people in care; ❖ Ensuring as many young people as possible have access to universal services; ❖ Ensuring children, young people and their families feel that they are being dealt with in a seamless manner; and ❖ Providing care for young people within our area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reviewing the Council's approach to corporate parenting; ❖ Reviewing the provision of residential care used by our young people; ❖ Implementing a new multi-agency locality model that will provide continuity of service to young people and their families; ❖ Increasing young peoples confidence and self esteem; ❖ Developing services for young people with a disability; and ❖ Reducing the potential for our young people to develop harmful lifestyles.

Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decreasing the opportunity gap between our communities; ❖ Improving the employment opportunities for people living in our areas of need; ❖ Improving the health and well-being of people in our areas of need; ❖ Reducing the stigmatisation of greatest areas of need; and ❖ Making our most disadvantaged communities safer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Working in partnership to target appropriate services on areas of disadvantage; ❖ Supporting the health service to provide services to our most disadvantaged areas; ❖ Improving the image of areas of needs; ❖ Working with our tenants and residents to improve our housing estates; ❖ Developing housing and community regeneration strategies in identified priority areas; and ❖ Ensuring benefits and money advice is readily available to those who may need this service.

ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

The Council has a responsibility for protecting and enhancing the environment in which people live, work and visit. This is against a background of an area that is growing with pressure to build new homes, increasing numbers of visitors, increased use of our roads and also demand for land to develop shops and businesses.

Our rich natural, social and cultural heritage must be preserved and valued by our citizens and visitors. Our area must be attractive, welcoming and of a quality our citizens expect and are proud of. We must build on our area's growing reputation as a place to visit and continue to surprise and delight our visitors with the quality of attractions on offer. At the same time, the open spaces enjoyed by our communities must be attractive and welcoming for locals and visitors alike.

Our transport network must support the growth in our area, while minimising the impact this has on the quality of our environment.

To achieve our vision, we must protect our environment for future generations. We all have a responsibility for promoting actions that minimise our impact on global warming. The Council not only has a role in the responsible disposal of waste, but also utilising our own resources more responsibly.

We will be Greener	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promoting sustainable development; ❖ Reducing energy use; ❖ Reducing carbon emissions; ❖ Reducing the amount of waste generated in the Falkirk Council area; ❖ Exceeding national waste recycling targets; ❖ Tackling climate change; and ❖ Protecting the natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reducing the Council's carbon emissions by 20%; ❖ Enforcing building standards; ❖ Providing state of the art recycling centres and facilities; ❖ Encouraging the reduction in unnecessary packaging; ❖ Increasing public awareness of recycling and other 'green' initiatives; ❖ Protecting the natural environment through adherence to the development plan; and ❖ Promoting sustainable procurement;

We will improve the built environment	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Implementing more effective planning processes; ❖ Improving transport links; and ❖ Maintaining and improving our infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Adopting sustainable design principles for the Council's property and facilities projects; ❖ Implementing our roads maintenance strategy; ❖ Exploring community transport opportunities and rebuilding the Falkirk bus station; ❖ Lobbying for improvements to the rail service in the district; and ❖ Improving the standard of our roads network including promoting key strategic links.

Our open spaces will be attractive, accessible and safe	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Maintaining the balance between open spaces and new developments; ❖ Managing our risk from flooding; ❖ Improving the cleanliness of our area; and ❖ Improving our open spaces and parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Implementing our open spaces strategy; ❖ Developing a play ground and parks development and maintenance strategy; ❖ Implementing our flooding strategy; ❖ Continuing our approach to litter through prevention, education and enforcement; and ❖ Developing our HELIX project and other parks projects.

Our profile will reflect our area as a destination of choice	
This will be demonstrated by :	We will achieve this by :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensuring a good range of facilities and accommodation are available to visitors; ❖ Ensuring the promotion of the area's unique heritage and culture; ❖ Maintaining and developing high profile national events; ❖ Developing high-quality visitor attractions; and ❖ Engaging our communities in their local heritage and culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing a cultural master plan; ❖ Increasing the promotional and marketing of our area for tourists; ❖ Increasing and developing the range of cultural events and activities; ❖ Capitalising on potential opportunities presented by the World Heritage Status of the Antonine Wall; ❖ Continuing to work with British Waterways to promote the Canal and Falkirk Wheel; and ❖ Continuing to work with Historic Scotland, VisitScotland and others to promote our historic buildings and heritage.

KEY VALUES

The values of the Council set out how we conduct our business with our communities but also importantly with our employees and other partners. Our values set the culture and ethos for our organisation and must be demonstrated in the way we work and the way we deliver services.

Our values are:

Public Service

- Fairness;
- Listening and responding;
- Being open, accessible and accountable; and
- Promoting our services using plain English as far as possible.

Performance

- Providing quality;
- Achieving value for money;
- Promoting innovation; and
- Seeking continuous improvement.

Partnership

- Effective communication;
- Sharing decision making; and
- Encouraging partnership.

We are committed to promoting **public service** by :

- Becoming the employer of choice in the local area;
- Ensuring we have the necessary qualified and motivated workforce to meet our service delivery priorities;
- Ensuring our customers have information they need to access services and is easily understood;
- Ensuring we continue to understand and meet the needs of our customers; and
- Working with other public sector agencies to provide seamless services.

We will achieve this by:

- Implementing our Human Resources Workforce Strategy;
- Working with our employees and trade unions;
- Continuing to develop our management and leadership training;
- Continuing to survey our customers to find out their views;
- Responding to public feedback; and
- Working with our partners to review the services we provide.

We are committed to continuing to improve our **performance** by;

- Being the provider of choice;
- Continuing to deliver the best services that are value for money;

- Continuing to deliver efficiencies within our services;
- Continuing to modernise the way we deliver services;
- Ensuring continuous improvement in the quality of services we deliver; and
- Reporting to our customers on how we are performing.

We will achieve this by:

- Delivering the second phase of our approach to customer contact;
- Continuing to expand the role of our customer contact centre;
- Developing a quality management framework;
- Reviewing our Public Performance Reporting Framework.

We are committed to working in **partnership** by;

- Providing leadership to our community planning partnership;
- Continuing to develop and support our approach to community planning;
- Working with local communities to develop local ward service delivery plans;
- Delivering on our commitment to community engagement;
- Supporting the community and voluntary sector to deliver on common priorities; and
- Working with other public sector agencies to develop common mechanisms for consultation.

We will do this by:

- Reviewing our mechanisms for community engagement;
- Supporting the implementation of the community planning performance management structure;
- Supporting local community planning; and
- Establishing a consultation framework.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

We have set our priorities within this plan and now we have to “make it happen”. To enable us to plan effectively, we have implemented a Strategic Planning and Management System (SPMS). The Strategic Planning and Management System relates our key priorities to what we are able to achieve with the resources we have. This planning system notes the different levels of policy development at the overall corporate / strategic level. Alongside this planning, development and review framework our approach to best value sets out a clear distinction between operational management and strategic management.

Review

The Corporate Plan, policies, strategies and Service Plans will set a clear agenda for the Council. We will regularly review our achievements to ensure we are doing what we said we were going to do. This review will be undertaken at three levels. The overall purpose of review is to learn from previous successes and failures, to perform better and to feedback into the Strategic Planning and Management System next year. The three different levels of review are:

- Review of achievement of the Corporate Plan;
- Review of the development and implementation of our policies and strategies; and
- Review of implementation of Service Plans and capital and revenue budgets.



All our policies will have a strategy or detailed action / implementation plan for the following year. The implementation plan will be drawn up between all those Services and our partners who have a key role and responsibility for delivery of the policy issue.

Falkirk Council’s strategic community plan sets the vision and key priorities for all agencies within the Council area. This is a partnership document and sets out longer-term priorities.

Influencing the Council's Corporate Plan

This contains **what** we want to achieve – our goals - and **how** we want to achieve these - our values. It sets out our key priorities for the coming year and beyond. This is informed by the strategic community plan and the vision and priorities contained therein. It also takes account of the Administration's manifesto and their aspirations for this area.

Leading to policies

The goals and more detailed key priorities are developed through our specific policies. Some policies may either be very specific to one issue or service of the Council or may have an effect across all our services and our area.

Leading to strategies

Strategies underpin our policies and identify a programme of action across the Council to ensure their implementation. These are not wish lists but are based on our resources and our capacity to deliver. We need to be very clear and honest about what we can achieve.

We cannot make everything a priority if we want to achieve real and lasting change.

Strategies are often developed by a number of agencies in support of a joint policy or aspiration.

Leading to service plans

Service plans are action programmes for each of our seven Services. Each plan identifies clear service objectives, which contribute to the achievement of our goals and values.

Service plans also identify the key tasks that each service requires to undertake to achieve its objectives and the way it will manage the service in line with our values. Service plans will be produced each year. Services must be clear and realistic about what can and cannot be achieved.

Leading to budgets

Our capital and revenue budgets are the financial plans we use to deliver services and achieve our goals and values. The allocation of money in budgets will be determined by what we plan to achieve. In effect the way we spend the money in our budgets will be determined by our policies and priorities. Decisions about the allocation of money and resources will be guided by the SPMS process.

Then we review

Our Corporate Plan, policies, strategies and service plans make specific proposals about what we want to achieve. We must review progress to determine if we have achieved our stated priorities. It is important that we learn from our successes and failures so that we can improve our performance in the future. The results of the review will also influence the key priorities in the next plan.

OUR SERVICES

Community Services

Libraries; museums; arts; entertainment; parks; the countryside; cemeteries and crematorium; sport; leisure; tourism; economic development; training; adult basic education; community capacity building; community learning; local community planning.

Corporate and Commercial Services

Policy and performance review; ICT; human resources; facilities management (which includes building maintenance and management, cleaning and catering); business services; estates management (which includes roads maintenance, street care, refuse collection and grounds maintenance).

Development Services

Planning (structure planning, development management, enforcement); the environment; transport planning; roads; building and engineering design; building standards; environmental protection; consumer protection; food and safety regulation; waste strategy licensing; emergency planning.

Education Services

Pre5's; primary, secondary and special schools; curricular support; psychological services; integrated learning communities; adult returners; Higher Still links with Forth Valley College.

Finance Services

Financial strategy and administration; revenue and capital budgeting; internal audit; treasury management; insurance; collection of rents; council tax and local rates; benefit administration; payroll and pensions.

Housing & Social Work Services

Children and families; criminal justice services; community care; housing management services; tenant participation; allocations; mediation; homelessness; housing investment policy.

Law & Administration Services

Legal services; democratic services; members' support and development; decentralization of decision making (including Area Forums and Community Councils); Printworks; and Registrars.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL
CORPORATE PLAN 2004 – 2007
MONITORING STATEMENT for 2006/ 07**

Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
Equip our pupils with the skills, attitudes and expectations to prosper in a changing society and encourage creativity, enterprise and education as set out in our Learning to Achieve strategy	We will demonstrate progress by; raising levels of educational attainment and achievement for all our pupils, measured in terms of;				
	a) SQA examination performance				
	I. % of the S4 Cohort with 5 or more Awards at SCQF Level by S4	(POST APPEAL)	(POST APPEAL)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCQF Level 3 • SCQF Level 4 • SCQF Level 5 	89	88	89	
		72	73	72	
		29	31	30	

Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens					
	II. % of original S4 cohort with awards at SCQF Level 6 by S5, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more awards • 3 or more awards • 5 or more awards 	33	34	34	
		16	18	17	
		6	7	6	
	III. % of the original S4 cohort with awards at SCQF Level 6 or better by S6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or more awards • 5 or more awards 				
		27	23	26	28
		16	14	16	17

Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
Equip our pupils with the skills, attitudes and expectations to prosper in a changing society and encourage creativity, enterprise and education as set out in our Learning to Achieve strategy	Raising levels of educational attainment and achievement for all our pupils, measured in terms of:				
	b) Academic achievement of Looked-After Children	100% = 18 children 2004/05	100% = 20 Children 2005/06	100% = 27 Children 2006/07	
	I. % of Looked After Children who, on leaving care, achieve no qualifications at SCQF level 3 or higher	56	46	52	N/A
	II. % of Looked After Children who, on leaving care, achieve at least one subject at SCQF level 3 or higher (SPI)	44	54	48	N/A
	III. % of Looked-After Children who, on leaving care, achieve both English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or higher (SPI)	28	35	26	N/A

Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To improve the economic well being of our citizens and communities	We will demonstrate progress by:				
	increasing satisfaction of business panel members with events;	75%	80%	93%	80%
	increasing the number of businesses receiving start up support from the Council through national business gateway;	81	150	139	80
	increasing the uptake of work based training provision provided by the Council;	290	275	210	239
	increasing the number of Modern Apprentices and Skillseekers managed by the Council;	94	165	201	196
	increasing the number of jobs created or secured by the Council through support to businesses;	337	572	684	532
	Increasing the proportion of permanent craft and manual posts within Corporate & Commercial Services.	81% Permanent	88% Permanent	82% Permanent	90% Permanent

Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To improve the economic well being of our citizens and communities	Reducing the number of people unemployed relative to the Scottish average	+0.1%	-0.1% (2.3% actual)*	-0.1%	0%
	Increasing the number of day visitors out with the area to Big in Falkirk	64%	48%	46%	48%
	Increasing total visitor expenditure in the area (per calendar year)	£71.7m	£74.7m	£75,74m	£75m + inflation
	Increasing the number of bed nights taken up by tourism related visitors (per calendar year)	1.26m	1.27m	1.27m	1.28m

* This figure is from July 2007 – Unemployment Insight August 2007

Enable our citizens to live healthily and safely					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To ensure our children and young people play a positive part in our communities and have the best positive start for the future	We will demonstrate progress by;				
	increasing the % of schools providing Hungry for Success menus;	34%	95%	100%	100%
	continuing the level of school meals as a % of school roll;	45%	49%	48%	49%
	% of schools with Breakfast Clubs;	27%	35%	35%	40%
	increasing the number of people participating in health promotion activities; and	1,926	5,638	2,315	2,000
	reducing the incidence of pupil exclusion from primary and secondary schools.	1124	875	886	1067 (-5%)
To improve the local environment in which we live, work and visit to enable our citizens to live healthily and safely	We will demonstrate progress by:				
	reducing the number of casualties of fatalities/ serious injuries on our roads by 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 year average of casualties in road traffic accidents 	439	429	421	417
	% of housing maintenance jobs completed within target times (timescales not comparable)	90%	91%	77%*	90% *
To improve the local environment in which we live, work and visit to enable our citizens to live healthily and safely	Increasing confidence in individual safety in local areas;				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During day • After dark 	80%	84%	Biannual	85%
		45%	47%	Biannual	50%

* Please note that the calculation method has changed for 2006-07. This means this years data is not directly comparable with the previous years.

Enable our citizens to live healthily and safely					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To encourage people to live more active and healthy lives	We will demonstrate progress by: increasing the number of people participating in healthy lifestyle physical activity programmes;	8,200	9,210	13,537	9,500
	increasing admissions to leisure centres; and	1,025,552	999,642	926,025	1,010,000
	increasing the level of participation in organised leisure and cultural activities (classes, courses, workshops, performances etc).	47,342	34,727	28,105	37,680
To improve community support services for vulnerable people and their carers	We will demonstrate progress by: increasing the number of vulnerable people receiving community care services as rate per 1,000 people above the Scottish average of 81.9;	105.6	117	121	112
	continuing to provide home care to vulnerable people aged 65+ as a rate per 1,000 above the Scottish average of 69 per 1000;	80	80.4	76	70
	reducing delayed discharges from hospitals by implementing a range of initiatives e.g. crisis care, rehabilitation and care at home, 24 hour home care etc.	49	61	46	62 (national target)
	effectively supporting the Children's Hearing System by submitting social background reports to the Reporter within 20 days; (SPI) and	53%	40.5% (Changed definition means comparison cannot be made)	46.3%	75%

	Improving percentage of children seen by supervising officer within 15 days. (SPI)	79%	82%	78%	100%
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Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To ensure people are not disadvantaged through lack of opportunity access to service and life circumstances	We will demonstrate progress by:				
	increasing the number of individuals obtaining;				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welfare benefits advice 	15,226	16,934	17,150	16,749
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debt advice – new cases 	685	797	681	822
	reducing the number of benefits claimants relative to Falkirk average in ROA areas;	614	577	530	570
	increasing the number of benefit people in ROA areas, participating in work based training;	96	114	102	114

Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
	increasing the number of new IT learners from priority areas;	480	989	777	1,000
	increasing the number of new learners to literacy programmes;	254	285	178	270
	increasing the numbers of times the free public access terminals are used in libraries; (SPI)	75,060	73,976	84,360	76,000
	increasing the proportion of council buildings that provide a direct service to the public being suitable for people with a disability (135 buildings); (SPI) and	48%	52%	56%	60%
	increasing the number of users of public access terminals in libraries.	13,235	24,994	29,941	25,000

Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To ensure people are not disadvantaged through lack of opportunity access to service and life circumstances	The % of eligible primary school children who take up free school meals.	74%	77%	92%	77%
	The % of eligible secondary school children who take up free school meals.	58%	60%	72%	60%
To ensure the provision of a range of good quality affordable housing to meet needs of current and future residents	We will demonstrate progress by: increasing investment in and improving the housing stock to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard; and	£31.8m	£32.5m	£37.6m*	£34.2m
	increasing the number of good quality and affordable homes each year by the following numbers	32	72	73	33

* Please note that additional Scottish Executive funding was obtained for the Community Heating Project.

Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
Ensuring Children have the best possible opportunities in life	We will demonstrate progress by:	2003/04 Education Year (data published December 2004)	2004/05 Education Year (data published December 2005)	2005/06 Education Year (data published December 2006)	Performance Target 2007/08
	increasing percentage of school leavers moving into:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> higher education 	29%	26%	24%	31%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> further education 	13%	17%	18%	21%
	reducing the percentage of young people who leave school without employment, further education or training;	26%	21%	18%	
	raising pupil attendance at school, measured in terms of:	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	(2007/08)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> percentage of pupil attendance at primary schools 	95.2 %	94.9%	95.6%	96%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> percentage of pupil attendance at secondary schools 	88.2%	88.3%	89.9%	91%	
Ensuring that all educational establishments are adapted to meet the physical needs of young people affected by disability: Approximately 73 buildings	14%	55%	86%	65%	

To create and sustain an environment in which people want to live, work and visit					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To develop a sustainable environment in which we live, work and visit	We will demonstrate progress: remaining within the limits of allowable exceedances in each government air quality target category – figures given are total number of exceedances	69	9 exceedances were within the limits in all categories	21 exceedances in 3 categories were within each limit (3 country wide exceedances of PM10 (particles) were caused by forest fires in Russia)	Separate targets and exceedance limits for 8 pollutant categories as set by EU directives
	increasing the % of municipal waste recycled (SPI)	19%	30% (National target 25%)	36%	35%
	percentage of special uplifts completed within 5 days (statutory) (SPI)	70%	77%	78%	83%
	reduction in waste to landfill – Landfill Allowance Target. Tonnage of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled	56,375 tonnes	51,641 tonnes	45,186 tonnes (subject to SEPA verification)	Less than 55,142 tonnes
	improving our performance in the CIMS assessment index that measures the cleanliness of public spaces (SPI)	66	68	72	68

Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
To develop a sustainable environment in which we live, work and visit	% of the vehicle fleet which has reduced-emission technology	39%	55%	80%	60%
	Maintaining the percentage of our road network requiring maintenance (SPI)	45%	47.4%	54%	50.5%
To ensure we are seen to value learning by providing the best possible environment	We will demonstrate progress by: increasing the percentage of schools participating in the ECO schools award or similar accredited environmental award	86%	90%	93%	90%

Corporate / Management Indication					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance in 2006/07	Performance Target for 2006/07
Develop the skills of our workforce and future workforce	We will demonstrate progress by:				
	Sickness absence - % of days lost	5.0% APT&C 6.4% Craft and Manual	6.0% APT&C 6.9% Craft and Manual	5.4% 6.7%	4% 4%
Maximising income through collecting Council tax	% Council tax collected in year (SPI)	95.2%	95.9%	96.2%	96%
Administering Council tax efficiently	Council tax collection cost per dwelling (Scottish average) (SPI)	£4.75 (£13.23)	£6.25	£10.60 (New calculation method – comparable figure £4.27)	£7.13 (budget)
Maximising income through collecting rent due from Council tenants	Gross rent arrears as a % of net annual debit (SPI)	7.47 %	6.2%	5.6%	6%
	% accounts owing more than 13 weeks rent or £250 (SPI)	6.47%	5.4%	5%	5.25%
Processing benefit claims quickly and without error	Average time to process new claims (SPI)	24.4 days	27.8 days	29.8 days	28 days
	Average time to process changes in circumstances (SPI)	7.3	8.1	7.6	8
	% claims processed without error	93%	94%	95.6%	98%
	% invoices paid in 30 days (SPI)	86%	86.5%	86.2%	87.5%

Corporate / Management Indication					
Objectives		Performance in 2004/05	Performance in 2005/06	Performance Target for 2006/07	Performance in 2006/07
Providing a high quality front-line service to our customers	We will demonstrate progress by:				
	% customers served within 15 minutes	-	90	90	
	% telephone calls answered	-	75.7%	88%	77.5%
	% complaints responded to within 7 days	-	83	90	
	% customers very satisfied or satisfied with;				
	- local area office service	-	93.5	95	
	- telephone call handling	-	88.4%	97%	90%
% responses received by customers within 14 days of written enquiry			90	90	

APPLICATION FEES – SKIN PIERCING LICENCES JULY 2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY	APPLICATION FEE	TERM OF LICENCE (Years)	RENEWAL (Fee & Term (Years))
Aberdeen City	£200.00	3 yrs	£170/3 years
Aberdeenshire	£200.00	3 yrs	£170/3 years
Angus	£235.00 Inc VAT	3 yrs	
Argyll & Bute	£250.00 (Premises) £200.00/ (Peripatetic)	3 yrs 3 yrs	
Clackmannanshire	£200.00	1 year probation	£100/3 yrs thereafter
Comhairie Nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	£ 50.00 (Ear Lobe) £134.80 (Acupuncture/Electrolysis) £250.00 (Tattooing/Skin Piercing)	3 yrs 3 yrs 1 yr	
Dumfries & Galloway	£185.00	3 yrs	
Dundee City	£110.00	1 yr	
East Ayrshire	£250.00	3 yrs	
East Dunbartonshire	£120.00	3 yrs	
East Lothian	£ 60.00	1 yr	
East Renfrewshire	£350.00	3 yrs	
Edinburgh City	£200.00 + £50.00 per employee £200.00 self employed £200.00 peripatetic £200.00 one off	1 year probation 1 year 1 year 1 year	Same fees renewal 3 yrs Same fees renewal 3 yrs Same fees renewal 3 yrs Same fees renewal 3 yrs
Falkirk	Not Set Yet	N/A	
Fife	£ 93.00	3 yrs	
Glasgow City	£260.00 £197.00 £109.00	3 yrs 2 yrs 1 yr	
Highland	£200.00	3 yrs	
Inverclyde	£188.00 (Skin Piercing & Tattoo) £77.50 (Electrolysis & Ear Pierce)	3 yrs 3 yrs	
Mid Lothian	£183.00 £ 90.00 (Ear Piercing)	3 yrs 3 yrs	£114.00/3 yrs £90.00/3yrs
Moray	£155.00	3 yrs	
North Ayrshire	£300.00 (Premises) £250.00 (Peripatetic)	3 yrs 3 yrs	
North Lanarkshire	£300.00	3 yrs	£225/3 yrs
Orkney Isles	£309.00	3 yrs	
Perth & Kinross	£200.00	1 yr	£250/3 yrs thereafter
Renfrewshire	£154.00	1 yr	£308/2 yrs thereafter
Scottish Borders	£250.00 (Skin Piercing) £200.00 (Ear Piercing)	1 yr 1yr	£250/3 yrs thereafter £200/3 yrs thereafter
Shetland	£110.00	3 yrs	
South Ayrshire	£280.00 (Premises) £200.00 (Peripatetic)	3 yrs 3 yrs	
South Lanarkshire	£253.00	3 yrs	
Stirling	£200.00	1 yr	
West Dunbartonshire	£600.00	3 yrs	
West Lothian	£114.00 £ 79.00 Temporary	1 yr 1 yr	£ 85/1 year

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
(LICENSING OF SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING)
ORDER 2006

Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL

Date: 5 December 2007

Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 At the meeting of Falkirk Council on 27 June 2007, members approved the following:

- the conditions for the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006,
- that an annual fee of £200 would be charged, and
- that a report is prepared to provide an assessment of the fee structure in respect of skin piercing and tattooing licences.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an assessment of the fee structure.

2. LICENSING AND INSPECTION PROCESSES.

2.1 The purpose of the above Order is to include skin piercing and tattooing businesses within the civic licensing regime to ensure proper operational practice including appropriate regard to health and safety of customers. It is also to ensure that the persons undertaking the activity are fit and proper to do so and that the premises are suitable for the operation of such activity. The types of businesses which carry out this type of activity are already subject to regulatory control in respect of health and safety and, therefore, these businesses should already be operating at a satisfactory level. The inspection of the premises which is the subject of the license application is carried out by Environmental Health Officers of Development Services Food and Safety Unit, who are the officers responsible for the enforcement of health and safety legislation.

2.2 The administration of the licence applications made in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 is the responsibility of Development Service's Licensing Section. Licensing staff carry out the administrative function, undertake the consultation process and, if required, prepare reports for submission to the Civic Licensing Committee.

2.3 Development Service's Fees and Charges 2007/2008 states the hourly charge for work carried out by Environmental Health Officers as £91. It is estimated that each inspection for compliance with the licence conditions should take, on

average, one and a half hours ie £136.50. The balance, £63.50, will pay for officer time in relation to the administrative duties.

- 2.4 It is anticipated that the officer time required to carry out the inspection and licensing functions for a new application will be the same as that required for a renewal. It is therefore recommended that a fee of £200 is reasonable for the initial and renewal applications in respect of a licence granted under the 2006 Order.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Food and Safety Manager has been consulted in relation to this matter and has agreed that the annual licence fee of £200 will ensure at present that the Council is recovering all costs in relation to this activity.

- 3.2 The report to Falkirk Council detailed in paragraph 1.1 made reference to a comparison process that was carried out with 9 other local authorities in relation to the duration of skin piercing and tattooing licences and the fees charged. This process was carried out in January 2007 and it found that some authorities issued licences for a one year period, others for a three year period and there was no standard fee charged. Falkirk's neighbouring authorities, namely West Lothian Council and Clackmannanshire Council, had not, at that time, set a licence fee and duration. However, Stirling Council had set a fee of £200 for an annual licence. An updated list of fees for all Scottish local authorities is attached as Appendix 1.

- 3.3 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the licensing authority is given specific powers to charge reasonable fees in respect of applications, in contrast to the liquor licensing process, where fees are set by statutory instrument. The licensing authority must set fees which are sufficient to meet the expense of fulfilling the requirements of the Act and, it is anticipated, that fees will be reviewed from time to time to ensure this.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 **That Council note the contents of this report.**

.....
Director of Development Services
29th November 2007

Contact Officer: (Alison Cairns, Consumer Protection Manager 501005)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: FALKIRK HIGH STATION
SLAMANNAN ROAD PROPOSED CAR PARK
GROUND STABILISATION**

Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL

Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007

Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Council's Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 Public Transport Policy PT7 identifies the Council's commitment to working with the Scottish Executive and First ScotRail to improve access to railway stations and encourage more travel by train. In particular, provision of extra car parking at Falkirk High Station is identified as a Public Transport Action.
- 1.2 A site, located on an area of open ground on the north side of Slamannan Road between the Union Canal and the housing development at McKell Court, was acquired by Falkirk Council during financial year 2006/07 with funding from the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN).
- 1.3 A scheme involving the design and construction of all necessary works to stabilise abandoned coal mining workings at the site, has been prepared. These works are in advance of future car park construction to provide 56 additional car parking spaces to serve Falkirk High Station.
- 1.4 Falkirk Council has secured a total of £0.605M of additional grant funding, for this current financial year, from SESTRAN in respect of this rail station access project. Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation can be funded entirely from this additional funding source.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 Although four companies were originally issued with design and build tender documentation only one company returned an offer by the due date of 28 September 2007, which was opened in accordance with Standing Order 11 relating to contracts. This tender had significant qualifications and was considered to be non-compliant in respect of Contract Standing Orders. On the basis that the company was not prepared to withdraw their qualifications, this offer was rejected.

- 2.2 A re-tendering exercise was considered appropriate and, subsequently, three design and build tenders were received by the due date of 16 November 2007 and opened in accordance with Standing Order 11 relating to contracts.
- 2.3 Two of the tenders submitted had significant qualifications and were considered to be non-compliant in respect of Contract Standing Orders. On the basis that these companies were not prepared to withdraw their qualifications, their offers were rejected.
- 2.4 The remaining checked tendered price was £590,147.50
- 2.5 The works involved are specialist and difficult to quantify, with a high degree of risk. Prior to going to tender, an estimate of £250,000 was considered appropriate following consultation with a ground engineering specialist.
- 2.6 The lowest checked compliant tender was received from Forkers Ltd, Golds Greene, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0TX for the sum of £590,147.50. Forkers Ltd are an experienced contractor in this type of work and, following consultation with SESTRAN, it is considered best value to accept this tender.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The scheme can be funded from the £0.605M of additional grant funding secured from SESTRAN for the delivery of the rail station access project. Consultation with SESTRAN has confirmed that this funding must be expended by 31 March 2008 and that the design and build offer tendered by Forkers Ltd should be accepted. SESTRAN 08/09 capital allocation for this scheme was to be £0.350M. This sum is now part of the block allocation to Falkirk Council 08/09, outlined in the draft Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007 table 10.2 Finance and Sustainable Growth – Regional Transport Partnership Capital Grant, and can be used for any overrun of the contract into 08/09.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Council approve acceptance of the tender submitted by Forkers Ltd, Golds Green House, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0TX for the sum of £590,147.50 in respect of Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation works.**

.....
Director of Development Services
Date: 29th November 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. *Tender documents.
2. *Engineer's report on tenders.

* Items not for publication on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE DENNIS CANAVAN SCHOLARSHIP
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To mark the commitment to public service given over the years by Dennis Canavan, former Councillor, MP and MSP, a cross-Party Member/Officer working group was established to consider recognising Mr Canavan in the Falkirk Council area.
- 1.2 Dennis Canavan had a 33 year political career, commencing with a brief period in early 1974 as a Councillor with Stirling District Council, then becoming MP for West Stirlingshire from October 1974 and subsequently for Falkirk West from 1983 until 2000. Mr Canavan stood for the first elections to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 and won with the highest majority of any MSP in the 1999 elections. He subsequently resigned his Westminster seat in 2000 and retained his Scottish Parliament seat in 2003, finally retiring in 2007.
- 1.3 A number of significant events feature amongst Dennis Canavan's achievements throughout this period, reflecting his commitment and dedication to the Falkirk Council area and its citizens, both young and old. Mr Canavan played a leading part in the NHS campaign to maintain and improve services at Falkirk Royal Infirmary, including the Intensive Care Unit and Dermatology Treatment Centre which have officially opened and working tirelessly to ensure an adequate number of NHS beds for the elderly. Dennis Canavan was a key player in the successful campaign for the Millennium Link to re-unite the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, a project which created approximately 5,000 jobs in the area as well as improving the local environment and leisure amenities. In addition, Mr Canavan worked hard to address local employment crises following the closure of the Wrangler factory and redundancies at BP.
- 1.4 Dennis Canavan was committed to supporting young people. This dedication to assisting young people in all levels of education continued with his move to Holyrood, where he worked hard to see lifelong learning become a reality and to ensure an increase in pre-school places, smaller classes at primary and secondary schools and more opportunities for adult learning. This aspect of Mr Canavan's commitment to young people and improving the opportunities for learning at all ages provided a starting point for the Member/Officer Working Group's discussions.
- 1.5 The Working Group having met twice and consultation having taken place with Mr Canavan to discuss a number of options, the Group is now in a position to share its proposals with Council and proceed as appropriate.

1.6 The purpose of this report is to outline the terms of the Working Group's proposals and to seek Members' approval thereon.

2. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

2.1 A meeting of the Working Group was held in June 2007 at which preliminary proposals were discussed, including the the suggestion of a scholarship or student sponsorship at secondary school or college.

2.2 Having considered a number of options, consultation then took place with Mr Canavan, an exercise which showed him to be in favour of a scholarship being established in his name. The relevant Officers pursued this option in general terms, investigating the financial and legal aspects. Mr Canavan has since given his support for the project, thereby enabling the Group to consider the proposals in further detail.

2.3 The Working Group's proposals are summarised as undernoted:-

(1) An annual award to be given to a pupil whose main place of residence is in the Falkirk Council area or who attends school in the area, for the purpose of pursuing a full-time course in further or higher education;

(2) The award to be given to the pupil who, in the opinion of an agreed panel of judges, has given the most outstanding service to others, eg through voluntary work, charity sponsorship, sports coaching, caring for others, contributing to international development etc;

(3) The panel of judges to be chaired by the Provost of Falkirk Council and to comprise the Chief Executive and Director of Education Services, the Editor or representative of the Falkirk Herald and Mr Canavan or a nominee of the Canavan family;

(4) The award to be £500 per annum, subject to review depending on the income from investment; and

(5) The award to be named The Dennis Canavan Scholarship.

2.4 Further discussion is required to determine the most appropriate means of publicising the award in such a way that all local youngsters meeting the criteria outlined in (1) and (2) above are included. It is intended that schools, churches and youth organisations etc will be invited to submit nominations for this award, although it should be noted that, while their main place of residence may be in the Falkirk Council area, not all young people attend local schools, nor do they necessarily attend local churches or youth organisations. It is suggested, therefore, that a sufficient level of publicity be given to the award and its eligibility criteria and a mechanism be established whereby individual nominations will be invited, thus including youngsters meeting the identified criteria but not affiliated to a particular local organisation.

2.5 In addition, the Working Group proposes that the launch of the Scholarship be marked with a civic event, such as a lunch in Callendar House, to which Mr Canavan and his

guests would be invited, together with an appropriate guest list drawn up in consultation with the Provost and Mr Canavan.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Finance recommends that a sum of £10,000 be invested initially in a high interest account which would stand to yield c£500 per annum in interest. On the recommendation of the Director of Finance, it is proposed that the funding will be met from the Miscellaneous Services budget. The initial investment would be a one-off payment and work is ongoing to determine the best investment option, whether internal or external to the Council.
- 3.2 In addition, the Director of Finance is investigating the pros and cons of registering the Scholarship Fund as a charity. If this is the preferred option, the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services will oversee the drawing up of an appropriate Trust deed, specifying Trustees, for this purpose.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are requested to:-

- (1) approve in principle the proposals drafted by the Member/Officer Working Group to recognise publicly the service given by former MP and MSP, Dennis Canavan, in the Falkirk Council area;**
- (2) approve the financial and legal aspects of the proposals, as outlined within the body of the report; and**
- (3) delegate authority to relevant Officers to proceed with establishing The Dennis Canavan Scholarship Fund, applying financial and legal procedures as required.**

.....
Chief Executive

Date: 27 November 2007

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager (tel 01324 506111)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: EXECUTION OF DEEDS
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Deeds shown in the Appendix to this Report have been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Council notes the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds listed in the Appendix.

.....
Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 19 November 2007

Contact Officer: Iain Tough (Tel: 01324 506110)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX**ACCESS AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and**

T Donnelly
J B Rankine

12 Hillock Avenue, Redding
South Green Drive, Airth

ASSIGNATION of LEASE by:-

S Begum

20 Wholequarter Avenue, Redding

ACQUISITION OF LAND by FALKIRK COUNCIL:-

A9 Laurieston by-pass – Icehouse Brae

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER:-

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
and the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure)
(Scotland) Act 1947

77 King Street, Stenhousemuir

DEED OF POSTPONEMENT by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

Abbey National plc

8 Braeview, Laurieston, Falkirk

DEED OF SERVITUDE by:-

Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd and Falkirk
Council in favour of Scotland Gas Networks plc

Livingstone Terrace, Overton

DEED OF SERVITUDE by FALKIRK COUNCIL:-

Scottish Water

Plot at Grangemouth Golf Course,
Polmonthill

DISCHARGE by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

Thomas Harley Myles
G A Crook
C M M Munro
C Shackleton
B McDiarmid and J E Madden
M Montgomery
Gordon Kidd
Eileen McArthur
C Bell and C McPherson

3 College Crescent, Falkirk
27 Clyde Street, Grangemouth
4 Don Street, Grangemouth
39 Bruce Drive, Stenhousemuir
31 Orchard Street, Grangemouth
7 Staffa Place, Hallglen
56 Graham Crescent, Bo'ness
195 Stirling Street, Denny
21 Kerse Gardens, Falkirk

DISCHARGE of INHIBITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

S Elahi

Letters of Inhibition

**DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL
and MRS J M H McBETH or
McCORMACK and MRS E S
KEATING** in favour of Abbotshall
Homes Ltd

Site at Deanfield Road, Bo'ness

DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-

T Mortimer and L W Mortimer

78 Bankhead Crescent,
Dennyloanhead

C Waugh and I Waugh

10 Balcastle Road, Slamannan

A Kirkland

30 Balcastle Road, Slamannan

M A M M Gardiner

2 California Road, Maddiston

W K Forsythe

33 Bute Street, Falkirk

G Lindsay

13A Milton Row, Dunipace

D H Argent and J Argent

9 Forthview Crescent, Bo'ness

O J Beattie and K L Beattie

36 Deanfield Road, Bo'ness

A Roy and M H Roy

76 Webster Avenue, Carronshore

M H Miller

9 Ochil Drive, Stenhousemuir

J A Mitchell and K Mitchell

21 Letham Cottages, Letham

R D Glynne-Owen and R E Glynne-
Owen

40 Main Street, Shieldhill

S Hannah

18 Hayfield Terrace,
Dennyloanhead

I Millar

14 Livingstone Drive, Bo'ness

J T Penman and H Penman

37 Letham Cottages, Letham

A Laurie and C Boreman

24 Letham Terrace, Letham

C R Glennon

3 Merchiston Gardens, Falkirk

R Govan and H Govan

15 Letham Terrace, Letham

J Cleland

2 Highland Dykes Crescent,
Bonnybridge

R Paterson

10 Westquarter Avenue,
Westquarter

K K Clelland

26 Muirepark Court, Bo'ness

J McIlreavy and R McIlreavy

12 Carronview, Stenhousemuir

W Norris and A Norris

22 Bulloch Crescent, Denny

H Mackie

17 Quarrollhall Crescent,
Carronshore

M J A Ferrier

62 Grangeburn Road, Grangemouth

D Kane and Rosina Kane

28 Mudale Court, Hallglen, Falkirk

W F Jack

34 Allan Crescent, Dunipace

A F Sherry and K Sherry

7 Coneypark Crescent, Banknock

C Mill and G Mill

67 Annan Court, Falkirk

D Liddle and W Liddle

12 Sunart Place, Grangemouth

M R Sharpe and S Sharpe

55 Sawers Avenue, Denny

J Nelson and M Scott

3 Bruce Drive, Stenhousemuir

K W McLachlan and J P F P M
McLachlan

39 Kelvin Street, Grangemouth

C R Nixon and M R Nixon	12 Edward Place, Skinflats
E King or McLachlan	6 South Green Drive, Airth
S Imran	32 Coneypark Crescent, Banknock
W Sneddon	83 Eastburn Tower, Falkirk
A J N Munro and G Munro	128 McLachlan Street, Stenhousemuir
B R Main	135 Eastburn Tower, Falkirk
C Wylie	43 Annan Court, Falkirk
A J McLagan and C M McLagan	60 Ladeside Crescent, Stenhousemuir
E F Gallagher and M Gallagher	59 Park Avenue, Laurieston
L Kerr and J Mitchell	26 Zetland Drive, Laurieston
M J Robertson	7 Mather Terrace, Laurieston
T Eddie	53 Gairdoch Drive, Carronshore
S M Cordiner	8 Little Carriden, Bo'ness
M Mallice and A M Kerrigan	8 Finistere Avenue, Falkirk
J Douglas & J M Douglas	16 Queen's Drive, Larbert
C A Johnstone	63 Braemar Drive, Falkirk
J Hamilton & Hamilton	13 Hollandbush Crescent, Banknock
M B O Blackley	26 Craigleith Road, Grangemouth
M Deans	18 Drum Road, Bo'ness
L Smith and W J Letham	19 Carronside Street, Falkirk
M C C Robertson	1 Parkhall Drive, Maddiston
J W Fairlie	40 Windsor Road, Falkirk
BMR Developments Ltd	37 Stewart Avenue, Bo'ness
J Wilson	94 Garry Place, Grangemouth
B Murray and M C Murray	25 Bulloch Crescent, Denny
A M Anderson and G Sutherland	26 Portal Road, Grangemouth
M B McPherson	54 Randyford Street, Falkirk
CM Harley and J H Harley	88 Main Street, Bainsford
JM McGrane and E McGrane	26 St Catherine Main Road, Maddiston
A N Amos and A J Amos	27 Carnegie Drive, Falkirk
J Kane	29 Bankier Terrace, Banknock
D Scott and J A Jones	23 Temple Denny Road, Denny
J A Cooper, M M Cooper and Barnett	Ground to the south of Seabegs Road, Bonnybridge
Waddingham Trustees Scotland Limited	
Corbiehall Development Limited	191/199 Corbiehall, Bo'ness
V McGregor and J M Queen	57 Randolph Crescent, Brightons
Medical Centres Scotland Ltd	0.314ha at Thornhill Road, Falkirk
R S Richards and A Richards	Area of ground lying adjacent to 29 Thornton Avenue, Bonnybridge
R H Hall and S Hall	35 Haig Street, Grangemouth
J Gallagher and R A McNamee	73 Montgomery Street, Falkirk
W Easton and J Easton	93 Mariner Road, Falkirk
C W Robertson	9 Balmoral Place, Stenhousemuir
E B McGroarty	114 Glasgow Road, Falkirk
D Gall	31 Cross Street, Bainsford, Falkirk
M Ward	50 Westquarter Avenue, Westquarter
AM W Patrick	11 Braes View, Denny
V M Hoehle	9 Castle Crescent, Denny
S W Duffy and A V Duffy	13 Hamilton Road, Grangemouth
R W Haslam and H A Haslam	29 Tweed Street, Grangemouth

M J Lennon and L McColl	10 Holyrood Place, Stenhousemuir
P A Limond	8 Randolph Gardens, Denny
C A Matheson	70m ² adjacent to Old Redding Road, Laurieston
E Wilson	123 Grangepans, Bo'ness
S E M McLaren and I McLaren	25 Elmbank Street, Grangemouth
Margaret McCabe	47 Milton Row, Dunipace
E Shanks	34 Elmbank Crescent, Dennyloanhead
H S Brown	18 Anderson Drive, Denny
B Crawford and D Letham	16 Letham Terrace, Letham
M Chalmers	13 Drove Loan Crescent, Dennyloanhead
J G Smith	5 Wallace Crescent, Denny
P Johnson and I Johnson	111 Johnston Avenue, Stenhousemuir
I S McLean and J A Mclean	2 St.Giles Way, Falkirk
J C Cherry and D M Cherry	28 Anderson Crescent, Shieldhill, Falkirk
P C Millar	13 Castle Terrace, Denny
M H McCaffrey and S McCaffery	14 Richmond Terrace, Bo'ness
F Collier	35 Barnego Road, Dunipace
F R Black	66 Randyford Street, Falkirk
J C Waddell and J A Waddell	23 Bantaskine Drive, Falkirk
S D Robertson and P M Hunter	12 Balcastle Road, Slamannan
A J Wilson	29 High Street, Airth
C J Mills and B L Smith	145 Randyford Street, Falkirk
J McNeil	50 Anderson Drive, Denny
S E Brown	6 St Johh's Avenue, Falkirk
J Dempsey and J A Dempsey	5 Waddell Street, Carronshore
M C MacKay	18 Allan Crescent, Dunipace
J MacMaster	8 Burnside Terrace, Redding
F Skinner and G Skinner	29 Union Road, Grangemouth
N McMillan and M E McMillan	38 Gowanlea Drive, Slamannan
J I McCulloch	12 Tay Street, Grangemouth
A M McGowan	4 Coronation Place, Skinflats

EXCAMBION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

C Traynor	120 Carronshore Road, Carron
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EXCAMBION between FALKIRK COUNCIL

H P Chicanot	Plots of Land at Netherton Farm, Maddiston for A801 realignment
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FORM OF DIRECTION

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992
The Falkirk Council (Restriction of Permitted Development) Direction (Airth Conservation Area) 2007

LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

Systechnica Limited	5 Powdrake Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth
Lorna Waterhouse	66 Union Road, Camelon, Falkirk
Brian John Strang and Barbara Baird Strang	13 Castle Place, Bankside Industrial Estate, Falkirk
Fiona Spacey	26 Hillcrest, Bo'ness
Lloyds Chemist Ltd	79 Mary Street, Laurieston
James John Kane and Ann Lillian Staves	126 Cumbrae Drive, Tamfourhill
Firstform (161 Ltd	101 North Street, Bo'ness

LICENCE TO OCCUPY by MACDONALD ESTATES (STENHOUSEMUIR) LIMITED in favour of Falkirk Council –**MINUTE of AGREEMENT among:-**

Falkirk Council, Walker Group (Scotland) Limited, Persimmon Homes (East Scotland) Limited and National House Building Council	Mungal Farm 1E, Falkirk
Falkirk Council, Walker Group (Scotland) Limited, Persimmon Homes (East Scotland) Limited and National House Building Council	Mungal Farm, Ronades Road, Falkirk - Retention for Road Calming Measures
Falkirk Council, Barratt West Scotland and National House Building Council	Parkhall Farm, Maddiston
Falkirk Council, JB Bennett (Contracts) Ltd and Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Former Library Site, Bridge Street, Bonnybridge
Falkirk Council, Falkirk Schools Gateway Ltd, Ogilvie Construction Ltd, A & L King (Builders) Ltd, FES Ltd, Ogilvie Group Ltd, Forth Holdings Ltd, The King Group Ltd and Stewart Milne Group Ltd	Falkirk Schools NPDO Project – Council Construction Direct Agreement

MINUTE of AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

C Russel, t/a Spectacle World J Fairlie, C Raine and J Harvey	9 York Arcade, Grangemouth Situated at Old Harbour, Old Town, Grangemouth
Dundas Estates & Development Co. Limited and Redrow Homes (Scotland) Limited	Site at Etna Road, Falkirk – planning application reference 06/1016/FUL
Falkirk Full Gospel Assembly, per Reverend Comfort Harry Carole Ann Matheson	Dalderse Avenue/Etna Road, Falkirk
	Site Adjacent to 80 Old Redding Road, Laurieston

Kyle Construction Services Limited	Proposed Flats South of 119 Cumbrae Drive, Carrick Place, Falkirk
Morven Construction Limited	Proposed Flats East of Falkirk Road, Larbert
D S Dhillon and S K Dhillon	75 Dower House, Grangepans, Bo'ness
D S Dhillon and S K Dhillon	55 Charlotte Dundas Court, Grangemouth
K Hawkins and R Sniegon	5 Dalderse Avenue, Falkirk
MCA Homes Limited	Cow Wynd, Falkirk
D Duncan, W Easton, R Stoddart and A Kemp, Grahamston Bowling Club	0.22ha of ground adjacent to Middlemass Court and Graham's Road, Falkirk

MINUTE OF RENUNCIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:

J W Bennie and R B Stirling or Bennie	Dundas Street, Grangemouth
J P McDougall and Company Limited	4 Castle Place, Bankside Industrial Estate, Falkirk
R W Burns and A Johnston t/a William Burns and Sons	101 North Street, Bo'ness

MINUTE of VARIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-

Thomas Cook Retail Ltd	Block 4 Central Business Park, Larbert
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RANKING AGREEMENT between and among:-

Halifax plc, Falkirk Council and A J Gray and C Gray	48 Windsor Crescent, Maddiston
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, and R Catleugh, G M Doyle, A J A McIntyre	Plot 3, Block 1, Bo'mains Industrial Estate, Bo'ness

ROADS ORDERS

The Falkirk Council Halls of Airth Road/A876 (T) and Pine and Oak Slip Road/A876 (T), Airth
(Temporary Prohibition of right turn) Order 2007
Falkirk Council Webster Avenue, Carronshore Temporary Prohibition of Traffic
Falkirk Council, Queen Street, Grangemouth
The Falkirk Council, Arnot Street, Falkirk, (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2007
Falkirk Council, Banton Place, Greenhill (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic)
Falkirk Council, Banton Place, Greenhill, (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic)
Falkirk Council, (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 425) Order 2007
Falkirk Council, (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 421) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 422) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No 423) Order 2007
Falkirk Council - Tryst Road, Stenhousemuir (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) (Extension)
Order 2007 Continuation

Falkirk Council - Moss Road by Airth (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2007
Falkirk Council - Bonnyside Road, Bonnybridge (Temporary Parking Restrictions) Order 2007
Falkirk Council – (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 416) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No.402) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 424) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 426) Order 2007
Falkirk Council Bridge Crescent (Part), Denny, Temporary Prohibition of Traffic
Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disable Persons) (No 431) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disable Persons) (No 430) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disable Persons) (No 429) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disable Persons) (No 427) Order 2007
Falkirk Council (On-Street Parking Space for Disabled Persons) (No. 432) Order 2007
Falkirk Council A905 Stirling-Edinburgh (Halls of Airth Road Junction) (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic and Temporary Prohibition of Right Turn) Order 2007

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

Bog Road & Thornbridge Road, Falkirk
Drum Road, Letham By Falkirk
Broomhill Road (Part) Bonnybridge
Abbots Road, Bankside, Falkirk