

**MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2008 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, CR 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 Education Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Acting Transport Planning Manager (J Cole), Development Planning Co-ordinator (A Shaw); Planning and Environment Manager (A Rodger) and Democratic Services Manager.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

In terms of Standing Order 14.2, and paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Provost Reid; Councillors Alexander, Jackson, C Martin, C R Martin and Meiklejohn, Nimmo and Patrick each declared a non-financial interest in relation to the item of business (ref FC8 – Falkirk Community Stadium) on the basis of their regular attendance at matches involving Falkirk Football Club and further declared that, in terms of Paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the said Code of Conduct, they had concluded that no member of the public acting reasonably would consider that they might be influenced by their respective interests in their roles as Councillors. Each Member, therefore, participated in the discussion and decision.

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Mahoney declared a non-financial interest in Agenda item (ref FC11 – Falkirk Council Local Plan) due to his membership of the Management Committee of Friends of Kinneil and further declared 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 Mahoney therefore participated in the discussion and decision.

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Buchanan declared a non-financial interest in Agenda item (ref FC11 – Falkirk Council Local Plan) due to his appointment by the Council to the Scottish Railway Preservation Society and further declared 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 Buchanan therefore participated in the discussion and decision. Councillor Buchanan also recorded contact with representatives of an objector to the Local Plan (Representation 0041/65) on a separate matter but noted that he did not consider that it gave rise to a declarable interest.

## OPENING REMARKS

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, Provost Reid congratulated all those involved in receiving the following awards:-

- Falkirk Herald, Scottish Weekly Newspaper of the Year
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service – Spirit of Fire Award for fund raising activities
- Larbert and Stenhousemuir Children and Families Unit – Shortlisted for Best Scottish Social Service Team in Scotland - Care Accolades
- Building Maintenance, finalist in the Municipal Journal Awards
- Legal Services, winner of the Local Government Chronicle National Legal Team of the Year award

## FC2. URGENT ITEM – INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: RESIGNATION

Provost Reid advised that, in terms of Standing Order 9.1, he had **AGREED** to accept an urgent item relating to membership of the Investment Committee having regard to the special circumstances, viz, the recent notification of the resignation and the requirement to fill the vacancy. This item would be considered at an appropriate time during the meeting.

## FC3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 15.2 (i), Provost Reid advised of variations to the order of business from that detailed on the agenda for the meeting. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

## FC4. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 5 March 2008;
- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 17 March 2008;
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 23 April 2008, subject to the insertion of a comma between the words “metal” and “refinery” in item (c);
- (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes – Volume 1 2008/2009 ; and
- (e) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 1 2008/2009.

## **FC5. QUESTIONS**

### **Question 1 by Councillor A MacDonald**

#### **Under Item ED15 Page 373 and ED17 Page 374**

What progress has been made with regard to providing information for tourists and visitors to Falkirk District in Falkirk Town Centre following the closure of the Tourist Information Centre?

#### **Response by Provost Reid**

The interior of the Steeple has been comprehensively refurbished and refitted as a combined box office and local tourist information point. It reopened for business at the beginning of April 2008. There are new graphics on display showing visitor attractions etc, new racking with visitor leaflets and a free-phone telephone link for visitors to use to contact the Tourist Information Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.

Also, as part of the refitting, provision has been made for a touch screen tourist information system to be installed in the steeple, and software is being developed tailored to the Falkirk area so visitors can browse attractions, events, accommodation etc on screen. It is hoped that this will be completed and installed within the next 3 / 4 weeks.

### **Question 2 by Councillor Alexander**

#### **Under Item CH24, Page 424**

During debate within the item named Councillor Georgie Thomson raised the issue of the pilot police initiative that has agreement locally to restrict the sale of alcohol in the Stenhousemuir area to over 25s only at weekends in an attempt to deal with the growing menace of drink fuelled anti social behaviour.

A number of Administration Councillors voiced their disapproval of any restriction on the age limit of off sales purchase at the meeting although the Depute Convenor of the Central Scotland Joint Police Board, Councillor Blackwood did not make comment either way.

I subsequently wrote to Councillor Blackwood seeking clarification of his position on the matter as a representative of Falkirk Council on the Police Board and, indeed, holding the senior position of depute convener of the Police Board as Falkirk Council's nomination to this post.

I received a reply which intimated that Councillor Blackwood believed he was not answerable to me or any member of the opposition and refused to indicate whether he still supported the Labour/Tory line or that of Central Scotland Police thus leading to confusion and muddle.

Can you confirm whether or not you believe that an important part of any representative democracy is the ability on an opposition to hold an administration to account on

decisions taken or statements made by those elevated by the Administration to positions of authority.

### **Response by Provost Reid**

This question does not relate to a matter of fact on this agenda. Instead, it requests my opinion on a matter. As such, it is contrary to the terms of Standing Order 29.1(i). Notwithstanding this point, I would confirm that I believe that this is one of the roles of the opposition.

### **Question 3 by Councillor Meiklejohn**

#### **FC62 page 389 – and FC74 page 399 – Review of Service and Committee Structures Working Group**

How many meetings of the working group have taken place, what progress has been made and when can we expect a report back?

### **Response by Provost Reid**

The Working Group has met twice. The dates of the meetings were 4 April 2008 and 24 April 2008. As noted in the report to Policy and Resources Committee in January 2008, the Chief Executive is planning to report back to Council at its meeting on 25 June 2008. I am not a member of the Working Group although I understand it is making reasonable progress. It has asked officers to take forward specific areas of work for consideration at the next meeting. The date for the next meeting has still to be confirmed.

### **Question 4 by Councillor Carleschi**

Volume of Council and Committee Minutes – Volume 1 2008/2009  
Page 374 ED16

I have been contacted by several retailers in Stenhousemuir Town Centre concerned by the drop in footfall due to the ongoing town centre works. A sign has been constructed to point shoppers to businesses in the new part of the town centre which has been welcomed but I suggested at committee that one be displayed to let shoppers know that the businesses in the old part of the town centre are still open for business. This was to be looked into with other measures to help these businesses who are currently struggling to survive. I would like to know what progress has been made on this and to help them.

### **Response by Provost Reid**

We are aware that several retailers are finding trading difficult during the present redevelopment activity currently ongoing including the new public realm finishes to paved areas, demolition of the King Street blocks and closure of the Plough Hotel car park. The following strategies are being delivered:

- All retailers have been kept fully updated as to all aspects of redevelopment phasing through regular newsletters, personal letters and public exhibition of ongoing work.

- A business group has been established by my team to address retailer concerns, chaired by local retailer representative Bobby Towers. A meeting was recently held however this and other promotional events are poorly attended by businesses.
- The team in conjunction with TCM Ltd has been carrying out recent radio campaigns promoting the town centre as open for business complimented with newspaper articles and promotional events such as the One Day Wonder event which took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, all delivered to encourage footfall into the town centre during this specific time of disturbance.
- Implementation in November 2007 with the Director of Finance, at the start of construction activity, of a specific simplified Non Domestic Rates Hardship Relief Scheme to assist with rates relief for businesses affected by redevelopment works within a defined area, including the traditional shops. To date three applications have been received and the team have assisted retailers with the application process and continue to offer assistance. The scheme is regularly promoted in the business newsletters.
- Currently plans are in place to update the existing regeneration **signage** boards at the gateway entrance to the town centre with work instructed. These will include **“All shops open for business”** tags – these considered to be the best locations for informing the public. In addition additional similar tag signage is proposed for the building site hoardings along the B905.
- Current activity within the centre is undoubtedly affecting footfall as presently the town centre has various demolition and construction works ongoing making the centre unattractive for shoppers. Once these key phases of works are concluded and Asda opened, we are confident that businesses will benefit from shoppers and visitors to the new centre and community facilities. In addition approval has now been given for construction of the new Health Centre which undoubtedly will attract additional footfall to the traditional end of the town centre. When a programme is confirmed this will be fully communicated to the community and traders.

In the meantime can we reiterate that businesses approach either the Team, TCM Ltd or Bobby Towers with any concerns and we will endeavour to ensure disturbance or concerns are minimised where possible.

#### **FC6. REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 15 APRIL 2008 – SMARTER CHOICES, SMARTER PLACES**

There was submitted (circulated) (a) report by the Director of Development Services; (b) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 15 April 2008, and (c) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 15 April 2008. The covering report provided information additional to that which had been discussed at the Environment and Heritage Committee meeting relating to the funding bid.

**AGREED** to authorise the Director of Development Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to submit a Stage 1 bid for the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area to the Scottish Government for the Smarter, Choices, Smarter Places project.

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.30 am and re-convened at 11.40am with all Members present as per the sederunt.

#### **FC7. TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY: BO'NESS INITIATIVE**

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

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 March 2008 (Paragraph PR117 refers) there was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 March 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Community Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 March 2008.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Lemetti moved that Council **AGREES:-**

- (1) to the Council entering into a development agreement with ING RED UK (Bo'ness) Ltd with ING RE BV as guarantor and subject to financial assessment for the Bo'ness Foreshore and Harbour regeneration scheme as outlined in Section 5 of the Report;
- (2) to the phased development of the harbour restoration works as outlined in Sections 6 and 7 of the Report, and
- (3) that Council welcomes the commitment made yesterday 29 April 2008 by the ING Board, on the basis that Council further commits to undertake early dialogue with the local community in Bo'ness to consult on the proposals in respect of blocks 14/15 & 16 and the development of the harbour restoration plan.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor H Constable moved that no final decision be taken on this matter until the Bo'ness public has been fully consulted on the proposals.

Following a short adjournment to consider the terms of the Motion and Amendment and with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Lemetti as seconder in accordance with Standing Order 19.7, Councillor Martin altered the text of his Motion. The amended Motion was duly **AGREED** by Council namely:-

**AGREED**, in principle, and subject to paragraph 3 below:-

- (1) to the Council entering into a development agreement with ING RED UK (Bo'ness) Ltd with ING RE BV as guarantor and subject to financial assessment for the Bo'ness Foreshore and Harbour regeneration scheme as outlined in Section 5 of the Report;
- (2) to the phased development of the harbour restoration works as outlined in Sections 6 and 7 of the Report, and

- (3) that Council welcomes the commitment made yesterday 29 April 2008 by the ING Board, on the basis that Council further commits to undertake early dialogue with the local community in Bo'ness to consult on the proposals in the respect of blocks 14/15 & 16 and the development of the harbour restoration plan.

#### **FC8. FALKIRK COMMUNITY STADIUM LTD – SHAREHOLDER UPDATE**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 April 2008 by the Director of Community Services providing an update on progress with regard to Falkirk Community Stadium Limited (FCSL) and advising that FCSL intend to change their preferred developer from Terrace Hill (Falkirk) Limited to Henry Boot Developments Limited.

##### **AGREED:-**

- (1) to approve the changes to the preferred developer from Terrace Hill (Falkirk) Limited to Henry Boot Developments Limited;
- (2) to note the progress made in the development of the south stand;
- (3) to note that further proposals on the FCSL business plan will be forthcoming, and
- (4) to press FCSL for information on the developers' proposals and to bring a report thereon to the June meeting of Council and further agrees to monitor progress by regular briefings to members.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was **AGREED** to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit, following a short adjournment for lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1.15 pm and reconvened at 2.00 pm with all Members present as per the sederunt.

#### **FC9. INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: RESIGNATION**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 30 April 2008 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising of the resignation of Councillor Fry from the Council's Investment Committee.

##### **AGREED:-**

- (1) to note the resignation of Councillor Fry from the Council's Investment Committee;
- (2) to appoint Depute Provost Black to the vacant position; and
- (3) to appoint Councillor C Martin to the vacant position of Depute Convener of the Investment Committee.

# **FC10. REFERRALS FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2008 – EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by the Director of Education Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved that Council:-

- (1) note the proposals as set out in Section 5 of the report, and
- (2) agree that further consultation take place in terms of the appropriate Regulations in respect of the proposals for all Nursery School provision detailed in the report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Thomson moved that: Council agrees there has not been proper consultation on all issues pertaining to the Administration's nursery school closure programme and agrees to halt this meantime until the following additional consultation has been carried out:-

- (1) At least 2 public meetings within the affected nursery schools. One during the day to suit young parents and one in the evening.
- (2) These public meetings to be widely advertised and invitations issued to all local community groups and local members.
- (3) The meetings to be attended by the Convener of the Education and Leisure Committee.
- (4) Proposals for the longer term use of the buildings vacated by the nurseries to be intimated to the community and form part of the consultation exercise.

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

For the Motion (18) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost A 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, MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

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



**FC11. REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 9  
APRIL 2008  
FALKIRK COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS AND  
PROPOSED RESPONSES**

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Minute of Special Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 9 April 2008, and (b) Report by the Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 9 April 2008.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor Nicol moved the recommendations agreed at the Special Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 9 April 2008 including the following additional changes:-

**(a) California Park, California**

Motion

To reject representation no. 102/179 (Ogilvie Homes) to delete H.CAL4 as a new housing allocation, and to retain H.CAL5 as a preferred site for housing growth in the village.

Changes to Council Responses (Appendix 1)

Representation No. 102/197

Amend Response to: Objection not accepted

Amend Reason to:

This site is proposed for removal from the Local Plan, since its development would have a detrimental effect on the residential amenity of residents of California Park by virtue of increased traffic movements on a sub standard road network.

Rep No. 006/012

Amend Reason to:

Church Road does not meet current standards for a residential access road, and further development beyond that which is already allocated would have a detrimental effect on residential amenity and road safety. Additional development in California would also cause concerns about capacity in the local primary school.

Rep No. 013/035

Amend Reason to:

Support welcomed

Changes to Proposed Pre-inquiry Modifications (Appendix 2)

Delete Modifications 16.1 & 16.2

Additional Modification

Proposal H CAL4 Church Road 2, California

- Delete Proposal H. CAL4.
- Amend California Village Limit as shown on accompanying map
- Paragraph 5.1 (page 229), delete paragraph and replace with “*current commitments comprise the large site at Church Road, which is under construction, and a smaller site a Cockmalane. A further small site to the east of Church Road has been allocated for future growth*”
- Make consequential changes to housing figures in paragraph 6.2 of Rural Area general Chapter (page 202) and Table 4.1

Reason: In response to representations by Ogilvie Homes, Mr Young, Mr Robertson and Hamilton & Kinneil Estates the approach to the expansion of California has been reassessed in order to avoid detrimental effects on residential amenity and road safety in California Park.

Changes to Environmental Report

Make consequential changes to Environmental Report.

**(b) Dennyloanhead**

Motion

To accept Representation No 103/197 (MacTaggart & Mickel) and expand the site to the west to allow an additionally access point to be formed, and additionally, bring forward the site for immediate, rather than long term development.

Changes to Council Responses (Appendix 1)

Amend Response to: Objection accepted

Amend Reason to:

It is accepted that the proposed extension of site H.B&B21 is desirable to allow a further satisfactory access to be secured. The phasing should be brought forward, to allow continuity of the housing land supply in the area.

Changes to Proposed Pre-inquiry Modifications (Appendix 2)

Amend Modification 8.7

Opportunity H.B&B21 – Longcroft/Dennyloanhead

- Amend Opportunity H.B&B21 from Long Term Development Opportunity to New Allocation
- Amend boundary of H.B&B21 as shown in Map 4 of “Proposed Pre-Inquiry Modifications”. Incorporate H.B&B2 into H.B&B21 and delete as a separate site
- Amend text as follows:
 

“H.B&B21	Longcroft/Dennyloanhead
Site Area	29 hectares
Capacity	500 units
Developer	Private
Status	New Allocation

Comments: Development brief and masterplan required. Design will have to address access issues and the visual impact of the development on rising ground. There may also be a history of poor ground stability and land contamination. Provision will have to be made for social and physical infrastructure. A contribution will be required towards the Denny Eastern Access Road”.

- Amend Dennyloanhead Urban Limit to include Opportunity H.B&B21
- Paragraph 4.1 (page 98). In 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point, delete the word “limited”. Delete 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point
- Paragraph 6.3 (page 101). Delete first three sentences and replace with: “The substantial supply of land for housing in the Bonnybridge/Dennyloanhead/Longcroft area means that there is no quantitative need to allocate new sites in the period up to 2015. However, the building rates through the early years of the Structure Plan period have been faster than expected and there is considered to be a need to allocate additional sites to maintain a continuity of housing land supply throughout the Local Plan period to 2015. One large new allocation has been made at Dennyloanhead with three further smaller sites between Haggs and Longcroft to provide an additional element of flexibility and to permit the logical rounding off of the urban settlement limits”.
- Paragraph 6.4 (page 101). Delete paragraph
- Make consequential changes to housing figures in paragraph 6.2 and table 4.1

Reason: In response to an objection by MacTaggart and Mickel, the change to the site boundary and capacity will allow improved access to the site. Bringing forward the site will also enable the continuity of housing land supply in the area to be maintained.

#### Changes to Environmental Report

Make consequential changes to Environmental Report

### **(c) Glasgow Road, Camelon**

#### Motion

To partially accept Representation No 156/298 (Tesco Stores Limited) and to allow a foodstore as part of any wider development mix in the Glasgow Road Camelon business and industry retention area, with no stated restriction on floorspace.

#### Changes to Council Responses (Appendix 1)

Amend Response to: Objection partially accepted

Amend Reason to:

It is accepted that the inclusion of a retail element can be justified in terms of facilitating the wider regeneration of the Glasgow Road industrial area, and replacing the employment which has been lost in the area.

#### Changes to Proposed Pre-inquiry Modifications (Appendix 2)

Amend Modification 10.6 as to read as follows:

Policy EP2 Land for Business and Industrial Use (page 51)

- Policy EP2. Insert at the end of the sub-section 2:  
“... and the Glasgow Road Camelon Industrial Area which may include a food retail element as part of the mix”.

Reason: In response to an objection by Tesco Stores Limited, it is considered that a foodstore could be beneficial to the regeneration of the wider Glasgow Road industrial area, and replace employment which has been lost in the area.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna moved to reject the Administration's proposals for:-

- Milnquarter Farm
- Dennyloanhead
- Mydub
- Denny Eastern Access Road (DEAR)
- Broad Street, Denny
- Glasgow Road, retail provision
- Station Road
- Airth Castle
- Letham
- Stein's Brickworks
- Reilly Road
- Slamannan Road, Limerigg
- Dennyloanhead
- Longcroft

It was confirmed that the Administration's proposals for the following areas were acceptable:-

- Garngrew Road
- Nethermain Road
- Duke Street
- Camelon Road congestion
- Gilston
- Avondale
- Castleview
- Church Road 2/California Park
- Bo'ness Road

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

On reconvening, and with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Nicol as seconder, and in accordance with Standing Order 19.7, Councillor Mahoney altered the text of his Motion to withdraw the proposals relating to Longcroft

that appear at paragraph (20) of the minute of the Special Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee (page 78 of the agenda).

Councillor J Constable gave notice of a further amendment.

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 (17) - Depute Provost A 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, MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Abstentions (1) – Provost Reid

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion which became the substantive Motion.

At this point the Council **AGREED** to a short adjournment for dinner. The meeting adjourned at 6.20 pm and reconvened at 7.00 pm with all Members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor H Constable moved by way of further Amendment that:-

- (1) the Council agrees with the view of the Friends of Kinneil (representation No.286) that the development of a Heritage Theme Park Strategy be included in the Falkirk Council Local Plan, and
- (2) the need for Traffic Calming measures at Carriden Brae (representation No. 259) is recognised as a priority in the Falkirk Council Local Plan.

Councillor Jackson gave notice of a further Amendment.

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 (17) - Depute Provost A 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, MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Abstentions (1) – Provost Reid

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

Councillor Jackson seconded by Councillor Coleman moved by way of further Amendment:-

**(d) Falkirk Stadium**

Motion

To partially accept Representation No 157/300 (Terrace Hill Ltd), and to extend site RC.FAL 3 to the north east as far as the railway, remove the Ecopark designation from this additional land, and specify a list of appropriate uses which would be allowed on the enlarged stadium site.

Changes to Council Responses (Appendix 1)

Amend Response to: Objection partially accepted

Amend Reason to:

The site extension and confirmation of a specific set of appropriate uses will help to facilitate a wider masterplan which will ensure that the stadium is successfully developed. The extension area is not considered to be critical to the development of the Ecopark. It is not considered appropriate to include the area within the Urban Limit, as the above changes provide sufficient flexibility and certainty to secure the desired objectives for the site.

Changes to Proposed Pre-inquiry Modifications (Appendix 2)

New Modification

Proposal RC.FAL3 Westfield (page 136)

- Amend boundary of Proposal RC.FAL3 as shown on accompanying map
- Remove EN.FAL6 (Ecopark) symbol from the extension area
- Amend text as follows:
 

“RC.FAL 3 Proposal:  Site Area: Agency: Comments:	Westfield Community Stadium/Business/Leisure/Tourism/Garden Centre 28.8 hectares Falkirk Community Stadium Ltd/Private Site has been removed from the Green belt, but rigorous control on the design and location of any additional development will be exercised. Business/leisure uses may be permitted within the envelope of the stadium structure provided they are compatible with the principal use of the building as a stadium, and do not compromise the quality and integrity of the building design. Ancillary development on the site, in addition to the stadium structure, will comprise a mix of uses that may include the following: offices, hotel, leisure facilities, bar/restaurant, garden centre and secondary retail. Such ancillary development must conform to an overall masterplan for the site and must not compromise the setting of the stadium, the landscape design of the site, or the surrounding Ecopark”.
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Reason: In response to an objection by Terrace Hill Ltd, it is considered that extending the site and confirming a specific set of appropriate uses will help to facilitate a wider masterplan which will ensure that the stadium is successfully developed.

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

On reconvening, and 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 (17) - Depute Provost A 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, MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Abstentions (1) – Provost Reid

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the substantive Motion, as per attached Appendix.

## **FC12. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND**

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 March 2008, and (b) joint Report by Directors of Corporate and Commercial Services and of Housing and Social Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 March 2008.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council **AGREES:-**

- (1) to note the detail of the Scottish Government's Fairer Scotland Fund and the principles of the Fund;
- (2) to note the transition arrangements and implications of the existing funds which have been absorbed into the new Fairer Scotland Fund;
- (3) that proposals for the allocation of the Fairer Scotland Fund be brought back to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; and

- (4) to approve the allocation of additional funding to projects currently supported through the Community Regeneration Fund set out in paragraph 3.10 of the Report amounting to c£212,698.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Kenna, seconded by Councillor Jackson moved that Council supports the projects not recommended for funding for an additional quarter until the matter is reported back to Committee in June 2008 with more details.

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

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

### **FC13. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT – ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 1 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 1 April 2008.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report, subject to the extent of the award being amended to £225,000 rather than the figure of £335,000 wrongly quoted in the minute.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved the recommendations as contained within the Report with an additional recommendation, namely that:-

Officers look at the feasibility of grant assistance for owner occupiers within a communal close where there is a mixed tenure of housing to enable secure door entry systems to be installed.

On a division 18 Members voted for the Motion and 13 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the award of an additional £225,000 Private Sector Housing Grant and the priorities which the Scottish Government has identified for expenditure; and
- (2) authorise Officers to develop detailed proposals for expenditure within the set priorities and to report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

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

### **FC14. TENDER FOR EXTERNALLY PURCHASED "CARE AT HOME" SERVICES**



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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 1 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Housing and Social Services submitted to the meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 1 April 2008.

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

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that recommendation 5.2 should read as follows:-

Agree to a further report detailing service specifications with particular emphasis on ensuring that any enhanced care services are in-house and proposals for the tender process be submitted to the September meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee.

On a division 18 Members voted for the Motion and 13 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the requirement to tender for externally purchased Care at Home Services and the consultation process that will take place over the coming months; and
- (2) a further Report detailing service specifications and proposals for the tender process being submitted to the September meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee.

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 being continued to a re-convened meeting to be held on a date to be agreed.

**DRAFT****MINUTE of RECONVENED MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 26 MAY 2008 at 9.30 a.m.**

**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, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor C MacDonald.

**CONVENER:** Provost Reid.

**ATTENDING:** Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; and Senior Committee Services Officer (D Kelly).

**FC15. POST OFFICE LTD NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Chief Executive submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved the recommendations contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor McNally moved the following amendment:-

That Council undertakes to write to both local New Labour MPs to express our anger at their betrayal of the people of Falkirk District for failing to support the motion calling for a halt to Post Office closures in the vote within the House of Commons on 19 March 2008. Council also notes previous unqualified support given to the Government's closure programme by both MPs.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(1) a vote was taken by way of a roll call there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (15) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nimmo 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.

Abstention (2) – Councillors Nicol and Patrick.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) note the approach taken by Essex County Council; and
- (2) that a further Report will be presented to Members on the issue with a note of the proposed response to be made to the Public Petitions Committee.

#### **FC16. PROCUREMENT – SCOTLAND EXCEL**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved the recommendations contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved that Council notes the successes of Falkirk Council's existing procurement services, particularly the dramatic increase in contracts awarded to local providers and companies during the period from 2001. Council therefore resolves not to join Scotland Excel.

On a division, 17 Members voted for the Motion and 14 for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** that Council acknowledges the key role that Scotland Excel will play in the development and improvement of Local Authority Procurement and the future financial benefits that will be realised from that participation. However, recognising the procurement work that the Council has undertaken both collaboratively and singularly, the Council will not realise immediate financial benefits from participation in Scotland Excel.

It is therefore agreed that the Council does not commit to joining in Year 1, but indicates its support for the principles and ethos of Scotland Excel. The Council shall however regularly appraise the business case for participation and determine the most appropriate time to participate.

#### **FC17. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FACILITIES STRATEGY**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Community Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

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

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that Council agree to call for a meeting with all parties involved in the formulation of this project, namely, the SFA, sportscotland, the Scottish Government and a cross party group of Councillors to discuss the issues pertaining to this development contained within the Report and that officers prepare a further Report based on the outcomes of that meeting.

On a division 17 Members voted for the Motion and 14 for the Amendment.

Accordingly **AGREED** not to proceed with the Indoor Football Academy and request officers to continue engagement with the SFA, sportscotland and local clubs with a view to developing a plan for a network of third generation synthetic pitches and upgraded grass pitches across the area together with detailed budget considerations and to report to the Education and Leisure Committee in due course.

#### **FC18. REFERRALS FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2008 – LOCAL HEALTHCARE BILL – CONSULTATION PAPER**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved that the recommendations as detailed in the Report considered by the Community Health and Safety Committee meeting on 13 March 2008 be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor J Constable moved that with respect to paragraph 3.7 of the Report (questions 16, 17 and 18 of the consultation document) relating to the role of elected Councillor on NHS Boards, the following statement be included:-

“Where this would amount to more than one Councillor representative that there should be political balance for the main parties from the local authority”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, 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 to note the content of the Local Healthcare Bill consultation paper, and that the appendix to the Report be submitted to the Scottish Government as the Council’s response to the consultation.

#### **FC19. REFERRALS FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2008 – CULTURAL CO-ORDINATORS**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Education Services submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2008.

Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 April 2008 be approved.

By way of an amendment Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that:-

“Council recognises the importance of local culture and heritage to the young people of Falkirk and district. Council therefore rejects the proposed cuts in both numbers of Cultural Co-ordinators posts and overall hours worked in this field. Instead of cutting this service Council agrees to maintain the current staffing level, hours worked and funding commitments currently in place. Council also agrees to open discussions with the relevant staff members and their representatives to prepare a long term strategy for their employment with Falkirk Council, including becoming full time permanent employees in the fullness of time.”

At this point, Councillor MacDonald declared a non-financial interest in the item of business given his role as chair of the local MOD Committee. However, Councillor MacDonald did not consider that there was a conflict of interest between that position and his role as a councillor and accordingly participated in the discussion and vote.

During the course of debate the Chief Executive reminded members of the terms of the Councillor’s Code of Conduct insofar as it refers to matters which should not be raised in public.

Following further debate and in terms of Standing Order 25.2(ii) Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved the closure motion that “the question be now put”.

On a vote, 17 Members voted for the Motion and 13 Members against. The mover of the motion was accordingly entitled to exercise his right of reply before the vote was taken.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, 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:-**

- (1) to note the valuable work of this small team and the impact on the experiences and opportunities for the young people in our schools and establishments in Falkirk; and
- (2) to approve the establishment of one permanent Cultural Co-ordinator post and one part-time temporary post.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was **AGREED** to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit, following an adjournment for lunch and to close the meeting at 4 p.m.. The meeting adjourned at 12.45 p.m. and re-convened at 1.20 pm. with all Members present as per the sederunt.

**FC20. REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1  
APRIL 2008  
LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY – DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY  
2008 – 13**

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 8 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Corporate and Commercial Services submitted to the meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee held on 1 April 2008.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved that the recommendations detailed in the Report considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 April 2008 be approved.

By way of an amendment Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that Council agree that a section be added to the Strategy calling on the UK Government to amend legislation governing the “Real Estate Investment Trust” to remove residential properties from its options; that Committee also requests that officers take the matter up separately with local MPs and appropriate Westminster Ministers and that the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 24.1(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call there being 31 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, 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, **AGREED:-**

- (1) the draft Homeless Strategy 2008-13;
- (2) that a further Report on the matter, following consultation with Stakeholders be submitted to a future meeting of the Housing and Social Services Committee; and
- (3) that a section be added to the Strategy calling on the UK Government to review the legislation governing the “Real Estate Investment Trust” to remove residential properties from its options and that the Council also requests that officers take the matter up separately with local MPs and appropriate Westminster Ministers.

## **FC21. REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE – 15 APRIL 2008 PROGRESS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE FORMER RSNH SITE, LARBERT**

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

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 15 April 2008, and (b) Report by Director of Development Services submitted to the meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee held on 15 April 2008.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor C R Martin, moved that the recommendation detailed in the Report considered by the Environment and Heritage Committee at its meeting on 15 April 2008 be approved.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Carleschi moved that recommendation (2) of the officer’s Report be changed to read as follows:-

“awaits the submission of the formal master plan for the residual estate at RSNH to include Option 3 as the preferred community option and further that Council instructs officers to work with the Community Council and local Members towards developing Larbert House for affordable housing through the means of a community enterprise project.”

On a division 17 Members voted for the Motion and 14 for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to note the progress that has been made in implementing the RSNH Development Framework;
- (2) to await the submission of the formal master plan for the residual estate at RSNH and to instruct officers to ask NHS Forth Valley to consider Option 3 for an urban park and moreover to consider inclusion of an affordable housing element within the Larbert House development as part of the master plan; and
- (3) that arrangements are made for Members to visit the RSNH site.

## **FC22. TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S CLIMATE CHANGE BILL: CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 22 April 2008 by Director of Development Services (a) advising that the majority of the scientific community accept that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases are significant contributing factors to enhanced climate change, (b) referring to the UK Climate Change Bill introduced in November 2007 and aimed at setting CO<sub>2</sub> related targets in statute and setting a limit on the total amount that can be emitted by the UK over a five year period (carbon budgeting), (c) informing that the Scottish Government is working in partnership with the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland on the UK Climate Change Bill which will set a UK 60% reduction target for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050, (d) intimating that the Bill also seeks to establish an independent Committee to advise on the level of carbon budgets, create enabling powers and reporting requirements, (e) explaining that following the Scottish Parliament’s agreement in December 2007 to a Legislative Consent Motion, many of the provisions of the UK Bill, on enactment, will extend to Scotland, and (f) attaching as an appendix to the Report a suggested Council response to the consultation paper.

**AGREED** to approve the response to the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Bill as appended to the Report.



**FC23. CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES: MEMBERSHIP**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 7 April 2008 by Acting Director of Administration Services advising of the recent consultation on proportionality undertaken by COSLA and the associated decision taken at the March meeting of the Convention.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved that the Council's membership of CoSLA should reflect political balance as far as possible. In that respect, the two major political groups should be represented as should the other members of Council. Accordingly, it was proposed that the Labour group would resign from one of their places to be replaced by Councillor Patrick.

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander moved that to demonstrate diversity on COSLA, one of the Labour group Members resign and be replaced by Councillor Buchanan.

Councillor Buchanan declined the nomination.

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander moved that to demonstrate diversity on COSLA, one of the Labour group members resign and be replaced by Councillor Waddell.

Councillor Waddell declined the nomination.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Spears moved that one of the Labour group Members on COSLA resign and be replaced by Councillor Coleman.

Councillor Coleman gave intimation of a further amendment.

On a division 16 Members voted for the Motion, 14 for the Amendment and there was 1 Abstention.

**AGREED** that the substantive Motion be that one of the Labour Members on COSLA resign and be replaced by Councillor Patrick.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander moved that one of the Labour Members of COSLA resign and be replaced by Councillor Spears.

On a division, 16 Members voted for the Motion, 14 for the Amendment and there was 1 Abstention.

**AGREED** that one of the Labour group Members of COSLA resign and be replaced by Councillor Patrick.

**FC24. FLAG FLYING AT MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 17 April 2008 by Acting Director of Administration Services (a) referring to the re-instatement of the third flag-pole outside the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk, and (b) seeking guidance on whether the Union flag and/or the Saltire should be flown daily.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nicol moved that the Union flag and the Saltire be flown on a daily basis outside the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that the residents of the Falkirk Council area be consulted on the proposal with officers bringing forward a report on the methodology of consultation, to include the Council website, the Falkirk Council News, or a combination of both, or any other means necessary.

On a division, 18 Members voted for the Motion and 13 for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** that the Union flag and the Saltire be flown daily outside the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk.

**FC25. NOTICES OF MOTION – CONTINUED FROM FALKIRK COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2008****(c) Alcohol Misuse**

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

“Council welcomes the commitment of the Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill, to tackle the problems of alcohol misuse.

The ethos of drinking to get drunk is one of the main contributions to anti-social behaviour, crime and health issues within our communities.

Council agree to work with the Justice Secretary to tackle this growing problem by taking the lead locally by:

1. Arranging a local conference of stake holders including representatives of the drink industry, health, police and community groups to begin the process of developing a strategy for the changing of the public attitude.
2. Regular updates at Community Health & Safety of the development of the strategy and its implementation.
3. Instructs Officers to prepare a report for Community Health and Safety on how the policy direction above can be implemented.

By way of an amendment Councillor Nicol, seconded by Councillor Buchanan moved that –

“Council recognises the detrimental effect the misuse of alcohol has on Scottish Society.

It causes an additional strain on the NHS, the Police and other Public Services. It is a major factor behind much of the anti-social behaviour and the other crimes which blight our communities. It has a huge detrimental effect on the individual, their health, their finances and sadly their relationships with partners and children.

Having developed over generations this problem requires a multi agency approach to changing attitudes through education and enforcement.

In that regard –

- (a) Council calls upon the Scottish Government to bring forward as soon as possible, for consultation, their trailed proposals on limiting the ways alcohol can be promoted within supermarkets and off sales, the proposals on minimum pricing and on banning drink promotions and the proposed “polluter pays” levy a proposal which if enacted would make funds available to assist in education on the effects of alcohol misuse and in enforcement of legislation.
- (b) Council acknowledges the role of the recently formed Licensing Forum whose membership includes representatives of the Drinks Industry, the local Licensed Trade, Police, Forth Valley Health Board, as well as community bodies in the form of various Community Councils.

Council further instructs officers to bring forward a report on how the role of the Forums can be developed within the terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

- (c) Council welcomes the introduction of Test Purchasing across the whole of Scotland as an additional weapon in the fight against those who sell alcohol with no regard for the social consequences.

It applauds the work done by the Licensing Officers of Central Scotland Police and other officers involved in Licensee education and enforcement.

It looks forward to reports to Council from the Licensing Standards Officer when into his important role under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

On a division 14 Members voted for the Motion and 17 for the Amendment.

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

## **FC26. EXECUTION OF DEEDS**

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 April 2008 by Acting Director of Administration Services 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.

#### **FC27. CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved to continue the meeting to complete consideration of the outstanding business.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C Martin moved to close the meeting.

On a division, 13 Members voted for the Motion and 18 for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** to close the meeting and to carry over the unfinished business to a future meeting.

**DRAFT****MINUTE of RECONVENED MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008 at 10.30 a.m.**

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

**APOLOGY:** Councillors Blackwood, Fry and Hughes.

**CONVENER:** Provost Reid.

**ATTENDING:** Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Finance Services and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; and Senior Committee Services Officer (D Kelly).

**FC28. NOTICES OF MOTION – CONTINUED FROM FALKIRK COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2008****(e) Forth Ports Plc**

Councillor A MacDonald seconded by Councillor J Constable moved that:-

“This Council welcomes the decision taken by Forth Ports PLC not to proceed with controversial plans to allow ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Faced with such unanimous opposition to the proposals, which could have had a devastating environmental impact on the Forth shoreline and marine habitats, Forth Ports had no option but to take the decision they now have.

This Council also welcomes the strong stance taken by the Environment Minister Richard Lochhead and the SNP Government against the ship-to-ship oil transfer proposal, which made clear that any assessments completed by Forth Ports could be subject to an independent review, which clearly had a bearing on the decision not to proceed.

However, Council notes with concern the ludicrous situation still in place since the privatisation of Forth Ports Authority by the previous Conservative UK Government which allows Forth Ports PLC to act as judge and jury as the local Harbour Authority as well as a private company whose aim is to maximise profits for shareholders. This Council therefore resolves to approach UK and Scottish Ministers with a view to scrapping the anomaly and conflict of interest that currently exists under Forth Ports”.

By way of an amendment Councillor C R Martin, seconded by Councillor Mahoney moved that :-

“This Council welcomes the decision taken by Forth Ports Plc not to proceed with ship to ship transfers of oil in the Firth of Forth.

Council is unanimous in its support for Grangemouth to be included in the National Planning Framework that will enhance the ports authority area into an intermodal hub of major significance to the Scottish economy.

Council welcomes the continued investment made by Forth Ports Plc in Grangemouth docks over the past decade and looks forward to continued partnership in the local economy.

Council supports Forth Ports Plc’s view that a revised regulatory framework for ship to ship oil transfers is urgently required.”

In terms of Standing Order 25.2(ii) Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved the closure motion that “the question be now put”.

On a division, 16 Members voted for the Motion and 13 Members against. The mover of the motion was accordingly entitled to exercise his right of reply before the vote was taken.

On a division 12 Members voted for the Motion and 16 Members for the Amendment, with one abstention.

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

#### **(f) Post Office Network**

Councillor D Alexander seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved that:-

“Falkirk Council notes with great disappointment the decision of the Post Office Network to reject the balanced submissions made by and on behalf of the seven communities who will suffer the loss of a Post Office Service in their area as part of the UK Government’s latest cut backs.

Falkirk Council believes that the Post Office Network should operate as a service and not as a business and expresses extreme concern for the future of the remaining network given the stated criteria outlined by the Westminster Labour Government for its future maintenance.

Falkirk Council therefore believes that the Post Office Network would be safer in the hands of the Scottish Government than their Westminster colleagues and calls on politicians in both Parliaments to begin the process of transferring both responsibility and current funding from London to Edinburgh.”

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

“Falkirk Council notes with disappointment the decision of the Post Office Network to reject the balanced submissions made by and on behalf of the seven communities who will suffer the loss of a Post Office service in their area.

The Council calls upon the Post Office Network to conduct proper open and transparent consultation in future reviews, unlike the unfair and farcical consultation process which took place during the review of the Falkirk West area.”

On a division 13 Members voted for the Motion and 16 Members for the Amendment.

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

**(g) Housing and Social Services Committee**

Councillor McNally seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that:-

“Council believes that openness, honesty, transparency and the need to demonstrate best value be key principles in the management of our services and should be at the core of the political administration of the Council.

Council therefore notes with disappointment the lack of these qualities in recent matters pertaining to the Housing and Social Work Committee.

The appointment of a private sector consultant within the Housing Department and the subsequent announcements have damaged the image of the department and demonstrated a failure to meet the qualities outlined below.

- Openness – This decision to appoint a consultant not referred to Committee thus denying the Members of Falkirk Council the opportunity to scrutinise the decision
- Honesty – The Convener of the Housing and Social Services Committee was quoted in the Falkirk Herald November 2007 denying the £700 per day figures for payment claiming it was less. Correspondence from the Director of Housing and Social Works confirms the accuracy of the amount.
- Transparency – Members were denied the opportunity to set a remit for the appointment
- Paying three times the recommended salary for a temporary appointment does not represent best value for Falkirk Council.

Council therefore resolves to:-

1. Agree that in future all recommendations to appoint consultants must be reported to Committee for authority to proceed.
2. Any such recommendation must become part of a report to Members outlining the cost of the appointment, remit for the consultant and set of objectives.

3. Any Convener in future making false statements to the Council/Committee/ Media will be asked by Council to explain their actions and may face removal from their positions if they have been found to have misled Members.

By way of an amendment Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved that :-

“Council believes that openness, honesty, transparency and the need to demonstrate best value be key principles in the management of our services and should be at the core of the political administration of the Council.

Council therefore notes with disappointment the failure of the previous Administration to highlight their failing homeless policies and their failing allocations policies, and the failure to bring these before Council at any time.

This Council commend the current Convener of Housing and Social Services for his determined and capable handling of the situation since his appointment in June 2007. This Administration, under the guidance of the Convenor of Housing and Social Services, responded swiftly to the concerns raised by the Communities Scotland inspection while the inspection was ongoing. This prompt action was reflected in the improved final report.”

On a division 13 Members voted for the Motion and 16 members for the Amendment.

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

Councillor Kenna left the meeting following conclusion of the foregoing item of business.

## **FC29. NOTICE OF MOTION – CONTINUED FROM FALKIRK COUNCIL – 30 APRIL 2008**

### **Bo’ness Town Centre - Parking Charges**

Councillor J Constable seconded by Councillor H Constable, moved that:-

“Council recognises the legitimate concerns of Bo’ness Town Centre users and traders and agrees with them that the introduction of car parking charges would be a crippling imposition on the already fragile town centre economy.

Council further recognises that the imposition of such charges in car parks in the other outlying town and village shopping centre would significantly damage trade in those other centres to the detriment of local businesses and the local community

Council therefore resolves that under no circumstances will parking charges be applied to car parks in any of the outlying town and village centres during the remainder of this Council’s term of office”.



By way of an amendment Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor C R Martin moved that:-

“Council re-affirms its commitment not to charge for car parking in outlying town centres – including Bo’ness. Council also welcomes this year’s budget commitment to freeze car parking charges in some areas of central Falkirk – and to cut charges at Meeks Road and Kemper Avenue in Falkirk.

Council endorses the view that it has no plans to charge for car parking in the smaller town centres such as Bo’ness, Grangemouth, Denny and Larbert/Stenhousemuir.”

On a division, 12 Members voted for the Motion and 16 Members for the Amendment.

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

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2008 at 10.30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:-** Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Gow, Jackson, Kenna, Nimmo and Spears.

**CONVENER:-** Councillor Gow.

**ATTENDING:-** Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Head of Policy Performance and Review, Legal Services Manager (C Moodie); Corporate Policy Officer (A Hamilton) and Senior Committee Services Officer.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** In connection with item PR37, Depute Provost Black advised that she was a Board member of the Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey and that a family member was also a user of the service but that, in her view, neither involvement prevented her from taking part in consideration of the item.

**PR36. REFERRALS FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2008**

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 20 May 2008 (Paragraphs EL3, EL4, EL5, EL6 and EL7 respectively refer), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 28 May 2008 by the Directors of Education and of Community Services listing the Reports considered by the Education and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 20 May 2008, namely:-

- Shared Headteachers in Primary Schools (Par EL3)
- Education Management Information System (MIS) (Par EL4)
- Lecropt/Dundas School Amalgamation/Consultation On New Name (Par EL5)
- Glasgow 2014: Delivering A Lasting Legacy For Scotland (Par EL6)
- Community Use of PFI Class 98 Schools (Par EL7)

The Reports considered by the Education and Leisure Committee on 20 May 2008 were appended for Members' information.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the recommendations as agreed by the Education and Leisure Committee.

**Shared Headteachers in Primary Schools**

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna moved:-

“should the initial recruitment process to find a headteacher fail, a second advertising process should be undertaken with all applications being considered by the Appointments Committee”.

On a division, 4 Members voted for the Motion and 4 voted for the Amendment.

There being an equality of votes and in terms of Standing order 21.6, the Convener used her casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely:-

- (i) to note the outcomes of the consultation exercise;
- (ii) to note that the first option should be to recruit a headteacher to each school;
- (iii) to note that if it proves difficult to recruit a headteacher to a small school (as defined in paragraph 2.1 of the report), it should be available to the Director of Education to consider the option of a shared responsibility following consultation; and
- (iv) to note that if a shared headship were to be agreed, a principal teacher post would be created in a small school to provide appropriate management support.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS**  
**Meeting: EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 20 May 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In October 2007 Education and Leisure Committee agreed to consultation being undertaken with relevant stakeholders on the principle of appointing headteachers with responsibility for more than one primary school. This report presents the outcomes of the consultation.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At present the headteachers of our seven smallest primary schools are regularly class committed. These primary schools have a primary roll ranging from around 30 pupils to 82. For the purposes of this report these schools are referred to as small schools. The management demands on headteachers have increased and necessary absences of the headteacher from school during the school day leads to disruption of teaching.
- 2.2 All Scottish local authorities have experienced a diminishing number of applicants for promoted posts and it can be particularly difficult to recruit to smaller schools. A number of local authorities have already moved to appoint headteachers with responsibilities covering more than one school. HMIe reports show that schools can be effectively managed in this way.

**3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Consultation papers were issued to headteachers, parent councils and the relevant trade unions with a view to establishing:
- 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;
  - the consultation processes which would apply in each case before a decision to appoint such a shared headteacher was taken.

A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.

- 3.2 Responses were received from three of the seven small primary schools with one parent council member in favour and one against: two school staff in favour and one against; and one headteacher was of the view that success would depend on geography and management arrangements in each school.

- 3.3 Responses were received from nine other primary schools and one special school. One parent council member was in favour, five headteachers were in favour and two against. Four school staff were in favour and ten were against.
- 3.4 A response was also received from the EIS Falkirk Local Association which states that EIS national policy is that every school should have its own headteacher in order to recognise and support the education and social integrity of the community and of each school. The proposal was also discussed at a meeting of the local Negotiating Group for Teachers (NGT) where concerns were expressed about the specific job remit of a shared headteacher, the workload implications and the management arrangements required if there were to be a shared headship.
- 3.5 A number of comments were made in the response documents and the following reflects the points made.
- There would have to be another responsible person in each school, paid and trained accordingly, to cover when HT is out.
  - There would have to be another promoted post in each school, perhaps a shared principal teacher.
  - In my opinion the shared headteacher experiment worked very well. Staff found there were few problems and staff and children benefited from closer links with Limerigg. We shared resources, buses and workshops, cutting the costs and allowing the children to mix with other pupils. (Drumbowie Primary School)
  - School improvement planning would have to be adjusted to accommodate.
  - Each school requires an individual headteacher.
  - The workload for the appointed headteacher would be intolerable.
  - Where schools are geographically close to each other.
  - Would need a clear plan of when the head is in each school and a fair allocation of time.
- 3.6 All responses were clear that before a decision to appoint a shared headteacher was taken there should be full consultation on the remit and the management arrangements with staff, parent councils, parent communities.
- 3.7 Where requested there have been discussions with parent councils to explore the issue in more detail.

#### **4. PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 4.1 The response to the consultation does not demonstrate a clear outcome in favour of the proposal or against.
- 4.2 A number of responses express concern about the workload involved. It is recognised that there might be benefit in relieving the headteacher of the commitment to planning for and teaching a class, but the head would have two establishments to manage. Concern is expressed about the management responsibility when the headteacher was not in school and it is recognised that the management capacity in each school would have to be increased at principal teacher level.

- 4.3 The new appointment procedures state that the first step should be a discussion with the parent council and in most cases the agreement is to move to advertise a vacancy nationally. It is proposed that this should continue to be the case for all schools. If it proved difficult to attract applications of acceptable quality to the post of headteacher of a small school, then it is proposed that a wider consultation take place with parents, staff and others involved with the school to explore the opportunity to link to another appropriate school, taking account of geographical proximity.
- 4.4 It is proposed, therefore, that the first option should be to recruit a headteacher to each school. If that fails, it should be available to the Director of Education to consider the option of linking a small school to another school and having a headteacher with responsibility for both on a shared basis. Consultation would be required with staff and parents of both schools.
- 4.5 If that option were to be considered, the management capacity within each school should be reviewed and a principal teacher post created in the small school to ensure appropriate management support.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Committee is asked to note:**

- the outcomes of the consultation exercise;
- that the first option should be to recruit a headteacher to each school;
- if it proves difficult to recruit a headteacher to a small school (as defined in paragraph 2.1), it should be available to the Director of Education to consider the option of a shared responsibility following consultation; and
- if a shared headship were to be agreed a principal teacher post would be created in a small school to provide appropriate management support.

### **5.2 Committee is asked to refer the proposal to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.**

.....  
**Director of Education**

**Date:** .....

Contact Officer: Ann Carnachan, ext 6685

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter from EIS Falkirk Local Association

**FALKIRK COUNCIL : EDUCATION SERVICES**

**SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
CONSULTATION**

**1. BACKGROUND**

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.

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.

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.

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.

**2. PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to consult 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.

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

The findings of the consultation will be reported to Education and Leisure Committee.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL : EDUCATION SERVICES**

**SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
CONSULTATION**

**Name:** .....

**School/Nursery:** .....

**(please tick as appropriate)**

**Pupil** ☐      **Parent** ☐      **School Employee** ☐      **Parent Council** ☐

It has been suggested that, in certain circumstances, by creating more time for the headteacher to focus on the overall management and curriculum delivery and less time actually taking classes, that the sharing of a headteacher across more than one school would improve learning and attainment in some Falkirk schools.

1. In what circumstances do you think this proposal would be effective?

2. What management arrangements do you think would need to be in place in each school for the proposal to be effective?



3. What consultation processes should apply in each case before a decision to appoint such a headteacher was taken?

--

4. Given these circumstances, do you support the proposal?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Please return this pro forma to the headteacher of your school for onward transmission to McLaren House by **Friday 21 December at the latest**.

Thank you for completing this consultation questionnaire.

Julia Swan  
Director of Education

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2008 at 10.30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:-** Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Gow, Jackson, Kenna, Nimmo and Spears.

**CONVENER:-** Councillor Gow.

**ATTENDING:-** Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Head of Policy Performance and Review, Legal Services Manager (C Moodie); Corporate Policy Officer (A Hamilton) and Senior Committee Services Officer.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** In connection with item PR37, Depute Provost Black advised that she was a Board member of the Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey and that a family member was also a user of the service but that, in her view, neither involvement prevented her from taking part in consideration of the item.

**PR36. REFERRALS FROM EDUCATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2008**

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Education and Leisure Committee held on 20 May 2008 (Paragraphs EL3, EL4, EL5, EL6 and EL7 respectively refer), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 28 May 2008 by the Directors of Education and of Community Services listing the Reports considered by the Education and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 20 May 2008, namely:-

- Shared Headteachers in Primary Schools (Par EL3)
- Education Management Information System (MIS) (Par EL4)
- Lecropt/Dundas School Amalgamation/Consultation On New Name (Par EL5)
- Glasgow 2014: Delivering A Lasting Legacy For Scotland (Par EL6)
- Community Use of PFI Class 98 Schools (Par EL7)

The Reports considered by the Education and Leisure Committee on 20 May 2008 were appended for Members' information.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the recommendations as agreed by the Education and Leisure Committee.

## Community Use of PFI Class 98 Schools

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna moved that recommendation (iv) within the Report namely:- “ to seek an update report following the October 2008 break to ascertain how the programme is working and assess user feedback” be altered to read:-

“ to seek an update report following the October 2008 break to include proposals to include the two remaining PFI schools from 2009 and to ascertain how the programme is working and assess user feedback”.

On a division, 4 Members voted for the Motion and 4 voted for the Amendment. There being an equality of votes and in terms of Standing order 21.6, the Convener used her casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely:-

- (1) to note the proposals for access and opening times;
- (2) that the charges to be levied for access to the facilities by the public would be based on the charges levied by Sport and Leisure Services;
- (3) to note that free access afforded to junior groups (Under 18's) under the policy operated by Education Services will be retained; and
- (4) to seek an update report following the October 2008 break to ascertain how the programme is working and assess user feedback.

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject:** Community Use of PFI Class '98 Schools  
**Meeting:** Education and Leisure Committee  
**Date:** 20 May 2008  
**Author:** Director of Community Services

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of proposed arrangements for access to Braes and Larbert High Schools to the wider Community.

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, an ongoing issue for the community and the Council has been gaining affordable and reasonable access times to the Class '98 schools. The current lack of informal access for recreational purposes is particularly apparent in two local communities, Larbert and the Braes, where there are few immediate facilities for the community to participate in leisure activity. This is reflected in the current uptake of lets by the community of both schools, with access dominated by organised clubs, with very little informal access by individuals and families of the immediate communities.
- 2.2 This lack of access has had and continues to have a detrimental impact on the ability of the Council, its partners and community groups to encourage community leisure activity and addressing this issue is fundamental to securing sustainable improvement in these areas.
- 2.3 Having recognised this, the Council, through its allocation of additional resources in 2008/09 budget, recognise the importance of this being addressed and this report outlines the basis of the access and how it is proposed to be delivered from 30 June 2008.

#### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The detailed staffing requirements to support a programme of access has been worked up which will facilitate access by the community to these particular schools at times similar to that offered through the provision of the other sport and leisure facilities across the area.
- 3.2 The times proposed for the schools to be open for wider community access during school term time (39 weeks) is proposed as follows:

Day	Time
Monday – Friday	5.30pm – 10.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday	Closed

- 3.4 During school term time, community access will be run in tandem with school extra curricular activities on Saturday mornings across a number of school facilities. Close dialogue will be established with each of the schools to ensure a working relationship is fostered that ensures school and community demands are satisfied as effectively as possible.
- 3.5 During school holidays it is proposed that a separate timetable will operate offering more comprehensive access to the community. It is recommended that the Easter, Summer and October breaks are recognised (10 weeks) for this programme, with the exception being Christmas, as this is traditionally a very quiet period and that Public Holidays and in-service days will not be covered under this proposal.

The times proposed for opening of the schools during school holiday periods are as follows:

Day	Time
Monday – Friday	1.00pm – 10.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday	Closed

## 4 PROGRAMME

- 4.1 A programme of activity is currently being developed to offer to the public in order that opportunities will exist for the wider community to participate in sports and leisure activity.
- 4.2 Planned activities on offer will be casual swimming, sports hall activities including badminton, basketball, aerobics and martial arts classes. In addition, there will be access opportunities developed in conjunction with Community Education for other leisure activities.
- 4.3 As Members will be aware, there is currently existing clubs and organisations hiring the facilities at each of the schools on a regular basis for activities. Displacement of groups is not desirable therefore in order to accommodate casual access by the public, it is proposed to dovetail existing group use with that of the public. This will enable extensive casual use for the additional community access times planned, to be fully available. Such access will cover both swimming pool activity and dry side activity.
- 4.4 Greater flexibility will be available, particularly for swimming clubs and development squads, when the new Community Schools open starting with Grangemouth High School in December later this year.

- 4.5 In order that the new community access timetable is accommodated, meetings have and continue to be had with existing hiring groups at each of the two schools in order to accommodate recreational access times. Such dialogue has taken place with the Council's Swimming Development Team, Falkirk Otters, Grangemouth Amateur Swimming Club and organisers of specific Health Initiative Programmes.
- 4.6 The outcome of these discussions is for access to be available for casual use to both the dry and wet side facilities at the following times:-

Braes and Larbert High Schools

School Term Time

- Monday – Friday 5.30pm to 10.00pm
- Saturday 9.00am to 6.00pm

School Holidays

- Monday – Friday 1.00pm to 10.00pm
- Saturday 9.00am to 6.00pm

- 4.7 It should be noted that existing hiring groups usage will be accommodated during the above access times.
- 4.8 It is proposed that the Sport and Leisure Charges used in the Leisure Centres operated by Community Services, be adopted as the charges to be levied to all individuals and groups utilising the facilities during the community access times. Groups who currently obtain free access under the policy adopted by the Education Services Department should however be recognised and continued (free to Under 18 groups).
- 4.9 Staffing  
Key to the effective operation of the school facilities will be the employment of appropriate staffing. This will include the appointment of a temporary Principal Officer to oversee the general management of the schools programmed use and its development in the future. In addition, up to four temporary Leisure Assistant posts per school will be required to fulfil the general day-to-day duties and responsibilities associated with community access. The budgeted cost of staffing the operations of the two schools will be £165K.

## **5. UPGRADE WORKS**

- 5.1 An essential element of facilitating greater community access will be adaptations to existing entrance and reception areas, including bookings and management systems, pay points and general control functions associated with community access to the schools.
- 5.2 Surveys of the schools have recently been carried out and to determine the specific requirements for the sound operational management of the communities use of the facilities.
- 5.3 The budget cost for these works is some £30K.

## 6 FINANCE

- 6.1 The total budget costs associated with providing the proposed community access is:

### *Expenditure*

Staffing	£165K
Class '98 Charge – Term Time	£60K
Class '98 Charge – Holiday's	£45K
Marketing & Promotion	£10K
Consumables	£10K
Capital Works	£30K

*Income* £30K

**Net Cost** £290K

- 6.2 The level of income to be derived from the extended core opening hours is estimated to be some £30,000. In determining this level, a number of assumptions have been made:-

- Income from swimming activity : £18k
- Income from Dry side activity (includes synthetic surface) : £12k

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The decision to secure community wide access to the Braes and Larbert High Schools is considered key in enabling participation in more active forms of leisure activity in these particular communities.
- 7.2 The proposals detailed above will enable community wide access to be delivered.

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 8.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the proposals for access and opening times.
- Consider the recommendation on the charges to be levied for access to the facilities by the public being based on the charges levied by Sport and Leisure Services and refer to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.
- To note that free access afforded to junior groups (Under 18's) under the policy operated by Education Services will be retained.
- Seek an update report following the October 2008 break to ascertain how the programme is working and assess user feedback.

.....  
**Maureen Campbell**  
**Director**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Contact Officer:** Tom Leighton, Head of Leisure Services (Tel: 590904)

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2008 at 10.30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:-** Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Gow, Jackson, Kenna, Nimmo and Spears.

**CONVENER:-** Councillor Gow.

**ATTENDING:-** Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Commercial Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance and of Housing and Social Work Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Head of Policy Performance and Review, Legal Services Manager (C Moodie); Corporate Policy Officer (A Hamilton) and Senior Committee Services Officer.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** In connection with item PR37, Depute Provost Black advised that she was a Board member of the Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey and that a family member was also a user of the service but that, in her view, neither involvement prevented her from taking part in consideration of the item.

**PR35. REFERRALS FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2008**

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Community Health and Safety Committee held on 13 May 2008 (Paragraphs CH6, CH7 and CH8 respectively refer), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 28 May 2008 by the Director of Development Services listing the Reports considered by the Community Health and Safety Committee at its meeting on 13 May 2008, namely:-

- Road Safety
- Trading Standards Enforcement Policy
- Falkirk Cruise Partnership and Associated Falkirk Town Centre Issues - Update

The Reports considered by the Community Health and Safety Committee on 13 May 2008 were appended for Members' information.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved the recommendations as agreed by the Community Health and Safety Committee.

**Falkirk Cruise Partnership and Associated Falkirk Town Centre Issues – Update**

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Committee agree to:-

“call on Falkirk Council to support the extensive work being carried out by Michael Matheson MSP and write to the local MP's asking that they call for a change in legislation banning the use of wide bore exhausts”

On a division, 4 Members voted for the Motion and 4 voted for the Amendment.

There being an equality of votes and in terms of Standing order 21.6, the Convener used her casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion, namely:-

**NOTED** the contents of the Report and the intention to submit regular update reports to the Community Health and Safety Committee, as appropriate.

**AGREED** to call on the Convener to write to the Scottish Transport Minister asking him to contact the UK Transport Minister asking for a review of the use of wide bore exhausts and refer to Policy and Resources Committee.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FALKIRK CRUISE PARTNERSHIP AND ASSOCIATED  
FALKIRK TOWN CENTRE ISSUES - UPDATE**  
**Meeting: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 13 MAY, 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to update members on relevant developments and initiatives involving officers from Development Services, in conjunction with partner agencies, across issues arising from the Falkirk Cruise Partnership and specific vehicle nuisance issues in Falkirk Town Centre.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Falkirk Cruise Partnership was set up around 1998 by the then Central Scotland Police Community Safety Sergeant. It was instigated by complaints from residents of Galloway Street who were being disturbed by people gathering in cars, dropping litter, playing loud music etc, in the Central Retail Park Car Park near to their homes.
- 2.2 Since then the problem has moved around for a variety of reasons, not least being the building of the Millennium Link and its associated car parking and the expansion of the Central Retail Park.
- 2.3 Consequently, the complainers and their locations have varied, but the complaints remain relatively consistent as those of noise, litter, urinating, drinking and road safety.

**3. RESPONSE ACTIONS AND PERCEPTIONS**

- 3.1 Over the years much has been done by the Police and partner agencies in an effort to address the concerns raised by residents and others including:
- Closing the section of car park next to Galloway Street outside peak hours;
  - Setting up a temporary (now permanent) traffic order closing Manor Street / Bank Street to through traffic;
  - Closure of the “upper” Millennium Wheel Car Park;
  - Regular additional police patrols on “Cruise” nights (first Thursday of each month);

- Measurement of speed and volume of traffic particularly in Park Street and Millennium Wheel Drive;
  - Council clean-up team picking up litter around West Carmuir's Loan / Millennium Wheel Drive car park;
  - Attempts to assist / encourage Cruisers to find a more suitable or permanent site.
- 3.1 In general, feedback about Police and partner activity has been positive. The closure of part of the Central Retail Park car park and additional high visibility police patrols in particular have led to significantly reduced complaints.
- 3.2 However, the recent focus of attention has centered on noise from modified exhausts fitted to the participating cars and to nights other than "official" "Cruise" nights.
- 3.3 In response to this issue, officers from Development Services have assisted the Police in conducting noise assessments of vehicle exhausts suspected of being modified. This assessment involves the lowest recorded noise level taken from three readings being compared to the noise levels from a standard exhaust. In the event of a failed test the Police may take appropriate action in terms of The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).

#### **4. CURRENT ACTIONS**

- 4.1 Officers are currently reviewing and assessing report information in respect of the impact of vehicle exhaust testing on the number of vehicles attending "Cruise" nights.
- 4.2 Field survey work will continue in respect of conducting noise assessments of vehicle exhausts suspected of being modified.
- 4.3 The Antisocial Behaviour Team will continue to record and pass to the Police the registration numbers of vehicles with noisy exhausts witnessed during their late night patrols.
- 4.4 Officers from Development Services will continue to support the Police and other partners in minimising the disturbance caused by vehicles on "Cruise" night and at all other times within Falkirk area.

#### **5. UPDATE**

- 5.1 A downward trend in attendance at "Cruise" nights has been identified from an average attendance of 700 vehicles in early 2007 to currently 200 vehicles per event. It should be noted however that these figures are subject to seasonal variation.

- 5.2 This decrease may be the direct result of the new Police procedure of reporting vehicle owners with modified exhausts to their insurance companies combined with the introduction of fixed penalty Notices as referred to in para 5.6 below in April 2007.
- 5.3 Analysis of air quality data on "Cruise" nights at Hope Street and Park Street automatic monitoring stations has established that "Cruise" vehicles are not causing exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective.
- 5.4 A partnership initiative to reduce vehicle emissions from stationary "Cruise" vehicles is being explored. The initiative would involve officers from the East Central Scotland Vehicle Emission Partnership, involving Falkirk and the Lothian's Councils advising drivers at "Cruise" nights to switch off their engines when stationary.
- 5.5 A Fixed Penalty Notice (£20 fine) can be issued in terms of, The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 if drivers fail to desist. This option is currently under consideration and a report will be brought to Members' in the future.
- 5.6 Approximately 20-30 Fixed Penalty Notices (£30 fine) are being issued by the Police on "Cruise" nights for excessively noisy exhausts and other contraventions of The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).
- 5.7 Town centre residents are still reporting disturbance from noisy exhausts on normal week nights. The Police have requested that they continue reporting these incidents in order that they can be investigated.
- 5.8 The Cruiser Working Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this Report and note the intention to submit regular Update Reports to this Committee as appropriate.**

.....  
**Director of Development Services**

**Date: 02 May, 2008**

Contact Officer: Graeme Webster, Environmental Health Co-ordinator (4762)



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**EXTRACT of MINUTE of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2008 at 10.30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, J Constable, Lemetti, C MacDonald, McLuckie, McNally, Mahoney, C R Martin; Meiklejohn and Nicol.

**CONVENER:** Councillor Mahoney.

**ATTENDING:** Director of Development Services; Legal Services Manager (W Barber); Head of Accountancy; Head of Business Services; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Roads and Development Manager; Planning and Environment Manager; Environment Co-ordinators (I Edwards and R Broadley); Committee Services Officer (A Rose).

**EH15. FALKIRK COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN - HILLEND FARM, SLAMANNAN – RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS**

With reference to Minute of Falkirk Council held on 30 April 2008 (Paragraph FC11 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 28 May 2008 by the Director of Development Services detailing (a) background to the representations received; (b) representations received; (c) implications of the Slamannan Special Initiative for Residential-led Regeneration (SIRR), and (d) the next steps.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) to recommend to full Council that Local Plan objections 098/169 (Persimmon Homes) and 0105/185 (Mr John Kelly) be accepted, and the responses to those objections detailed in Appendix 2 of the Report be approved;
- (2) to recommend to full Council that the proposed pre-inquiry modifications contained in Appendix 2 of the Report be approved, and thereafter advertised to allow the opportunity for further representations; and
- (3) to recommend to full Council that, should objections remain unresolved and be considered at the Local Plan Inquiry, the responses and proposed pre-inquiry modifications form the basis of the Council's position at the Inquiry.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FALKIRK COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN  
HILLEND FARM, SLAMANNAN  
RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS**  
**Meeting: ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 10 JUNE 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members will recall that, at a special meeting held on 9 April 2008, this Committee considered responses to representations which had been submitted to the Falkirk Council Local Plan (Finalised Draft – Deposit Version). The Committee also considered a set of proposed pre-inquiry modifications in an attempt to resolve some of the objections to the Local Plan. The item was then referred to the full Council meeting on 30 April 2008 where final responses and pre-inquiry modifications were approved.
- 1.2 The Council recommended that consideration of two objections, relating to the allocation of land at Hillend Farm, Slamannan, be continued pending receipt of the views of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on the impact of the proposed development on the Slamannan Plateau proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA). SNH have now confirmed that they no longer have an objection to the inclusion of the Hillend Farm site within the Local Plan, subject to appropriate mitigation measures. The Council is therefore now in a position to confirm its response to these representations.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Falkirk Council Structure Plan identifies Slamannan as one of four Special Initiatives for Residential-Led Regeneration (SIRRs), within which major housing growth of 500-850 units will be permitted in order to encourage regeneration of the village. In the Finalised Draft version of the Local Plan, published in March 2005, the Council identified land at Hillend Farm as the preferred location for this growth. At the time, this was seen to be the most satisfactory direction for growth, allowing a rounding off of the village envelope, maintaining a reasonably compact settlement form and minimising landscape impact.
- 2.2 In 2006, an area of the Slamannan Plateau to the west of the village was proposed as a Special Protection Area in order to protect the flock of Taiga bean geese which overwinter in this locality. SNH advised that there was potential for the housing proposal at Hillend to have a significant effect on the bean geese. In preparing a revised version of the Local Plan towards the end of 2006, the Council carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan, as required by the Habitats Regulations. This identified adverse impacts on the pSPA arising from the Hillend housing proposals. Accordingly, in the Finalised Draft (Deposit Version) of the Local Plan, published in April 2007, the Hillend site was reduced in size to a small residual area which equates to that contained in the current adopted Rural Local Plan. The Council identified alternative sites to the south and east of the village (H.SLA2, 4, 5 and 7) in order to deliver the SIRR.



### **3. HILLEND FARM REPRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 Representations objecting to the omission of larger Hillend Farm site (as contained in the March 2005 version of the local plan) were received from Persimmon Homes (Ref. 0098/169) and Mr James Kelly (Ref. 0105/185) in May 2007. The summaries of these objections are included at Appendix 1. In support of their objection, Persimmon Homes subsequently submitted a detailed appraisal of the effect of proposed development in relation to the bean geese and the pSPA. This study drew on updated survey data and highlighted the limited role which the Hillend Farm fields have played in recent times as a foraging or roosting area for the geese. It concluded that, provided certain mitigation measures were undertaken, the proposal would not adversely affect the bean geese. The study findings were referred to SNH for their consideration. SNH raised various issues with the study which were addressed in a revised version of the report. On 9 May 2008, SNH confirmed by letter that, having appraised the available information, they have concluded that the implementation of the housing proposals would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the pSPA.
- 3.2 With these concerns removed, the Council is now in a position to support the inclusion of the larger Hillend site for housing development. The land was previously the Council's preferred location for growth in Slamannan and it is recommended that the objections of Persimmon Homes and Mr Kelly be accepted. The revised response to the objections is detailed in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The detailed pre-inquiry modification to the Local Plan to re-introduce the larger Hillend farm housing site is also included in Appendix 2. This highlights the mitigation measures which will need to be carried out as part of the development. The small-scale opportunity for business development at the Hillend Farm steading would also be re-introduced.
- 3.4 It should be noted that Falkirk Council will be required to amend its original Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan to include an assessment of the extended Hillend proposals. This revision will be based on the information supplied by Persimmon Homes together with SNH's appraisal of that information. The Environmental Report which is produced as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process will also need to be amended.

### **4. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SLAMANNAN SIRR**

- 4.1 The re-introduction of the Hillend farm site requires a re-evaluation of the Slamannan SIRR as a whole, having regard to its overall scale as set out in the Structure Plan and its objectives as described in the Local Plan. It is considered that the housing sites to the south and east of the village which were introduced as a replacement to the Hillend site, could still play an important role in the regeneration of the village and should be retained. The aggregate capacity of all the sites is approximately 850, which accords with the Structure Plan threshold.
- 4.2 With the SIRR now comprising two major growth locations, it is vitally important that key planning and infrastructure requirements are co-ordinated across all the sites through a comprehensive development framework. The proposed development framework will highlight these requirements, including strategic improvements to transport and drainage infrastructure, community facilities and the environment in the

village, and how the various sites are expected to contribute to the delivery of such infrastructure. The need for the development of all the sites to conform to a development framework is reflected in text changes to each of the SIRR housing opportunities, as detailed in Appendix 2.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 If the changes detailed above are accepted, the updated response will be conveyed to the two objectors, who will be invited to withdraw or maintain their objections. There will also be a need to advertise the additional proposed pre-inquiry modifications to provide the opportunity for any party to object to the changes. Depending on the outcome of these processes, the Hillend site may still require to be considered at the local plan inquiry which is expected to commence in early 2009.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy. The Local Plan is the main mechanism for implementing the Falkirk Council Structure Plan and its detailed land use policies and allocations will impact on other corporate policy areas. The final plan will therefore be a significant policy document affecting the whole of the Council area.
- 6.2 Legal. The Local Plan is being undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and the Town and Country Planning (Structure and Local Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 1983. In respect of the Hillend Farm site and any potential effects on the Slamannan Plateau pSPA, the Council must adhere to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 as amended, and is required as competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the proposed development for the conservation interests for which the pSPA is designated.
- 6.3 Financial. None.
- 6.4 Personnel. None.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 That Committee:**

- (a) recommends to full Council that Local Plan objections 098/169 (Persimmon Homes) and 0105/185 (Mr John Kelly) be accepted, and the responses to those objections detailed in Appendix 2 be approved;
- (b) recommends to full Council that the proposed pre-inquiry modifications contained in Appendix 2 be approved, and thereafter advertised to allow the opportunity for further representations; and
- (c)/

- (c) recommends to full Council that, should objections remain unresolved and be considered at the Local Plan Inquiry, the responses and proposed pre-inquiry modifications form the basis of the Council's position at the Inquiry.

.....  
**Director of Development Services**

**Date: 28 May 2008**

Contact Officer: Alistair Shaw (Development Plan Co-ordinator), ext 4739

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Falkirk Council Structure Plan, January 2007
2. Falkirk Council Local Plan, Finalised Draft (Deposit Version), April 2007.
3. Letters of Representation to the Falkirk Council Local Plan, Finalised Draft (Deposit Version)
4. Falkirk Council Local Plan, Appropriate Assessment, February 2007.
5. 'Natura Appraisal of the Proposed Housing Development at Hillend Farm (Slamannan) in relation to the Taiga Bean Goose Qualifying Interest of the Slamannan Plateau Potential SPA', HEL Limited, March 2008.
6. Letter from Scottish Natural Heritage regarding the Slamannan Plateau SPA and proposed housing development at Slamannan, dated 9 May 2008.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 504739 and ask for Alistair Shaw (Development Plan Co-ordinator).

## HILLEND FARM, SLAMANNAN REPRESENTATIONS

**Respondent:** 0098 Persimmon Homes (Halliday Fraser Munro Planning)  
**Representation** 169 Type of Representation Objection  
**Subject** Additional Housing Proposal – Hillend Farm, Slamannan

**Summary** This site was supported in the Draft and Finalised Local Plan but most is now de-allocated because of the potential adverse effect that development would have on overwintering bean geese and the integrity of the proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA). The objectors have undertaken a Special Study of bean geese in the Slamannan area, the interim conclusions of which conclude that the proposed development would have no significant effect on the integrity of the pSPA. The inclusion of land at Hillend Farm has until recently enjoyed Council Officer and Member support and strong support from the local community. The site is well located to provide for additional growth and its development will allow the full package of significant social and infrastructure improvements to be realised.

**Respondent:** 0105 Mr James Kelly (Hendersons Chartered Surveyors)  
**Representation** 185 Type of Representation Objection  
**Subject** Additional Housing Proposal – Hillend Farm, Slamannan

**Summary** The objection is to the omission of the Hillend Farm site for residential purposes. The site has the potential to integrate visually with the village and is the most readily available and least constrained site with the capability to deliver 400 – 600 houses to aid the regeneration aspirations of Slamannan. It is important to note that the Council commissioned study into the Local Plan proposals on the proposed Special Protection Area noted that the Hillend proposals had the ‘potential’ for disturbance and could not be definitive. It is furthermore a ‘desk top’ study undertaken over a relatively short period using historic data. Further scientific and factual evidence will be presented to support the position that impact on the bean geese population will be negligible and that conservation measures could be implemented to enhance their habitat. The historic use of the site for dairy farming has changed which in turn had changed the habitat at Hillend.

**HILLEND FARM, SLAMANNAN  
RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS & ASSOCIATED PROPOSED PRE-  
INQUIRY MODIFICATIONS**

Representation 98/169 (Persimmon Homes)  
Representation 105/185 (Mr James Kelly)

Council Response  
Objection Accepted

Reason:

The Council had previously supported the site at Hillend Farm as the preferred location for growth in the village, but subsequently reduced the site significantly due to concerns about potential adverse effects on the Slamannan Plateau pSPA. Subsequent information provided by Persimmon Homes and appraisal by SNH has shown that, with appropriate mitigation, the development of this site will not adversely affect the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau pSPA. The site's development for housing will assist the Council in achieving the target for housing growth set out in Schedule Com1.b of the Structure Plan and allow a full package of significant social and infrastructure improvements to be realised in support of the Local Plan's regeneration objectives for the village.

Additional Proposed Pre-Inquiry Modifications

**Additional Housing & Business Opportunities – Hillend Farm, Slamannan**

- Amend boundary of Opportunity H.SLA1, as shown on Map 23.
- Amend text of Opportunity H.SLA1 as follows:
  - H.SLA1: Hillend Farm*
  - Site Area: 67.6 hectares*
  - Capacity: Approximately 550*
  - Developer: Private*
  - Status: Opportunity - Part of SIRR*
  - Comments: Major housing development at Hillend Farm incorporating economic development uses (see ED.SLA1), open space, landscaping and recreation areas. Masterplan required which must conform to a Council approved Development Framework for the wider Slamannan SIRR. Developer contributions to physical/community infrastructure as outlined in paragraphs 5.5-5.6 above will be required. Specific mitigation to reduce the impact on wintering bean geese to acceptable levels will be required as follows. Construction activities must not be undertaken within the wintering period for bean geese (from beginning of October to end February). A greenspace buffer around the River Avon should be established with the aim of providing alternative areas for the bean geese to forage. This greenspace buffer should be separated from development by appropriate measures (e.g. screening) and should not be made available for public recreational use. A management plan for the green space buffer area must be submitted as part of the masterplan with a suitable monitoring programme set up to monitor the success of mitigation. A financial contribution to cover the lifetime cost of implementing and monitoring the management plan will also be required.'*

- Insert new economic development opportunity ED.SLA1, as shown on Map 23, and in text as follows:  
*'ED.SLA1: Hillend Farm  
 Proposal: Business/Industrial Use  
 Agency: Private  
 Comments: Opportunity to provide premises and land to encourage business development.'*
- Paragraph 6.2. Delete and replace with:  
*'A business development area is identified at Hillend Farm, which is to be developed along with residential development. Although no other sites have been identified for economic development uses, any such proposals will be considered favourably, subject to assessment against relevant policies.'*
- Amend Slamannan Urban Limit as shown on Map 23.
- Amend SIRR Boundary as shown on Map 23.
- Paragraph 5.3. Delete 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> sentences and replace with:  
*'The Appropriate Assessment originally determined that the designation of the housing sites at Hillend Farm would adversely affect the integrity of the proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) and consequently they were removed from the Falkirk Council Local Plan Finalised Draft (Deposit Version). Consequently, following the receipt of additional information it was determined, in consultation with SNH, that with appropriate mitigation the housing sites at Hillend Farm would not adversely affect the integrity of the pSPA and they have therefore been reinstated.'*
- Paragraph 5.4. Delete and replace with:  
*'The two main areas to which new development will be directed are Hillend Farm to the north west of the village and Southfield Farm to the south west. Two smaller areas to the east on Avonbridge Road and to the south at the Rumlie are also allocated. Expansion in these areas will allow a 'rounding off' of the village, maintain a relatively compact settlement form, and minimise impact on the surrounding landscape. There are a number of physical and community infrastructure improvements which will be enabled by development and the costs should be shared equitably between all developers within the Slamannan SIRR. A Council approved Development Framework will set out what this shared infrastructure is and set the basis for equitable contributions towards the shared infrastructure. The preparation of masterplans for the two main areas of development will also be required, and must conform to the Council approved Development Framework. Masterplans should show land uses, housing form, access arrangements, landscaping and open space, phasing and the relationship and linkages to existing areas.'*

**Reason:** In response to representations by Persimmon Homes and Mr James Kelly, the housing and business sites at Hillend Farm have been reintroduced to the plan, following confirmation that the proposals, with mitigation, will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau pSPA.

#### **Opportunities H.SLA2 - Avonbridge Road/H.SLA4 - Blinkbonnie Terrace/ H.SLA6 - The Rumlie/H.SLA7 - Southfield Farm**

- Opportunity H.SLA2. In comments section, delete 1st sentence and replace with:  
*'Planning Brief required which must conform to a Council approved Development Framework for the wider Slamannan SIRR. Developer contributions to physical/community infrastructure as outlined in paragraphs 5.5-5.6 above will be required.'*

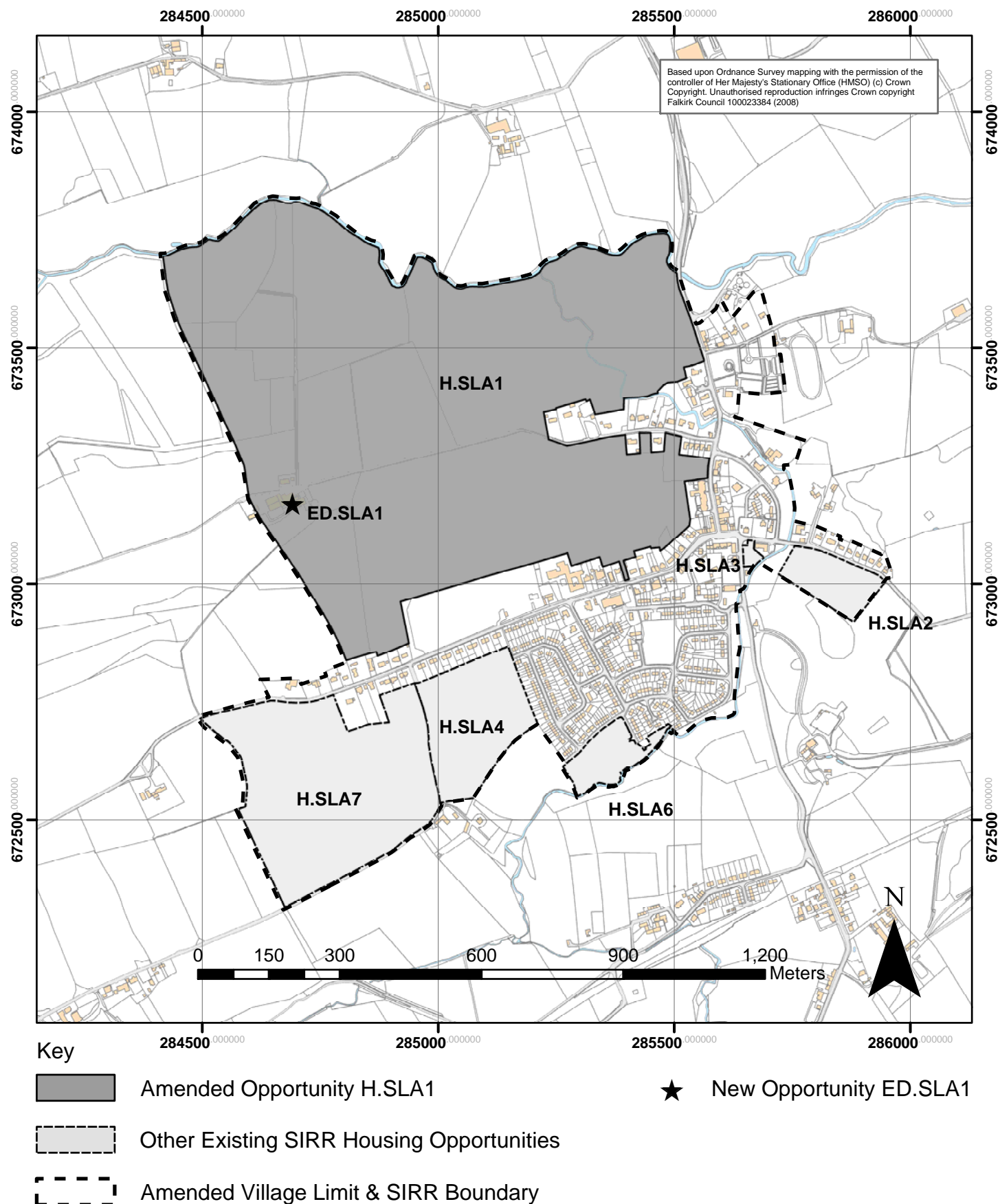
- Opportunity H.SLA4. In comments section, delete 1st sentence and replace with:  
*'Masterplan required in conjunction with site H.SLA7 which must conform to a Council approved Development Framework for the wider Slamannan SIRR. Developer contributions to physical/community infrastructure as outlined in paragraphs 5.5-5.6 above will be required.'*
- Opportunity H.SLA6. Amend text as follows:  

<i>'H.SLA6:</i>	<i>The Rumlie</i>
<i>Site Area:</i>	<i>1.6 hectares</i>
<i>Capacity:</i>	<i>Approximately 30</i>
<i>Developer:</i>	<i>Falkirk Council</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>Opportunity - part of SIRR</i>
<i>Comments:</i>	<i>Development must conform to a Council approved Development Framework for the wider Slamannan SIRR. Developer contributions to physical/community infrastructure as outlined in paragraphs 5.5-5.6 above will be required. Site includes blaes play area. Play equipment will have to be provided either on off site as directed by the Development Framework. Flood risk assessment will be required for the part of the site adjacent to the Culloch Burn and an attenuation pond is likely to be required within the site to address flooding and water quality issues.'</i>
- Opportunity H.SLA7. In comments section, delete 1st sentence and replace with:  
*'Masterplan required in conjunction with site H.SLA 4 and subject to similar considerations. Masterplan must conform to a Council approved Development Framework for the wider Slamannan SIRR.'*

Reason: In response to the reinstatement of the Hillend Farm housing site, changes to the wording of other housing sites are required to ensure that all sites conform to a Council approved Development Framework through which overall infrastructure requirements are co-ordinated.

## Map 23 : New Housing and Business Opportunities

### H.SLA1 & ED.SLA1 - Hillend Farm, Slamannan





## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: HOUSING ALLOCATIONS REVIEW UPDATE**

**MEETING: HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 24 JUNE 2008**

**AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a draft housing allocations policy which subject to the approval of Council would be the basis of stakeholder consultation over the summer months.
- 1.2 Following feedback from the consultation process a final Housing Allocations Policy would be presented to Members for consideration and approval.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In September 2007, Members recognised that the existing housing allocations policy was no longer effective in meeting local housing needs. In addition, it was no longer compliant with on-going changes in legislation or efficient in maximising the use of the Council housing stock. Members agreed that a fundamental review of the policy was required to develop a modern, efficient, effective and person-focused allocations mechanism which takes account of local housing needs, current legislation and accepted best practice.

#### **3. THE REVIEW PROCESS**

- 3.1 In order to review comprehensively the housing allocations policy, work has been carried out in a number of areas:
  - the existing policy was examined in detail
  - examples of best practice were gathered from relevant guidance, research findings and other social landlord allocation policies, and
  - extensive consultation with service users and other stakeholders was carried out.
- 3.2 The detailed examination of the current allocations policy highlighted a number of issues; in particular, that the policy did not ensure that allocations were made to applicants within the main need based categories. To address these issues, Members approved a number of interim changes with effect from 1 January 2008:
- 3.3 An analysis of allocations activity during January and February was provided to Members. This highlighted that the changes have been effective in ensuring that allocations are made to those in greatest housing need. Between January and the middle of June, a total of 450 properties have been allocated with 284 properties allocated to applicants who were homeless and in priority need (63% of properties), 21 to applicants who have a high medical priority (5% of properties) and 88 to those in overcrowded conditions (20% of properties). The remainder were allocated to other waiting list applicants e.g. applicants for Housing with Care.

In addition, 71% of all properties accepted the first or second time they were offered for let.

- 3.4 When contacting all applicants on the waiting list to advise them of the interim changes made to the allocations policy, the opportunity was taken to undertake a re-registration exercise.

The purpose of this exercise was to:

- bring the housing list up to date
- gather general views on broad allocations priorities and process options, and
- invite applicants to indicate if and how they preferred to take part further in the allocations policy review.

#### **4. RE-REGISTRATION OF HOUSING LIST APPLICANTS**

- 4.1 The re-registration exercise has now been concluded and the waiting list has reduced from 12,605 as at 9 January 2008 to 8066 applicants as at 16 June 2008. This includes over 500 applicants who have been assessed as homeless and in priority need, and who have a statutory right to permanent accommodation.

#### **5. CONSULTATION WITH SERVICE USERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 To date, considerable consultation has been carried out to gather views on allocations in order to inform development of a revised policy. This consultation has included a short questionnaire to all stakeholders, staff workshops, a workshop for local Members.
- 5.2 The feedback on the outcome of these consultation exercises has been provided to Members.
- 5.3 Since then, a series of cross-stakeholder workshops has take place. Each workshop focused on different aspects of allocations:
- homelessness
  - determining priorities,
  - allocations processes
  - management of the housing list and allocations
  - information for stakeholders, and
  - moving to a revised policy

The main points emerging from the feedback from participants at these sessions is summarised at Appendix 1 and is consistent with earlier feedback.

- 5.4 All the contributions and comments received as a result of the different consultation exercises carried out have proved very useful. This feedback, together with the review of guidance and best practice, has been used to draft the revised policy which is now presented to Members.

## 6. PROPOSED HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

- 6.1 A proposed Housing Allocations Policy document for consultation is set out for Members consideration at Appendix 2.

This proposed policy aims to ensure that allocations are routinely made to applicants in the greatest housing need, the use of the Council's housing stock is maximised and applicants are able to choose which houses they wish to be considered for.

The main features of the proposed policy are:

- It is a priority based system (not points)
- It is a “group” system rather than one list
- Applicants choose the properties they wish to be offered (not matched)
- There are targets for outcomes (i.e. a quota system)
- Registration will be simplified
- Applicants are pro-active.

### 6.2 Applicant Groups

Applicants are separated into Groups rather than being on a single list. These groups are:

- Home Seekers - applicants who are assessed as homeless in accordance with Part II of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 as amended by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness, etc (Scotland) Act 2003:
- Home Movers - Falkirk Council tenants and the tenants of RSLs living in the Falkirk Council area, and
- Home Starters - all other applicants

### 6.3 Target Outcomes

Quotas are set for allocations to each applicant group rather than allocations being untargated. These quotas will be reviewed annually to ensure that allocations are being made in a way which reflects waiting list demand. The proposal is that initially allocations should be made in the following proportions:

- Home Seekers – 50%:
- Home Movers – 25%: and
- Home Starters – 25%.

### 6.4 Priority Categories

Applicants are awarded priority for their most significant housing need rather than points. It is proposed that 4 levels of priority are available, from Category 1 which will include applicants to whom the Council must give “reasonable preference”, to Categories 2 and 3 for applicants with less pressing housing needs, and lastly Category 4 for applicants who have no recognised housing need but who wish to move within or into Council housing

Detail on priority awards are outlined in Section 4.3 of Appendix 2 and these are summarised below:

#### Category 1

- Homeless in Priority Need
- Significant medical needs and bed blocking
- Serious overcrowding – min 2 bedrooms short
- Poor housing condition
- Under-occupying social rented housing

- Redevelopment/regeneration
- Two-for-One

#### Category 2

- Homeless – Non priority (2012 Target) & Insecure tenure
- Sharing and “Care of”
- Overcrowding – 1 bedroom needed (including bedsit)
- Exceptional housing needs – social reasons

#### Category 3

- Continuing parental responsibilities
- Children in Flats
- Under-occupation (non tenants)
- Medical condition
- Local connection

#### Category 4

- All other applicants

### 6.5 **Allocations Process**

Applicant registration is simplified without the need to hold detailed information regarding applicant choices as at present. Applicants are asked to indicate in which part of the Council area they wish to live. The number of allocations areas is reduced from 102 to 7 and these are based on High School cluster areas. Applicants can indicate as few or as many of these areas as they wish.

Properties are automatically sequenced in accordance with the quotas set and individual adverts will indicate which applicant groups are to be given preference when bids are received.

Allocations are made using a choice-based approach rather than a matching process. Available properties will be advertised fortnightly with a closing date before which interested applicants should indicate a note of interest. There is no limit on the number of bids that applicants can make at any one time or how often they bid.

A short-list of suitable applicants is prepared. In general, suitable applicants are those who meet the criteria in the advert and whose household size best meets the size criteria for the house.

Bids are then ranked according to the Category of priority of the suitable applicants. Suitable applicants with the same level of priority are further ranked according to the date of award of priority or by date of application for applicants with Category 4 priority. No priority is awarded for the length of time spent on the housing list.

### 6.6 **Refusals**

Applicants are active in the allocations process and have more control over when they wish to be considered for housing and which houses they wish to be considered for.

Given that applicants will have the opportunity to choose the properties they bid for, there is an expectation that successful applicants will accept the property they are offered. However, if an applicant with Category 1, 2 or 3 priority is successful in their bid and subsequently refuses the property, they will lose their priority and revert to Category 4 priority.

Applicants have a right to appeal this decisions as outlined in Section 7.1 of Appendix 2.

**6.7 Exceptions to Advertising**

To ensure that the Council makes best use of its specialist housing stock, allocations to Housing with Care and properties adapted for those with a medical condition or disability will continue to be matched to applicants who have been assessed as requiring these types of specialist accommodation.

In addition, properties which are required for emergency accommodation, or to discharge our statutory duty in accordance with Homeless legislation will not be advertised.

**7. FURTHER CONSULTATION**

7.1 It is proposed that further consultation be carried out over the summer recess to gather feedback from stakeholders on the proposed policy. This consultation will include:

- placing a copy of the proposed policy on the Council's Website for comment from any member of the public
- making copies of the proposed policy available in Neighbourhood Offices/One Stop Shops, ARC, supported accommodation projects, libraries and the offices of RSL partners for service users to comment
- providing RTOs and other agency stakeholders with a copy of the proposed policy for comment
- holding local awareness raising events across the Council's area where service users and stakeholders can provide comments on the proposed policy
- holding focus groups for staff to comment on the proposed policy
- providing stakeholders who attended the series of cross-stakeholder workshops with a copy of the proposed policy for comment

7.2 It is proposed to report back to Members on the outcome of this further consultation at a future meeting of this Committee. Thereafter a detailed implementation action plan and timetable, including transition arrangements for existing applicants, can be drawn up for Members' approval. At this stage, it is anticipated that implementation of a revised policy will take place from 1 April 2009.

**8. CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT WORK**

8.1 In addition to the further consultation which will be carried out during the summer recess, further development work related to implementing a revised policy will also be carried out. This will include:

- undertaking further modelling on the impact of the revised policy for applicants currently on the Council's waiting list
- considering options for incentive schemes to encourage applicants who are currently under-occupying properties to apply for re-housing to smaller properties
- researching in greater depth, best practice with regard to the provision of a choice based lettings scheme
- options for advertising and publicising vacant properties
- options for registering bids

## **9. CONTINUING INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALLOCATIONS**

- 9.1 In accordance with the decision taken at Falkirk Council in December 2007, the interim arrangements will continue until the revised allocations framework is implemented. Therefore, we will continue the arrangement for two out of three properties to be offered to homeless applicants in priority need and the third property to “Other Needs” applicants.

However in order to further improve the effectiveness of allocations in meeting the needs of housing applicants and reducing further the time taken to house homeless applicants in this interim period, additional interim arrangements are proposed as set out below.

### **9.2 Under-occupation**

It is recommended that applicants who are Falkirk Council tenants who have been awarded under-occupation points should be included for consideration for allocations made to the “Other Needs” group. As with other applicants considered for allocations to this group, applicants will be prioritised on the basis of their current points total. It is anticipated that this arrangement will not only assist these applicants move into more suitable accommodation, but will also free-up larger houses for allocation to other applicants in housing need. It is proposed that this arrangement be implemented with effect from 1 August 2008.

### **9.3 Offers to Homeless Applicants**

Although homeless applicants have to select 20 allocation areas, many of the current allocation areas have few properties and very low levels of turnover and therefore do not represent a realistic option for re-housing.

To improve the prospects of homeless applicants receiving an offer of housing, staff at the Accommodation Resource Centre (ARC) have been carrying out Housing Options interviews. These interviews have been used to review the applicant’s housing circumstances and reconsider the allocation areas they have selected. Unfortunately, not all applicants have engaged in this process. Some have attended for interview but refused to alter any of their allocation areas while others have simply not attended for interview. Those applicants who have reviewed their choices have been successful in receiving offers.

In order to provide these applicants (c500) with an offer of permanent accommodation, many of whom are living in temporary accommodation provided by the Council, it is intended to carry out Housing Options Interviews with all applicants who have had homeless priority for 12 months or more.

It is proposed that the applicant be advised that if they do not voluntarily include more realistic allocation areas on their application, then an offer of housing will be made as soon as possible. Where possible, this offer will be within the High School cluster area of the school attended by any children within household, however this will depend on the availability of suitable properties.

This will discharge the Council’s statutory obligation under the terms of the homelessness legislation.

If the applicant refuses the offer, they will lose their homeless priority points, and if they are living in temporary accommodation provided by the Council, they will be given 28 days notice to vacate the property.

It is proposed that this arrangement be implemented with effect from 1 August 2008.

### 10.1 Members are asked to:

- Shal Ritchie

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

Contact Officer: Liz MacEwen..... Ext. 0758  
Jennifer Litts ..... Ext. 0789

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject:       AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING – AUDIT  
SCOTLAND REPORT, MAY 2008**  
**Meeting:       FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date:           25 JUNE 2008**  
**Author:        CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1.       INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1       The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the findings contained within the report recently published by Audit Scotland on the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning within Falkirk Council. The Council is required to consider the Audit Report and publish its response within three months of publication of the report. My report to Members notes the findings of the Audit, as well as the improvement actions the Auditors have recommended the Council consider in progressing our approach to Best Value.

**2.       BACKGROUND**

- 2.1       The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 introduced new statutory duties relating to Best Value and Community Planning. Audit Scotland is currently conducting a systematic programme of Best Value and Community Planning Audits of every Council in Scotland. Members will be aware that a small team from Audit Scotland undertook audit work within the Council and with our community planning partners last summer following a written submission and presentation to the Auditors prior to the election. The main audit work started following the election in May 2007 and included:
- Questionnaires of Elected Members, Council Officers and Community Planning Partners;
  - Over 40 interviews with Members, Council officers and key partners;
  - A review of over 200 written documents; and
  - Attending Council Committees and other meetings of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership.
- 2.2       In addition to the fieldwork noted above, the audit team used the findings of other inspections to reach their conclusions. It should be stressed that whilst the report gives a broad picture of the Council's performance it does not give a comprehensive review of all service delivery.
- 2.3       Audit Scotland submitted their report to the Accounts Commission in April 2008, with the final report being published in May 2008 which included the Accounts Commission findings. A copy of the final report has been sent to all Members and Community Planning Partners.



- 2.4 The key objectives of the audit were:
- (a) To assess the extent to which Falkirk Council is meeting its duties under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
  - (b) To identify improvement priorities with the Council.
- 2.5 The Council's external auditor will review these improvement priorities over the next three years.

### **3. AUDIT FINDINGS**

- 3.1 The overall conclusion from the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning is that Falkirk Council shows good, solid performance with many characteristics of best value. In particular, they found evidence that the Council does well with regard to:
- Vision and strategic direction;
  - Community engagement;
  - Customer focus;
  - Partnership working;
  - Performance management; and
  - The delivery of a number of major projects and initiatives contributing to economic development and regeneration.
- 3.2 In particular the report highlights that both Members and Officers have a clear vision for the area which is underpinned by a highly motivated workforce. It notes that we have a strong outward focus and work well and successfully with strategic partners through community planning to deliver major projects and initiatives and these bring real benefits to the area and our communities.
- 3.3 However it also notes that while we demonstrate many of the characteristics of best value, work is required to embed some new policies and strategies. This includes asset management, procurement and risk management. It also notes the need to ensure a more consistent approach to best value service reviews.
- 3.4 The report acknowledges that the Council has good financial stewardship and has used technology to good effect to modernise the way we deliver services. It is heartening to note the Auditors also found that the Council has a positive culture, with staff displaying a strong commitment to delivering high quality customer services.
- 3.5 The Auditors also recognise that the Council uses consultation and community engagement to inform policy development, decision making and service delivery. The report also highlights the overall trend of improvement within our Statutory Performance Indicators, with the number of those in the top quartile exceeding the Scottish average. It does however note the need to balance the delivery of core services against the focus on significant projects.

- 3.6 The report notes that the Council has a number of senior vacancies and a large proportion of new Members following the election. It recognises the Council's commitment to reviewing political and management structures and suggests a timely conclusion to this in order to delivery the Council's 'ambitious programme of continuous improvement'.
- 3.7 The report indicates that service performance is mixed with strengths in education, community learning and development and criminal justice. It notes the need for improvement in housing and jointly delivered community care services. This is in line with previously reported inspection reports.
- 3.8 While the overall conclusions of the report are very positive, a number of areas for improvement are identified within the report. Members will recall that, in the Council's original submission to the Auditors in February 2007, we included an Improvement Plan listing actions to be undertaken over the next eighteen months or so. This was acknowledged by the Auditor in the final section of their report – 'What Needs to Improve'. This recognised that, not only do we have a robust Improvement Plan, but we also have in place clear mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the plan and the actions contained therein.
- 3.9 The current Improvement Plan has been reported on a regular basis to the Council's Best Value and Audit Forum. The most recent progress report considered by the Forum in May 2008 is attached to this report as appendix one. This shows that many of the key actions identified within the report on Best Value and Community Planning have been completed. Unfortunately, due to the length of time between the audit fieldwork and the publication of the Audit report, this work has not been reflected in the final Audit report.
- 3.10 The Audit Report does however highlight some areas that were not previously contained within the Council's Improvement Plan. These include:
- Addressing senior management vacancies;
  - Reviewing our approach to scrutiny to ensure that the Best Value and Audit Forum meets in public, in accordance with the principles of accountability and openness;
  - Implementing a more strategic approach to reducing sickness absence;
  - Implementing a community engagement strategy; and
  - Addressing identified weaknesses in aspects of housing and social work services and sustaining a focus on raising educational attainment.
- 3.11 Members will note that, although some of the areas noted above are not specifically highlighted within the current Improvement Plan, these are areas the Council is aware of, has been reviewing and is making progress on. For example Members will be aware that a specific Housing Improvement Plan has been developed, agreed by Members and The Scottish Housing Regulator and has already highlighted areas where significant improvement has been made. In addition, improvements have also been made in our approach to meeting the needs of older people in response to the MAISOP inspection.

#### **4. FALKIRK COUNCIL RESPONSE TO AUDIT FINDINGS**

- 4.1 The findings within the Audit are considered to be very positive. They show that since the Council's inception in 1996, it has made a significant difference to the lives of the people in the area and in particular, ensured the economic regeneration of the area.
- 4.2 With regard to improvements, the Council's current Improvement Plan has progressed many of the actions contained within the Audit report. It is proposed that this Improvement Plan is refreshed to ensure the Council's focus on continuous improvement is maintained and includes reference to the actions noted in paragraph 3.10 above. It is suggested that this refreshed Plan will be subject to ongoing monitoring by the Corporate Management Team and the Best Value and Audit Forum. This would be consistent with the monitoring process used to chart the progress of our Improvement Plan from February 2007.
- 4.3 I will, following the submission of our response to the Audit and Accounts Commission findings, meet with our Auditors and Accounts Commission representatives to ensure our response is appropriate.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Members:**

- 5.1 **Welcome the publication of the Audit Scotland, Audit of Best Value and Community Planning – Falkirk Council;**
- 5.2 **Agree the findings of the report, including the areas for improvement;**
- 5.3 **Agree that a response is sent to the Accounts Commission that recognises the positive nature of the report and the Council's agreement of its findings along with a copy of the existing Improvement Plan as set out in appendix one of this report;**
- 5.4 **The current Improvement Plan is updated to make reference to the specific actions noted in paragraph 3.10; and**
- 5.5 **The new Plan is monitored through regular reports to Best Value and Audit Forum with six monthly progress reports being submitted to Policy & Resources Committee.**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Date: 5 June 2008  
Ref: ABK0608KA  
Contact Name: Fiona Campbell Ext: 6004

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**




1. Falkirk Council's submission on Best Value and Community Planning – March 2007.
2. Audit Scotland – the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning – Falkirk Council – May 2008.




Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell.



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**




**Position to April 2008**

**RESOURCES**

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure our systems and processes for monitoring and reporting performance are effective	We will do this by: Evaluating the use of performance management software for consistent and timely cross-service monitoring and reporting	Sept 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Completed
	Implementing a performance management software system with publication of 1 <sup>st</sup> report	Nov 2007 to April 2008	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		System being implemented. First Report anticipated June 2008.
	Evaluating the use of a recognised / accredited performance management system / framework	March 2008	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Report to be presented to Best Value and Audit Forum August 2008.




Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure that budget and service planning are aligned in order to meet our goals and values	We will do this by: Further developing links between three year budgets and corporate and service plans	March 2008	Director of Finance		SOA and Corporate Plan now approved by Members. Service Plans being updated to ensure alignment. These will be presented to Members in the near future.
We will ensure all our assets best meet the needs of our communities and align with priorities	We will do this by: Preparing a Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2007-2010	March 2007	Director of Community Services		Completed.
	Undertaking a detailed review of our office accommodation requirements	March 2008	Director of Community Services		Further report is being prepared for Members.


Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure our approach to procurement supports the delivery of Council priorities and results in efficiency savings	We will do this by: Reviewing and implementing revised procurement structures in line with the McClelland Report	August 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Completed.  Procurement Board now meeting and reporting to CMT on a quarterly basis.
	Preparing an updated procurement strategy for 2007 – 2010	June 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Completed  Strategy approved by Policy and Resources Committee in January 2008.

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
	Appraising and evaluating participation in Scotland Excel	August 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Renfrewshire Council, as lead authority circulated details of the operating model and costs.  Report considered by Members at Policy and Resources Committee in April 2008.
We will ensure our approach to best value reviews and option appraisal is rigorous and effective	We will do this by: Developing criteria for prioritising our corporate best value review programme and establishing a rolling review programme	September 2007	CMT		All reviews have now been scoped with a reporting timetable agreed for each.
	Preparing a best value business case for ex CCT activities, incorporating appropriate benchmarking and option appraisal	March 2008	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Draft scoping and remit document being prepared.  Procurement to be undertaken April 2008.





## PEOPLE

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure our employees are equipped with the necessary skills to undertake their designated roles	We will do this by: Consolidating and implementing our leadership development programmes across all appropriate staff	December 2007	CMT		APDS being rolled out across Services. Pilot areas identified.
We will ensure we attract, retain and support our employees whilst recognising future service needs	We will do this by: Preparing an HR and Workforce Planning Strategy	March 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Completed. Implementation is now underway.
We will ensure we consider the views of our employees	We will do this by: Undertaking a further Staff Attitude and Health Needs Assessment Survey	November 2007	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Completed. Results reported to JCC in February 2008. Services devising action plans based on findings.




Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure our services have appropriate accreditation with regards to supporting our employees	We will do this by: Progressing with a programme of IIP accreditation	December 2008	Education Services  Community Services  Finance Services  Corporate and Commercial		<p>Work started to assess readiness of service. Anticipated application in 2009/10.</p> <p>Working Group established to take this forward. Anticipated application Dec 2008.</p> <p>Critical Friend Audit completed for Finance IIP processes</p> <p>Conclusion from HR is that IIP accreditation should be applied for by June 2008</p> <p>Corporate IIP accreditation now renewed for a 3 year period until 2010</p> <p>Commercial to be completed by December 2008</p>

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
	Working to achieve the Healthy Working Lives Award	June 2008	<p>Development Services</p> <p>Housing and Social Work</p> <p>Law and Administration</p> <p>Director of Corporate &amp; Commercial Services</p>		<p>Begin accreditation process by December 2008</p> <p>Accreditation work to commence late 2008</p> <p>Critical friend audit and interviews of cross section of staff completed March 2008. Following written report work will commence to address issues of improvement.</p> <p>Confirmation received that the Council has achieved Gold Standard Health Working Lives Award</p> <p>Reported to JCC in February 2008</p>

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light: Red Amber Green	Comments
We will ensure our customers know the standards of service we aim to provide	We will do this by:  Implementing a set of corporate and service standards for customer service	December 2007	CMT		Customer Services Standards approved by Policy and Resources Committee in February. These are now being rolled out across all services.
	Reviewing our approach to public performance reporting	January 2008	Director of Corporate & Commercial Services		Biannual Council Survey being undertaken. Results to be reported to Members in June 2008.

## GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Objectives	Task	To be completed by	Lead officer	Traffic light:	Comments
				Red Amber Green	
We will ensure our members are fully trained and supported following the May election	We will do this by: Implementing a new induction programme for all members	June 2007	Acting Director of Law and Administration		Completed Personal Development Plans for Members being developed.
We will ensure our arrangements for scrutiny and policy making are robust and effective	We will do this by: Reviewing our current approach to scrutiny including our standing orders and scheme of delegation	December 2007	Acting Director of Law and Administration		Members Working Group has met. It is anticipated that a report will be presented to Council in June.
	The establishment of new roles and responsibilities remits for members	December 2007	Acting Director of Law and Administration		See above

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject : ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/08**  
**Meeting : FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 June 2008**  
**Author : DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985, Members are required to receive formal submission of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of the Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2008.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members note the formal submission of the Unaudited Annual Accounts to the Controller of Audit by the 30 June 2008 deadline.**

**Director of Finance**

**Date : 9 June 2008**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. 2007/08 Unaudited Annual Report & Accounts

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers should telephone Falkirk (01324) 506300 and ask for Mr A Jannetta.



## **AGENDA ITEM 9**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: COUNCIL STRUCTURES**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008**  
**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Council resolved on 5 December 2007 to commence a review of Service and Committee structures, with initial options for carrying out such a review being presented to Members in January.
- 1.2 A report was submitted to Policy and Resources Committee in January 2008, when Members established a Working Group to consider the review and also approved a number of interim arrangements to allow service delivery to be maintained pending its completion.
- 1.3 This report sets out the discussions which have taken place at the Working Group.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Working Group was established with the following remit:
  - To review the Council's current Committee Structures, taking into account;
    - Principles of effective decision making;
    - Available guidance on Committee structures;
    - Best practice and other decision making models;
    - Any advice contained within the Council's Best Value and Community Planning Audit; and
    - The work and remit of community engagement arrangements i.e. Area Forum and Community Councils.
  - To review the Council's current service structures by investigating options with regard to management arrangements, taking into account:
    - Service delivery and continuous improvement;
    - Cost implications;
    - Human resource implications;
    - Employee relations and the potential impact of changes on contracts, grades and conditions of service; and
    - Employment legislation.



- 2.2 The Working Group met on 4 occasions and considered a number of issues. These ranged from decision making structures adopted by other Councils, call in and referral procedures within the existing structures, the role of co-optees, the role, remit and constitution of Audit Committees, as well as the recently published Best Value and Community Planning Audit of the Council. The Working Group also considered the principles surrounding the review of Services and agreed that discussions on Community Engagement structures should take place in a suggested second phase of the review.
- 2.3 This report sets out some of the issues raised by Members of the Working Group with regard to the current structures of the Council.

### ***Council Committees***

- 2.4 The main focus of discussions at the Working Group was the work of Scrutiny Committees and the Best Value and Audit Forum. A number of issues were discussed. These included:
- The varying workloads of Committees;
  - The number of Committees;
  - The powers of Scrutiny Committees to take decisions;
  - The requirement for some Services to report to several Committees;
  - Other Councils structures including Cabinet models, Service Committees etc; and
  - The Audit Scotland Report on Best Value and Community Planning, and in particular, references to the Council's decision making and scrutiny processes.
- 2.5 In addition to considering the remits of Committees, Members considered the decision making powers of Scrutiny Committees. It was suggested that consideration be given to augmenting that decision making role and, in particular, empowering Scrutiny Committees to take decisions on issues that do not materially alter Council policy, or involve additional resources or changes to the establishment. This would mean that Scrutiny Committees could take certain decisions on funding and respond to consultation documents.

### ***Audit Committee***

- 2.6 Members will be aware that the Council's Auditors and the Best Value Audit noted the role Best Value and Audit Forum plays in scrutinising the performance of the Council. However the Accounts Commission's findings, published in the Report on Best Value and Community Planning, noted that 'the Council should review its approach to scrutiny to ensure that the Best Value and Audit Forum meets in public in accordance with the principles of accountability and openness'. As such, Members will have to consider this issue in agreeing a response to the Best Value Audit report.
- 2.7 Existing arrangements for the Best Value and Audit Forum have been in place for a number of years. Given criticism from Audit Scotland relating to a failure to meet in public, and taking account of CIPFA/SOLACE 'Audit Committee Principles in Local Authorities in Scotland' guidance, Members may now wish to consider the adequacy and appropriateness of current arrangements. The options for change which were considered include:

- Continuing with the current arrangements;
  - Continuing with current arrangements, but formally constituting the Best Value and Audit Forum as a Council Committee. The Committee would meet in public, although certain items may be taken in private, but only if they contain exempt information as defined by Statute;
  - Establishing an Audit Committee, meeting perhaps 2 or 3 times per year and constituted within the Council's Standing Orders, to consider matters relating to audit and risk management and having terms of reference in line with suggested CIPFA/SOLACE guidance, and continue with the BVAf (or equivalent) to consider service planning and performance.
- 2.8 As part of the Working Group's deliberations Members considered the option of including audit items within the remit of Policy and Resources Committee. This had been the Committee that considered such items prior to 2003, when the Council's Auditor highlighted the need to establish separate arrangements in order to focus on issues set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance. It was accordingly not considered best practice to give the role to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 2.9 Since the Working Group discussed the role and function of Audit Committees, I have received a draft report on Corporate Governance from the Council's External Auditor. While noting that the Best Value and Audit Forum satisfies many of the principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance, it does again highlight the need for improvements in a number of areas including:
- Improving openness, transparency and accountability;
  - Revising the terms of reference to reflect all expected Audit Committee functions; and
  - Training for Members in Audit principles etc.

### ***Time and Arrangements for Committees***

- 2.10 It was noted that Council took a decision earlier this year to change the start time of the Education and Leisure and Regulatory Committees following recommendations from those Committees. This has resulted in Members considering the protocol for setting times of Committees. It has been the practice in Falkirk Council to start Committees at 10.30am. This has ensured that the public and press always know when a Committee will start and can plan to attend a meeting well in advance. This is certainly critical to ensuring the Council's decision making is open and transparent. However, provided the timing of meetings is properly advertised, the actual start time is for Members to decide.
- 2.11 Following discussion at the Working Group, it was agreed that Officers would survey Members to ascertain their preferences regarding start times for Committees. Further information on the outcome of that survey will be given at Council.

### ***Number of Members on Committees***

- 2.12 Currently each Scrutiny Committee has 12 Members. This means that a number of Members sit on multiple Scrutiny Committees and other Committee and Boards.

- 2.13 Being a Member of several Committees provides Members with a broad understanding of a range of issues across the Council. However it carries with it a considerable workload. Moreover the introduction of multi Member wards has led to an increase in Members workload and in the number of external meetings such as Community Councils, etc in which they are involved.
- 2.14 The Working Group discussed a number of issues with regard to this matter. These included:
- Time spend by Members at Committee;
  - The remits of Committees; and
  - Whether there would be any benefit in reducing the number of Members on each Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.15 While the workload of Members was acknowledged, there was no consensus at this stage that reducing the number of Committees or the members sitting thereon was necessary. It was mooted, however, that Members may wish to review the Scrutiny Committee remits to better reflect linkages between areas of work and to recognise experience within the Committees since their inception.

### ***Call in / Referrals***

- 2.16 Members of the Working Group discussed the current call-in and referral procedures. The consensus was that referrals and the power of call in are necessary in order to promote robust scrutiny. It was noted, however, that there were instances where issues were still being discussed several months after the original reports had been presented to Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.17 As Council will be aware, there are rights of call in from Scrutiny Committee and from Policy and Resources Committee to Council where there has been a division at the original meeting. This could lead to delays in decision making where a matter has been considered at Scrutiny Committee in the first instance and then referred to Policy and Resources and then called in to Council.
- 2.18 Accordingly the current decision making structure allows for a three tiered process for the consideration of specific items of business, especially those which have a policy or resource implication for the authority and Members may consider this to be excessive.
- 2.19 The following options were among those put forward for Members consideration with regard to call-in and referrals.
1. Retain the current process whereby a decision can be referred to Policy and Resources Committee and then called in to Council;
  2. Allow Scrutiny Committees to respond directly to consultation papers etc, within their remit, subject to the existing powers of call in if there was a division. The power of call in from a Scrutiny Committee could be changed from going to Council to going to Policy and Resources Committee. If that change was made then Members may wish to consider whether the item could thereafter be called into Council or whether the right of call in would be exhausted at Policy and Resources Committee;

3. Allow Scrutiny Committees to take decisions on the allocation of resources where these can be met within existing budgets or within current establishments;
  4. Set criteria for determining the time limits for decisions e.g. if there is a deadline for a decision to be made then a report cannot be called in after the deadline has passed;
  5. Amend Standing Orders to allow Scrutiny Committees to take decisions on issues that do not change or materially alter Council policy, or involve additional resources or changes to the establishment.
- 2.20 It was also suggested that the business of Council could be dealt with more effectively if there were regular meetings between Group Leaders to identify any areas of consensus and agreement prior to issues being raised at Council.

### ***Co-Optees***

- 2.21 At the Working Group the issue of co-optees was discussed. The Council's current decision making structure includes arrangements for the appointment of co-opted /non elected members to Education and Leisure Committee. These arrangements arise partly through statutory dictat and partly by the Council's own choice. The following options were discussed by the Members of the Working Group.
1. Continue as is, with co-optees only on Education and Leisure Committee.
  2. Allow each Committee to make its own decision on co-optees, per the motion to Council in December 2007. Guidance would need to be prepared to give a framework for such appointments if this option is favoured.
  3. Each Committee would be able to invite representatives from other organisations to attend Committee to answer questions and offer expert opinion, but not be part of the decision making process.
- 2.22 Following discussion at the Working Group with regard to option 2 above, it was suggested that any co-optees (other than those appointed by statute to the Education and Leisure Committee) would not have voting rights at Committee and their numbers would be limited to two per Committee.

### ***Community Engagement***

- 2.23 The Working Group agreed that the issue of community engagement i.e. Area Forums etc, could be looked at in a second phase of the review. There has therefore been no discussion on this issue to date.

## **3. SERVICE STRUCTURES**

- 3.1 In undertaking its remit, the short life Working Group had some discussion on Service structures at its final meeting. Firstly, the Group considered the principles against which any structural changes should be recommended. In particular, it was suggested that recommendations should only be made where:

- There is a strong possibility that they will result in improvements to service delivery;
  - We are not contravening any legislation by making the changes and we are promoting best practice;
  - The outcomes of any change will achieve best value;
  - There is not another means of achieving the same improvement and outcome; and
  - There has been detailed consultation with Trade Unions and employees on the options for change and the implications of these.
- 3.2 This final point is significant in any exercise involving structural changes. Any changes of this nature are likely to result in amendments to job descriptions, grades, responsibilities and essentially the employment contracts of employees. It would potentially create significant issues if such changes were to be made without proper consultation. Not only does proper consultation represent best practice but more importantly, it ensures the Council engages with employees and demonstrates the value it has in their views. Ultimately this supports the Council in maintaining a motivated workforce with high quality employees who deliver excellence in service for the Council.
- 3.3 The Working Group did, however, consider the interim arrangements and received feedback on progress being made in this regard. The Working Group noted that in respect of the changes to the Housing and Social Work Service, this has proved beneficial to senior managers within the Service allowing them to concentrate on the Social Work related functions of the Service without the need to direct already tight resources into the Housing Service.
- 3.4 As agreed by Council, the interim arrangements moved the Housing Service into Corporate and Commercial Services on a temporary basis pending receipt of my recommendations. This change appears to have been successful with the Housing Service being integrated with the Building Maintenance Service. Building Maintenance provides a repair and maintenance service for all housing stock. Prior to the changes to CCT legislation, it was necessary to keep both service areas separate. This position has now changed and former CCT services can now be integrated in such a way as to allow the 'contractor' and 'client' split to be reviewed. This helps avoid any duplication, allowing resources to be more effectively used in the delivery of the functions. For Housing Services, this is resulting in improvements in the Service which in turn means a better service for tenants. For example, improved re-let times for void houses as well as the establishment of inspect and repair services and the repair by appointment service; both of which will minimise inconvenience to tenants.
- 3.5 I would propose that, in light of the success of the interim arrangements and the benefits they have had for both Housing Services and Building Maintenance, and separately for Social Work Services, the Housing Service and the Building Maintenance Service be integrated on a permanent basis. I would also propose that the job descriptions for both the Director of Corporate & Commercial Services and the Director of Housing & Social Work Services be re-designed to reflect this change. I will address the issues of posts below Director level further on in my report.
- 3.6 Council will also recall the interim change to the Roads function which brought together both the 'client' and 'contractor' parts of the Roads function in order to provide some added capacity within Corporate & Commercial Services to accommodate the change of arrangements for Housing Services.

- 3.7 I am advised by both Services that the interim arrangements have enabled consideration to be given to making the Roads function more effective by building on the working arrangements which already existed between both parts of the function. In addition, the change has allowed some limited capacity to be released within Corporate and Commercial Services to enable Housing Services to be managed effectively.
- 3.8 With this in mind, I propose that the 'contractor' part of the Roads function be moved on a permanent basis to Development Services and integrated with the 'client' part of the function and that the job descriptions of each Service Director be re-designed to accommodate this change. Posts below this level on the structure are considered below.
- 3.9 Attached as Appendix 1 is a copy of the current structure chart with Appendix 2 showing the revised structure if these changes are approved.

### ***Impact of Recommendations***

- 3.10 If approved, the above recommendations will have an impact on other posts across the Council. For example, Housing Management Services is currently being managed on an interim basis by the Head of Facilities Management. The post of Head of Housing Management remains vacant at this point in time. If Housing is integrated within Corporate & Commercial Services there is a need to consider the revised structure for the Service to accommodate this move. This is within the context of the posts of Head of Estates Management and the Head of ICT, both based within Corporate and Commercial Services, currently being vacant and requiring consideration.
- 3.11 In considering the transfer of Roads to Development Services, there is a need to review this in the context of there being three vacancies within this Service at Head of Service level, namely: Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services, Head of Roads and Design Services and Head of Planning and Transportation. Given the flexibility the three vacancies present, it is important that careful consideration is given to the options available.
- 3.12 Given the vacancies in two of the affected Services, there remains a degree of flexibility as to how the changes, if approved, can be implemented within each of the Services. Whilst initial and brief discussions have taken place with both the Directors and Trade Unions on the principles of the recommendations, it was felt inappropriate at this stage, without approval from Council on the recommended structural changes, to enter into detailed discussions on how these may be implemented and what this means for each employee affected.
- 3.13 As such, I would propose at this stage that Council give consideration to the recommendations on the interim arrangements being made permanent as detailed above and receive a further report outlining more detailed proposals on implementation and the employee implications once more discussions have taken place with both Trade Unions and employees affected by the changes.
- 3.14 If the above approach is approved, a further report outlining detailed proposals will be submitted to a future meeting of Council following the period of consultation with Trade Unions and employees. This will include proposals in respect of Chief Executive Office/Law & Administration Services and any other areas identified during the consultation period.

### ***Employee Relations Implications***

- 3.15 Whilst I have not gone into the detail of the implication of the changes for employees, Council will recognise that any such changes will require amendments to be made to employee job descriptions, work remits and scope of responsibility. Initial discussions with the Trade Unions clearly indicate that they will be expecting, as I am sure Council would, best practice to be followed in respect of all employee relations matters. This will include job descriptions being amended to properly reflect the new additional duties and responsibilities, re-designed jobs being properly graded and appropriate consultation being undertaken. The re-grading of re-designed jobs is also in line with equality legislation on which significant work has already been done to ensure the Council moves towards an equality proofed pay and grading structure. If any posts changed as a result of the structure review were not properly re-graded to take account of the changes in remit there are potentially significant risks in respect of equal pay. For Scottish Joint Council (SJC) employees, jobs can be re-graded using the SJC Job Evaluation Scheme for which a revised pay structure has already been agreed and which takes account of equality legislation. In the case of Directors and Heads of Service, the original grades were established in 1995 prior to re-organisation. They do not necessarily take account of current remits and responsibilities of these officers. To ensure an equality proofed pay structure which takes account of the current remits as well as the recommended changes in structure, it is proposed that the overall pay structure against which Directors and Heads of Service jobs are matched be reviewed and all such jobs be re-assessed against this structure to ensure compliance with equal pay legislation and recognition of current roles and responsibilities. In recommending this, it should be clarified that the outcome of such an exercise may result in the grade of posts going down as well as up or staying the same. It is also recommended that any changes to grades within this structure be implemented at no additional cost to the Council with the overall exercise aiming to be cost neutral.
- 3.16 Whilst it may be seen as more appropriate to consider such matters once further consultation has been undertaken with Trade Unions, it is important that I am in a position to provide the Trade Unions with confirmation of Council's position on such matters as this may influence the Trade Union and employee response on the options for implementing the changes. I believe it would be inappropriate to ask the Trade Unions to agree on options for implementation without the normal safeguards and good practice in respect of employee relations being in place such as revised job descriptions, re-gradings and appropriate consultation, which would normally be in place as part of any service review which impacts on jobs and employees' contracts of employment.
- 3.17 Depending on the nature of the options for implementation, training and support will also require to be considered as will a communications strategy and accommodation issues.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 As detailed above, I will also report back to Council following a period of detailed consultation, with recommendations on the implementation of the structural changes. These recommendations will take account of comments made by Audit Scotland in respect of future management capacity to drive forward the excellent work achieved to date as well as new initiatives.

- 4.2 Equally, I consider it essential to follow best practice in respect of the employee relations implications as detailed above, to ensure we maintain a motivated workforce with high quality employees who deliver excellence in service for the Council and to be able to provide the Trade Unions and employees with the re-assurance they would expect on such issues.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to consider the following recommendations regarding Committee/Decision and Service Structures;**

- 5.1 **whether to make changes to the Committee structures of the Council or the Scheme of Delegation in respect of any of the matters highlighted in Section 2 of the report;**
- 5.2 **the integration of Housing Services within Corporate and Commercial Services' structure as outlined above and the re-design of the respective Directors' posts;**
- 5.3 **the integration of the client and contractor parts of the Roads function within Development Services' structure and the re-design of the respective Directors' posts;**
- 5.4 **to receive a further report outlining proposals for the implementation of these and any other structural changes following the period of consultation outlined in the report; and**
- 5.5 **to a commitment being provided to Trade Unions and employees on the employee relations issues outlined in paragraphs 3.15 to 3.17.**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Date: 23 June 2008

Ref: ABK608FC

Contact Names: Fiona Campbell, Ext: 6004 and Karen Algie, Ext: 6223

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Working Group Papers (Not for publication on the basis that they include exempt information)



## CURRENT STRUCTURE CHART

Chief Executive Office/Law & Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to Joint Boards</li> <li>• Clerk to Council</li> <li>• Corporate Records Manager</li> <li>• Democratic Services</li> <li>• District Court</li> <li>• Election administration</li> <li>• Head of Paid Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Members' Services</li> <li>• Monitoring Officer</li> <li>• Printing Services</li> <li>• Registration Services</li> <li>• Strategic Policy Advice</li> </ul>

Community Services	Corporate & Commercial Services	Development Services	Education Services	Finance Services	Housing & Social Work Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• Cemeteries &amp; Cremation Services</li> <li>• Community Education</li> <li>• Cultural Services</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Employment &amp; Training Unit</li> <li>• Library Services</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Leisure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Value</li> <li>• Building Maintenance</li> <li>• Catering/School Meals</li> <li>• Cleaning</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Community Planning</li> <li>• Corporate Policy</li> <li>• Energy Management</li> <li>• External Funding</li> <li>• Fleet Services</li> <li>• Gas Maintenance</li> <li>• Grounds Maintenance</li> <li>• HR &amp; Customer First</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Modernising Gov't</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Refuse Collection</li> <li>• Research &amp; Information</li> <li>• Roads Maintenance</li> <li>• Street Cleansing</li> <li>• Waste Disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building &amp; Structural Design</li> <li>• Building Standards</li> <li>• Consumer Protection</li> <li>• Development Planning and Management</li> <li>• Emergency Planning</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Management</li> <li>• Food &amp; Workplace Safety</li> <li>• Licensing</li> <li>• Roads and Design</li> <li>• School Crossing</li> <li>• Transport Planning</li> <li>• Waste Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-five Care</li> <li>• Pre-five Education</li> <li>• Primary Education</li> <li>• Provision for Young People with Additional Support Needs</li> <li>• Secondary Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountancy</li> <li>• Internal Audit</li> <li>• Payroll &amp; Pensions</li> <li>• Revenues (Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Rents, Debtors, Benefits)</li> <li>• Treasury &amp; Investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Advice</li> <li>• Criminal Justice</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Home Care</li> <li>• Homelessness Services</li> <li>• Housing &amp; Estate Management</li> <li>• Private Sector Housing Services</li> <li>• Protection and support care of vulnerable children and young people</li> <li>• Residential Care</li> <li>• Services for vulnerable adults and people with disabilities</li> <li>• Sheltered Housing</li> <li>• Welfare Benefits Service</li> </ul>

## REVISED STRUCTURE CHART

Chief Executive Office/Law & Administration					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to Joint Boards</li> <li>• Clerk to Council</li> <li>• Corporate Records Manager</li> <li>• Democratic Services</li> <li>• District Court</li> <li>• Election administration</li> <li>• Head of Paid Service</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Members' Services</li> <li>• Monitoring Officer</li> <li>• Printing Services</li> <li>• Registration Services</li> <li>• Strategic Policy Advice</li> </ul>					
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**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 June 2008**  
**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents to Members the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government for approval.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that the draft SOA was submitted to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership following approval by the Community Planning Leadership Group in March 2008 and thereafter by Policy and Resources Committee on 8 April 2008. Following submission of the draft, the Scottish Government met with Officers of the Council to review the scope and content of the Agreement. Following a number of minor changes, the SOA was submitted to the Scottish Government on 6 June 2008. This report sets out the final Agreement as Appendix One of the report and asks Members to approve this as the first SOA between the Scottish Government and the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership.

**2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Single Outcome Agreement is a new outcomes based approach to define the relationship between the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships. The approach encompasses the following:
- A Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which comprises of local and national outcomes and a series of performance measures; and
  - Revised funding arrangements to replace the complexity of existing challenge and ring-fenced funding.

**3. DEVELOPING THE SOA FOR THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA**

- 3.1 The Community Planning Leadership Group agreed at its meeting in December 2007, that key community planning partners would work towards a Community Planning Single Outcome Agreement in the first year. This ensures that in the first year we will have an agreement that covers the key public organisations within the Falkirk Council area, i.e.

- Falkirk Council;
- Central Scotland Police;
- NHS Forth Valley;
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College; and
- CVS Falkirk and District.

- 3.2 It is recognised that over time we may extend the focus of the agreement to cover other agencies and organisations. We also recognise within the SOA the need to review its content annually – not only to monitor progress but also to ensure our outcomes and indicators reflect our ambitions.
- 3.3 In order to progress the SOA, representatives from partner organisations met on a number of occasions. A pragmatic approach was adopted, in that performance measures have on the whole, been identified from single organisations. However, areas are emerging where a cumulative performance measure i.e. one that incorporates information from all agencies, can be identified and through time could be reported on.
- 3.4 Following submission of the SOA to the Scottish Government in April, there was a process of negotiation to determine the final agreement by the end of June 2008. At this stage we are unsure as to the process of approving and signing off the Agreement at Government level.

#### **4. CONTENT OF SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

- 4.1 The Single Outcome Agreement has a number of key elements:
- A short statement setting out the purpose, scope, governance arrangements etc; and
  - A completed template for each of the 15 national outcomes that sets out a local context for each outcome, local priorities, performance measures, key actions and also what support / commitment we require from the Scottish Government or its agencies in order to deliver our local outcomes.
- 4.2 The SOA is a high level strategic document and the local outcomes that are included in it should be those which are of fundamental importance to our local area. The Single Outcome Agreement need not include everything that the Council and our partners are delivering, although a number of Government Departments have requested that particular aspects of work be included.
- 4.3 The Single Outcome Agreement was to reflect all 15 national outcomes with a local context statement and thereafter identified local outcomes and indicators. The local outcomes were derived from the Council and other Partners' Corporate Plans, as well as the Strategic Community Plan and supporting strategies.

- 4.4 Indicators were provided by Partners that underpinned those local outcomes. We were advised by the Scottish Government that we should include a direction of travel rather than specific targets.
- 4.5 The SOA also set out local outcomes and performance measures, as well as what we as a local partnership will do to deliver on our local outcomes. In addition, it asks what we require the Scottish Government to do to support our ambitions.
- 4.6 It should be stressed that the SOA does not include all performance measures that Services will be reporting to Members. We will continue to report on service performance through the Best Value and Audit Forum and also Scrutiny Committees. However, the SOA will be the main vehicle for reporting on progress against the Corporate Plan.

## **5. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SOA**

- 5.1 Following submission of the draft SOA in April, the Scottish Government wrote to all Councils with comments on the content of their SOAs and in particular, the local outcomes and indicators. The general feedback for our own SOA was positive, with very few changes required. Specific comments included:

- Recognising the progress that the Council had made in developing the SOA and in particular, the process adopted for engaging partners and recognising their contribution to the SOA;
- Noting that the SOA builds on existing partnership work that demonstrates real improvements rather than a series of outputs;
- Welcoming the community engagement process undertaken by the Council and our Partners; and
- The importance of ensuring the developing risk management framework for the Community Planning Partnership is robust.

- 5.2 Comments were then provided on specific outcomes and indicators. On the whole these were very general comments, notes for clarification, or noting where indicators were absent – we had already highlighted certain areas that we were awaiting on information from partners.

- 5.3 Following the initial set of comments, minor changes were made to the SOA and a second draft was submitted to the Scottish Government in May 2008. A subsequent meeting with Scottish Government Officials confirmed they were content that the changes they suggested had been made and would submit this for approval.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The Single Outcome Agreement is a significant document in that it sets out the commitment of the Council, our local partners and the Scottish Government to meeting the changing needs of the Falkirk Council area. Our partners' commitment has been particularly pleasing in the process of drafting the SOA. This joint commitment will ensure that we make progress on achieving the outcomes contained in the body of the document.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Members:**

- 7.1 Note the contents of the report and the work that has been undertaken to date in developing the SOA for the Falkirk Council area; and**
- 7.2 Approve the Single Outcome Agreement for the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership.**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Date: 11 June 2008  
Contact: Fiona Campbell Ext 6004  
Ref: ABK0608FC

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1. Single Outcome Agreements, Guidance, Format and Indicators for Scottish Local Government, February 2008.
- 2. SOA Letter from Scottish Government May 2008.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**And**  
**THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

**SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

**2008-2011**

**Purpose of agreement**

For the first time Falkirk Council and our Community Planning partners have developed a Single Outcome Agreement. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the improvements that Falkirk Council, our Community Planning partners and the Scottish Government want to achieve in our area between 2008 and 2011.

Whilst this Single Outcome Agreement is new, our collective commitment to ensuring that we provide the best quality services at an affordable cost to our communities and citizens, is not and has always been at the very heart of all that we do.

We welcome the Scottish Government's move away from the restrictions of ring fenced funding and the burdens of its restrictive monitoring regimes. This means that we have more flexibility to deliver services that meet our local priorities and our vision for the Falkirk Council area.

***Our vision is to ensure 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.***

Implicit in our vision is the need for our citizens and communities to be safe and healthy.

**Scope of the Agreement**

Working with others to deliver our vision is a way of life in the Falkirk Council area. Since 1996 we have worked with a wide range of public, private and voluntary bodies to help improve the lives of local people. Community planning brought fresh impetus to our established partnership ethos as well as a formal mechanism for further developing the area's vision. We are proud of the many tangible benefits our active engagement with our partners and our communities continues to produce. It is our intention to use our Single Outcome Agreement to further develop our partnership, and to promote joint working to deliver our vision for our area.



We believe our vision is challenging and unique to our area. Along with our partners, we agree that our activities should have a clear link with and make a positive contribution to promoting and achieving this long-term vision. It is important to our communities that our Single Outcome Agreement is clearly linked to the vision for our area.

Integral to our vision is a commitment to sustainability, equality of opportunity and social inclusion, with an emphasis on environmental, social and economic development. We want to make sure everyone in the area is part of the vision, especially those who are most disadvantaged or socially excluded.

The Council and our partners have a strong track record in establishing innovative and effective partnerships, linked to our strategic priorities, across a range of sectors. We will continue to 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, local community planning and the Council survey.

We intend to enhance our approach to community engagement as part of the ongoing development of community and corporate planning linked to our Single Outcome Agreement.

This agreement covers the following agencies in the first instance:

- Falkirk Council;
- NHS Forth Valley;
- Central Scotland Police;
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College; and
- CVS Falkirk and District.

Our Single Outcome Agreement will develop over time. We will further refine how we measure our performance against our outcomes, as well as extending our partnership to fully engage other key agencies and organisations. We will also further refine our targets as we make progress.

### **Customer and Citizen Focus, Consultation and Engagement**

Citizens always come first in our area. We are a responsive Council and partnership. We engage energetically with our citizens to shape and improve services and we listen hard and respond to what they say. We consult our major stakeholder groups on an ongoing basis and use the results to make service improvements. This information has informed the development of this Single Outcome Agreement.

Examples of our formal engagement process with the community are

- Our biennial household customer satisfaction survey is one of the largest in Scotland, with over 3,500 responses in 2006.
- We engage with parents regularly through a range of activities, including a parents' focus group, an annual parents' conference and a bi-annual newsletter sent to all parents in the area and our parents' service is working towards Chartermark.

- We are rolling out a comprehensive community engagement strategy that will not only support the work of the Council but also our partnership.
- We carry out an annual budget survey through our website to inform our budget process.
- We produce Neighbourhood and Patch Plans for Council tenants and owners in mixed tenure estates and consult annually on the service priorities and improvements customers wish to see.
- We have effective and enthusiastic Pupil Councils.
- We regularly consult the 700 local businesses that are members of our Business Panel.
- We promote local community planning to inform strategic development of neighbourhoods.
- We have developed a partnership web site – Falkirk Online - that is regularly used to consult our communities on a variety of issues.
- We work closely to support the Public Patient Forum that underpins the work of the Community Health Partnership.

The vision for our area was established in 2000 by a process of community engagement that included community representatives and the business sector, as well as key public sector agencies. This ensures that our vision includes the aspirations of all sectors of our community. Our vision is set for 20 years and is underpinned by a series of five year Strategic Community Plans, as well as individual agency corporate plans.

### **Governance and Performance Management**

Progress on the Single Outcome Agreement will be monitored by the Council and our Community Planning partners in a number of ways.

The Council has embedded our Corporate Plan outcomes into the Single Outcome Agreement framework. This means that Elected Members will monitor progress against this annually through our existing performance management framework.

Our Strategic Planning and Management System (SPMS), sets a common operational framework to link all our activities to our strategic priorities and key service delivery objectives. It takes the form of a strategic pyramid relating our key priorities to what we are able to achieve with the resources we have, taking account of the different levels of policy development at the overall corporate/strategic level. The Single Outcome Agreement complements our SPMS and our existing reporting framework.

## The Strategic Planning and Management Framework



The Corporate Plan, policies, strategies and service plans set a clear agenda for the Council. We regularly review our achievements to ensure we are delivering what we said we would deliver. Reviews are at three levels:

- Review of achievements against the Corporate Plan and now the Single Outcome Agreement;
- Review of the development of implementation of our policies and strategies; and
- Review of implementation of Service Plans and capital and revenue budgets.

Each Council service develops a Service plan which sets out the action that each service will take to deliver our priorities. Service Plans in turn lead to section plans, unit plans and individual work plans so that every employee is clear how the work they do contributes to the goals and values of the Council. Service Plans are produced each year and services report to the Best Values and Audit Forum on a quarterly basis on an agreed set of targets and performance indicators. This approach recognises the Council's statutory requirement to not only participate in Community Planning but also to lead the partnership and promote the well being of our area.

### **Community Planning**

Our Community Planning partnership will have a critical role in developing and monitoring how we are achieving our outcomes. Our Strategic Community Plan details the shared priorities of our partnership. We have aligned the priorities contained in that plan with the national outcomes and local indicators. Where available, we have also included relevant indicators from our partners, which will form part of their respective performance frameworks. This will embed our Single Outcome Agreement within the governance and public reporting structures of these partners and will ensure that we are monitoring how collectively we are achieving our vision for the Falkirk Council area.

We understand the need to scrutinise what we are setting out to achieve. In order to do this we have established a Leadership Group and a Management Group with underpinning Implementation Groups. In addition to this we have a number of cross cutting groups that ensure key areas of activity such as sustainability, equalities and children are taken account of in all that we do.

The Leadership Group provides strong political and strategic direction for Community Planning. The Leader of Falkirk Council chairs the Leadership Group and it includes Board and Chief Officer representatives from NHS Forth Valley, Scottish Enterprise, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley College, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue and CVS Falkirk and District.

The Management Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of Falkirk Council has responsibility for overseeing the work of the Implementation Groups and again has representation from the partners listed above. The Implementation Groups are responsible for developing action plans to take the work of the partnership forward. The action plans relate directly to the relevant operational service plans of the Council and our partners. Progress against each action is monitored by the use of agreed performance measures. These performance measures, agreed by our partners have been used to support this, our first Single Outcome Agreement.

The chair of each implementation group reports directly to the Management Group on progress made in relation to performance indicators. If there are issues in relation to progress against our agreed targets, the relevant members of the Management Group are responsible for taking these back to their own organisations for action.

The Leadership Group holds the partnership to account for its performance and ensures that it achieves the priorities and outcomes detailed within the Single Outcome Agreement. After reporting to the Leadership Group, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee can approve any recommendations or changes suggested by the Leadership Group, as can the Police Board, NHS Board etc. If relevant, any reports can be approved by full Council.

Our annual Community Planning conference, which involves interested parties in our communities, is where our partners give feedback to each other and our communities on the progress we have made towards achieving our vision.

### **Ongoing Development of the Single Outcome Agreement**

This first Single Outcome Agreement has been developed by our Community Planning Partners, incorporating work that had been started in relation to monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Community Plan. The Single Outcome Agreement will be presented to the wider partnership and representatives from our communities at our annual Community Planning conference. The feedback from this event will be used to inform the future development of the Single Outcome Agreement and to begin the process of building community ownership of the Single Outcome Agreement. This will build on our current processes for community engagement.

Our agreement will also develop over time to reflect our maturity in measuring all sectors and partners performance in achieving our vision. Importantly over time we will include indicators to measure our community and voluntary sectors contribution to community life. We understand the valuable contribution volunteers and carers make to the lives of individuals and communities. We will hope over time to reflect this contribution over time within our Single Outcome Agreement.

It is through this and our Strategic Performance Management System that we will refine and develop the detail of the Single Outcome Agreement. Any changes in relation to local or national outcomes will be reported to both the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and to the Leadership Group of the Community Planning partnership. This will also be the process should the implementation of a national policy initiative lead to any pressure on Council or partners budgets. We welcome the position of the Scottish Government in that they have made a commitment to address this jointly as part of our maturing relationship.

The Single Outcome Agreement will provide us with a means of summarising existing performance information contained within both our Corporate and Community Planning systems. It is our intention that a yearly report will be submitted to both the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partnership Leadership Group before submitting the report to the Scottish Government. This report will set out our progress and achievements in relation to both national and local outcomes.

The targets set have been set for the duration of the Agreement. However we will review these annually to ensure they are challenging and continue to be relevant.

## **Public Reporting**

It is our intention that following the yearly report submitted to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partnership Leadership Group, we will ensure our communities are informed about the progress we are making. We will report on progress through the Council's and Community Planning Partners existing mechanisms for public performance reporting e.g. Falkirk Council News, our web sites and our community portal.

## **Risk Management**

Each of our partner organisations has clear processes for identifying, addressing and mitigating risk. We understand risks can come in a number of forms including competing priorities, lack of progress leading to reputational risks. In addition to our individual risk management strategies, we are developing a risk management framework for our Community Planning Partnership. This is currently at an early stage of development but we are committed to making progress on this over the next year.

This Single Outcome Agreement will be endorsed by Scottish Ministers, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley College, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service and by CVS Falkirk and District. All parties hope that over time this Single Outcome Agreement will lead to significant benefits for all people living, working and visiting in our communities.

# **SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

**2008 -2011**

## **FALKIRK COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

### **TEMPLATES**

Local Outcomes Key

(CP) = Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan – 2008 -2011

(SCP) = Falkirk Council Areas Strategic Community Plan 2005 -2010

(FSF) = Fairer Scotland Fund

(LHS) = Local Housing Strategy

(CSFRS) = Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service

<b>National Outcome One</b>  <b>We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>Our area is important to the economy of Scotland with over £2.1 billion of GVA being generated in the Council area in 2004. Grangemouth is the largest container port in Scotland and 9 million tons of freight are handled there each year. The petro-chemical industry remains a dominant force in the local economy.</p> <p>Our area is also important economically to the economies of the Edinburgh and Glasgow City Regions and since 2002 Falkirk’s growth rate has exceeded that of the city region.</p> <p>Excellent road and rail connections make the area very attractive for industry, commerce and living. The area is served by two major motorways and there are fast and very frequent rail connections to both Glasgow and Edinburgh.</p> <p>The Falkirk Wheel is a new tourist icon for Scotland and as such has proved a major attraction with over 513,000 people visiting it last year. Our areas increasing importance as a tourist destination is reflected in the number of new hotels planned for the area with over 200 beds planned over the coming years. As well as developing the tourist infrastructure the Council and British Waterways, along with Central Scotland Forest Trust, are in the development phase of the Helix which will create a new stretch of canal, as well as creating a new lock that will incorporate moving kelpies, the largest moving equine structures in the world, as well as new park and green space between Falkirk and Grangemouth.</p> <p>The ambitious “My Future’s in Falkirk” initiative aims to create over 4,200 jobs by 2012. New developments like the Falkirk Gateway and the Lottery funded Helix project, show the ambition which the area has.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Improved the quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy (CP)	A Net number and B rate of new businesses formed in local authority area on an annual basis	Annual, No. of VAT registrations NOMIS	A: + 60 B: 170 per 100,000 population	Increase
	Ensured our profile reflects our area as a destination of choice (CP)	Total Gross Added Value+ of businesses in the area	Annual, SCP, Experian, Scottish Enterprise	£1,988m	Increase
Increased business investment, innovation and competitiveness and the diversification of our economy (SCP)	Total business stock	Periodic, SCP, ABI, Scottish Enterprise	3,889	Increase	
	Total business stock in priority industries e.g. chemicals, construction, financial services etc	Periodic, SCP, Scottish Enterprise	1,379	Increase	

	Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the area to attract new investment (SCP)	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		The number of occupied business properties as a % of the total	Annual, CP, Community Services	98.6%	Maintain
	Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the areas as a culture and leisure destination (SCP)	RSA awards accepted / paid Average no and value	Annual, SCP, Community Services	4 £1m	Improve
		Business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days	Annual, SPI Development Services	65.9	Maintain
	Improved the image and quality of the physical environment including town centres (SCP)	% of visitors to Big in Falkirk from out with the area	Annual, CP, Community Services	48%	Increase
		Increasing the total visitor expenditure to the area (per calendar year)	Annual, CP, Community Services	£76 m	Increase
		Increasing the number of bed nights taken up by tourism related visitors (per calendar year)	Annual, CP, Community Services	1.27m	Increase
		Falkirk Town Centre national ranking per CACI	Annual, SCP, Community Services	10 <sup>th</sup> in Scotland	Improve
		Total area of Vacant and Derelict land Total	Annual, Development Services, Vacant and Derelict Land Statistical Bulletin	52ha 90ha 142ha	Reduce
		Carriageway condition - % of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	Annual, SPI, Development Services	54%	Maintain



	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Upgrading our town centres;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring our town centres benefit from modern communications including wireless networks;</li> <li>❖ Managing our car parks to maintain the viability of our town centres;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring a good supply of business properties;</li> <li>❖ Developing the potential for the growth of Grangemouth Freight Hub;</li> <li>❖ Developing the Falkirk Gateway;</li> <li>❖ Improving our transport links;</li> <li>❖ Developing an excellent public transport network</li> <li>❖ Implementing our roads maintenance strategy;</li> <li>❖ Improving accessible transport;</li> <li>❖ Lobbying for improvements to the rail service in the district;</li> <li>❖ Improving the standard of our roads network; and</li> <li>❖ Promoting strong public private partnerships.</li> </ul>
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome.	<p>Transfer of funding from the enterprise budget in respect to Business Gateway and local regeneration function.</p> <p>Investment is required by the Government on strategic infrastructure projects such as the Grangemouth Freight Hub (listed in NPF2). This includes Avon Gorge which is being discussed by the Scottish Government, SESTRAN and Falkirk and West Lothian Councils.</p>

<b>National Outcome Two</b>  <b>We will realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.</b>	<b>Local Context</b>  <p>For a number of years the Falkirk Council area has been undergoing economic restructuring. From an area that was highly dependent on manufacturing, we have diversified our economic base.</p> <p>Our residents are employed in broad groups of industries. The largest employment sector is public administration, education &amp; health in which over 18,000 people are employed, followed by distribution, hotels and restaurants in which 14,500 people work. At the other end of the scale, only 550 people work in agriculture, fishing, energy or water industries.</p> <p>Comparing the numbers employed in particular sectors per 1,000 population, only 42 people out of every 1,000 are employed in banking, finance and insurance in our area as opposed to 87 in Scotland. Fewer people are also employed in distribution, hotels and restaurants in Falkirk per 1,000 population (97) than in Scotland (105). Our area has above average levels employed in manufacturing and construction.</p> <p>82.2% of the working age population are economically active compared to 79.9% in Scotland as a whole.</p> <p>There has been a general downward trend in jobseekers allowance claimant rates in our area over the last three years. In January 2005, 3.2% of working-age residents were registered unemployed. By January 2008 this figure had fallen to 2.3%, or 2,108 claimants. The Falkirk Council area's claimant count rate in January 2008 was the same as the Scottish average. Male unemployment is consistently significantly higher than female unemployment in our area, which is reflective of national trends.</p>				
	<b>Local Outcomes</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
	Increasing the wealth and prosperity of our area(CP)	No of claimants in receipt of out of work benefits per 1,000 population. The benefits are defined as Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Income Support (carers, lone parents and other on income related benefits) (FSF)	Annual, Local NOMIS/DWP	No of claimants 15,150 101.2 per 1,000 population 161.9 per 1,000 working age population	Reduce
	Increase the number of people in jobs particularly the young and long term unemployed (SCP)				
	Increase lifetime earning potential for all our citizens (SCP)				
		Employment Rate	Annual, ILO/Nomis, Scottish Enterprise	77.8%	Maintain

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of community benefit in procurement programmes with number of jobs and beneficiaries	Annual, SCP, Corporate and Commercial Services	0	Increase
		The proportion of school leavers in a positive destination (FSF)	Annual, SLDS	84%	Increase
		% of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (FSF)	Annual, Corporate and Commercial Services	9%	Decrease
		Reducing the number of unemployed people relative to the Scottish average	Annual, CP, Community Services NOMIS Jan 2008	Falkirk 2.3% Scotland 2.3%	Reduce
		Increasing satisfaction of business panel with events	Annual, CP, Community Services	93%	Increase
		Increasing the number of business start up support from the Council through national business gateway	Annual, CP, Community Services	139	Increase
		Increasing the uptake of work based training provision provided by the Council	Annual, CP, Community Services	210	Increase
		Increasing the number of modern apprentices and skill seekers managed by: the Council; and Forth Valley College	Annual, CP, Community Services	201 150	Increase
		Increasing the number of jobs created or secured by the Council through support to businesses	Annual, CP, Community Services	684	Increase

	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Increasing the number of targeted training and employment opportunities from the public sector procurement;</li> <li>❖ Increasing the availability and uptake of work based training;</li> <li>❖ Improving the transition from schools to education, employment and/or training;</li> <li>❖ Increasing the range and quality of employability support services;</li> <li>❖ Improving local business competitiveness and growth;</li> <li>❖ Reducing the number of young unemployed adults;</li> <li>❖ Having an excellent range of business locations;</li> <li>❖ Developing a skills strategy for a competitive workforce;</li> <li>❖ Increasing employment and average wage earning; and</li> <li>❖ Supporting individuals to come off working age benefits.</li> </ul>
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>Ensure Skills Development Scotland engages appropriately with local Community Planning Partners to deliver on local priorities and issues.</p> <p>Development of Workforce Plus Action Plan and Youth Training Guarantee.</p> <p>Funding for the redevelopment of Forth Valley College infrastructure.</p>

<b>National Outcome Three</b>  <b>We are better educated, more skilled and more successful renowned for our research and innovation.</b>	Local Context			
	<p>The workforce in our area is diverse. We have a variety of industries and services that require a range of skills.</p> <p>The 2005/06 Scottish Household Survey showed that Falkirk Council area had the fourth lowest percentage of adults aged 16-64 with a first or higher degree at only 18% compared to the Scottish average of 24%. We also have lower than the Scottish average of working age people with SVQ3 or above. However, this shows a considerable increase over previous figures.</p> <p>This survey also showed that 25% of adults were participating in some form of learning, although this was below the Scottish average.</p> <p>51% of school leavers went on to further or higher education or some other form of training, below the Scottish average. We would look to see an improvement in these figures.</p> <p>A priority for the Community Planning Partnership has over the last number of years been to ensure our young people when they leave school, move onto suitable and sustained destinations. Some years ago the Council area had the third highest NEET levels in the Country. We have been working hard to reduce these from the 2004 levels of 25% to just 16% in 2007.</p>			
	Local Outcomes	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>
	Our area will be recognised as having a culture of aspiration and ambition (CP)	The % of school leavers moving into Higher education Further education Training	Annual, CP, Education Services	25% 16% 10%
	Support lifelong learning in the community (SCP)	Diversity in sectoral employment: - numbers and percentage. Wholesale and retail; Manufacturing; Health and Social Work; Public Administration; Real estate, renting business activities Other industries	Annual, SCP – NOMIS from ABI	11,000 – 18.9% 9,100 – 15.6% 9,000 – 15.4% 5,500 – 9.4% 5,200 - 8.9% 18,600 – 31.8%
		% of school leavers offered a guaranteed a training place	Annual, CP, Community Services	- 50% Winter 2008 75% Summer 2009 100% Winter 2009

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		% of working age population with SVQ3 or above	Annual, Labour Force Survey, Scottish Enterprise	46%	Increase
		% of working age people receiving job related training in the 13 weeks prior to survey	Annual, Scottish Enterprise	25%	Increase
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising the levels of attainment for all young people in primary and secondary schools;</li> <li>• Raising the aspirations of our young people and families;</li> <li>• Raising the employability of our workforce;</li> <li>• Increasing the number of locally developed and incoming businesses;</li> <li>• Working with Forth Valley College to ensure they have a state of the art campus and facilities;</li> <li>• Ensuring our schools are of the highest quality to promote learning and achievement;</li> <li>• Continuing to develop our successful business support;</li> <li>• Continuing to encourage and facilitate the diversification of the local economy;</li> <li>• Increasing entrepreneurship; and</li> <li>• Increasing levels of employment.</li> </ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	Implement the National Skills Strategy. From OECD report Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland implement recommendations 8, 9, 14, 17 and 18.			

<b>National Outcome Four</b>  <b>Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens</b>	<b>Local Context</b>  <p>The attainment and achievement of young people is one of our highest priorities. We have for a number of years prioritised the educational attainment and achievement of our young people because of the relatively low levels of achievement within our schools in formal exams. While S4-S6 attainment has shown a slight improvement in recent years, it remains below the Scottish average.</p> <p>School leaver destination statistics show continuing signs of improvement. The number of young people not making a positive transition has fallen for the past five years and the percentage of pupils entering employment has steadily increased, and is now at its highest level for five years. These positive developments are, however, balanced by a lower level of pupils entering full-time further and higher education.</p> <p>Education Services will continue to support and challenge schools to raise the attainment of all our pupils.</p> <p>The Council also supports youth groups, and organisations providing activities for young people which enhance their social, cultural, sporting and other life skills.</p>				
	<b>Local Outcomes</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
	<p>Our workforce will be highly skilled (CP)</p> <p>Promote early learning experiences for all young children to enable them to have the best possible start (SCP)</p> <p>Provide appropriate and relevant learning experiences and child care for children and their families (SCP)</p> <p>Raise levels of attainment and achievement in education (SCP)</p> <p>Provide high quality teaching in schools and early years establishments</p>	<p>Proportion of schools in HMIE reports published during the previous 3 years achieving 'good' or 'very good' or above for:</p> <p>a) Structure of the curriculum</p> <p>b) The teaching process</p> <p>c) Leadership</p> <p>d) Expectations &amp; promoting achievement</p> <p>e) Equality &amp; fairness</p> <p>f) Partnership with parents &amp; the community</p>	<p>Annual, local Education Services, HMIE inspection reports</p>	<p>a) 94%</p> <p>b) 89%</p> <p>c) 100%</p> <p>d) 89%</p> <p>e) 100%</p> <p>f) 94%</p>	<p>Improve</p>

	Provide flexible curriculum that meets the needs of all young people.	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		The % of pupils in P3, P4, P6 & P7 attaining or exceeding the appropriate levels for their stage in Reading Writing Mathematics	Annual, local, Education Services	85% 81% 88%	Improve Improve Improve
		Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S4 - % of the S4 roll gaining level 3 or better in English and mathematics; % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or better; % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better; % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better	Annual, local, Education Services	91%  89%  73%  30%	Improve  Improve  Improve  Improve



		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools for S5 – % of the original S4 roll gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better % of the original S4 roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better; % of the original S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better	Annual, local, Education Services	34%  17%  6%	Improve  Improve  Improve
		The % of young people who leave school without employment, further or higher education or training	Annual, CP, Community Services	16%	Decrease
		% of pupil attendance at school Primary Secondary	Annual, CP, Education Attendance Statistical Bulletin 2006/07	95.6% 89.9%	Improve Improve
		Provision of a suitable mix of affordable, accessible and high quality of early learning and child care (0-4) a) Pre-school education places; b) toddlers places; c) baby places d) wraparound care	Annual, SCP, Education Services	100% 92 24 164	Maintain Increase Increase Increase

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of young people in secondary schools involved in Pupil Councils.	Annual, CP, Education Services	251	Maintain
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Providing effective teaching and learning;</li><li>❖ Improving levels of attendance at school;</li><li>❖ Providing training opportunities for young people and workless families;</li><li>❖ Being an exemplar employer;</li><li>❖ Ensuring our schools curriculum enhances the employability of young people;</li><li>❖ Ensuring the best possible start for all children – 0-8 agenda;</li><li>❖ Improving leaver destinations for young people;</li><li>❖ Raising education attainment for all young people in primary, early secondary and especially of secondary school leavers;</li><li>❖ Providing opportunities for people within work to continue to learn;</li><li>❖ Improving the range of support and childcare facilities for parents;</li><li>❖ Develop and implement the Curriculum for Excellence in all our schools; and</li><li>❖ Engage with young people through pupil councils and other central fora.</li></ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	Implement the national Early Years Strategy. Finalise Curriculum for Excellence. The Scottish Government recognises the pressures on Authorities where birth rates are rising when considering support to deliver the P1 – P3 class size reduction. From OECD report ‘Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland’ implement recommendations 1, 11, 12 and 13.			

<b>National Outcome Five</b>  <b>Our children will have the best possible start in life and are ready to succeed.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>Our population is growing, and in addition to people moving into the area, we have had a rising birth rate over the last few years. We will have to face the challenge which this presents in terms of school capacity, in particular to meet the Scottish Government's targets for reducing class size. The Council is committed to improving pre-school education and providing opportunities for those who are more disadvantaged so that all children are ready for formal education at age five. The Council and its partners in childcare already provide sufficient pre-school education places for all those parents who want them.</p> <p>Our schools are working hard to reduce levels of pupil exclusion, and already have a lower exclusion rate compared to the Scottish average. The Council supports projects such as "Hungry for Success" which aim to improve children's ability to learn through ensuring a nutritionally balanced diet.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	All our children will be happy and healthy and able to make positive decisions about their own health (SCP)	Proportion of children living in households that are dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credit more than the family element(finalised awards)	Annual, Local, Child tax credit data latest is 2005/06. Figures not consistent with figures on children in households dependent on out of work benefits – May 2007	166 per 1,000 children aged 0-16 Child Tax Credit - 539 per 1,000 children aged 0-15	Reduce
	All our children will achieve their potential through learning and being creative and developing the skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled happy adults (SCP)				
	Ensure high quality early years learning experiences including sufficient provision for vulnerable young people and their families (SCP)	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve no qualifications at SCQF level 3 or higher	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	55%	Improve
		% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve at least one subject at SCQF level 3 or higher	Annual, CP SPI Education Services	46%	Improve

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve both English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or higher	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	27%	Improve
		Proportion of low birth weight per 1,000 live singleton births	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	116 per 1,000	Reduce
		Pregnancies among under 20 year olds per 1,000 population	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	268	Decrease
		School meals taken as % of school roll	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	48%	Maintain
		% of schools with breakfast clubs	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	35%	Maintain
		Increase the proportion of newborn babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	26.6%	Increase
		% of eligible children who take up free school meals-registered and present Primary Secondary	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	2007/08  92% 77%	Maintain
		The no and proportion of looked after and accommodated children in community placements rather than residential care	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	84%	Increase
		The proportion of young people who are looked after and accommodated who have a plan	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	100%	100%

	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ensuring positive outcomes for looked after children;</li> <li>❖ Providing wrap around family support services; and</li> <li>❖ Supporting our looked after children through full time education.</li> </ul>
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	The cost, quality and availability of services to very vulnerable children as per 'the Spending Review 2007: An Assessment of Expenditure by Scottish Local Authorities on Children's Social Work Services from 2007-2011 by Professor Arthur Midwinter' requires to be reviewed on a national basis.

<b>National Outcome Six</b>  <b>We will live longer, healthier lives.</b>	Local Context				
	While the health of people within the Falkirk Council area is improving, we appreciate that this is against a background of poor health nationally. We also know that some of our citizens, due to their levels of poverty, are likely to die younger. Certain areas within the Council have higher than average morbidity and mortality rates. These include Grangemouth, Dawson and Camelon. Life expectancy for our area was 74.5 years for males and 79.4 years for females for the period 2004-2006. These are both marginally lower than the Scottish average (74.6 years for males and 79.6 for females). Death rates for breast cancer, lung cancer and coronary heart disease are all higher than the Forth Valley average. The Council and its partners are committed to enabling all our citizens to live a longer and healthier life.				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices in order that they can live longer (CP)	Deaths per 10,000 population from coronary heart disease and all cancers	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	2006 CHD - 20.3 All cancers – 29.3	Reduce
	Promoting healthy living within our communities (SCP)	People aged 65 and over admitted for any reason two or more times in a year as an emergency to acute specialties per 100,000 population	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	1078	Reduce
	Reduce health inequalities (SCP)				
	Improve emotional health, psychological and social well being. (SCP)	Mental Health admissions (as rate per 1000 population)	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	4.5	Reduce
	Reduce the level of alcohol, drugs and substance misuse (SCP)	Estimated number of people being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	13,293	Reduce
		Reduce the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	2314	Reduce
		Number of suicides per 10,000 population	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	1.06	Reduce

		<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		% of delayed discharges within the 6 week delayed discharge planning period	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	17	Reduce
		Delayed Discharge from hospital greater than 6 weeks per 1,000 population admitted to hospital	Annual SCP Social Work Services	1.1	Reduce
		Life expectancy at birth Life expectancy at age 65	Annual, Local	2004-2006 At birth M – 74.6 F – 79.6 At age 65 M – 15.5 F – 17.9	Increase
		Proportion and number of obese children in Primary 1	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	8.2%	Reduce
		Deaths per 1000 population – from alcohol related diseases	Annual, Local, NHS Forth Valley	27	Reduce
		% of schools designated as 'Health Promoting schools'	Annual, Local, Education Services	4%	100%
		Percentage and breakdown of the local population taking part in sport / leisure activities	Annual, Local, Community Services	28,105	Increase
		Leisure Centre admissions for adults	Annual, CP, Community Services	483,125	Increase
		Leisure Centre admissions for young people	Annual, CP, Community Services	388,792	Increase
		Leisure Centre admissions for Leisure cards	Annual, CP, Community Services	54,108	Increase

		<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		The number of people participating in healthy lifestyle physical activity programmes	Annual, CP, Community Services	13,537	Increase
		The number of participants in sports development classes	Annual, CP, Community Services	7,637	Increase
		The number of young people participating in health promoting initiatives Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	Annual, CP, Community Services and Forth Valley College	2,315 300	Increase
		No and rate per 1,000 population of carer assessments carried out	Annual, JPIAF, Social Work Services	266 2.3 per 1,000	Increase
		Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff who are qualified, Working in care homes for older people (65+) Working in care homes other adults (18-64)	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	63.5% 90%	Increase
		% of older people aged 65+ with intensive care needs receiving services at home	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	33%	Increase
		Home care - total hours as a rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	579.4	Increase
		Home care % home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	67.2%	Increase



		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care in evenings/overnight	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	28.6%	Increase
		Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care at weekends	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	69%	Increase
		Number of emergency admissions reduced - rate per 100,000	Annual, SCP, NHS Forth Valley	3963	Reduce
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Offering increased opportunities to participate in physical activity;</li> <li>❖ Reducing harmful and underage substance misuse;</li> <li>❖ Promoting a healthy diet;</li> <li>❖ Reducing individual stress and therefore the reliance on prescribed drugs;</li> <li>❖ Providing opportunities to participate in sports, leisure and physical activity in a variety of settings;</li> <li>❖ Offering healthy food choices in all our premises;</li> <li>❖ Taking forward the work of the substance action team;</li> <li>❖ Developing services through local health centres and community hospitals;</li> <li>❖ Supporting the opening of the new acute hospital;</li> <li>❖ Promoting a good work/ life balance;</li> <li>❖ Identifying further areas of service integration with NHS Forth Valley;</li> <li>❖ Participating in a pilot Social Enterprise Health Trust;</li> <li>❖ Promoting and supporting the development and delivery of modern facilities for health and social care;</li> <li>❖ Working with vulnerable and isolated older people to ensure they maintain their links with their local communities;</li> <li>❖ Continuing to support older people to live in their own homes and within their own communities; and</li> <li>❖ Further developing our approach to health and well-being.</li> </ul>			

	<p>Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome</p>	<p>The long term sustainability of Free Personal Care needs to be resolved including the adequacy of funding and consistency policy and practice to Councils.</p> <p>The Scottish Government should provide a long term strategy with associated funding to Community Planning Partners to implement electronic data sharing.</p> <p>The Scottish Government should provide as a matter of urgency strategic direction and framework for eCare to ensure co-ordinated and standardised practices are implemented across the Country.</p>
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<p><b>National Outcome Seven</b></p> <p><b>We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society.</b></p>	<p>Local Context</p> <p>While our area is getting more prosperous, we do have a number of communities that suffer from disadvantage and deprivation. In the 2006 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation almost 13,000 people lived in areas ranked in the worst 15% in Scotland – 8.8% of the total. The Council and its partners are committed to reducing the level of inequality within the Council area so that the difference between the most deprived areas and the rest of the Falkirk Council area is reduced – while at the same time improving the overall area.</p> <p>Average annual earnings increased steadily in the Falkirk Council area over the four years from 2002 to 2006. However the median annual pay of a full-time worker living in the Falkirk Council area is below the overall Scottish level. In 2002 this figure stood at £17,988 in Falkirk Council area, just over 94% of the Scottish figure. By 2004 the gap had narrowed with the Falkirk Council area median reaching 97.3% of the Scottish median. But in 2006 the median pay of a full-time worker in the Falkirk Council area (£21,684) had fallen back to 95.8% of the overall Scottish figure.</p> <p>We have a significant number of people who are on working age benefits. There were 5,520 IS claimants within the Falkirk Council area in February 2007. This represents 6.1% of the total population aged 16 to 59 which is lower than the figure for Scotland as a whole (7.1%). There has been a reduction of 7.1% from 2004 in the number of incapacity claimants.</p> <p>We are also committed to reducing disadvantage among ethnic minorities, the disabled and other groups of people who often have lower incomes and fewer opportunities than the rest of the community.</p>				
	<p>Local Outcomes</p> <p>Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services (CP)</p> <p>Increase the number of individuals participating in the local labour market (FSF)</p> <p>Increase household income (FSF)</p>	<p><b>Relevant Indicators</b></p>	<p><b>Frequency / Type / Source</b></p>	<p><b>Baseline (2006/07)</b></p>	<p><b>By 2011 we will:</b></p>
		<p>Median earnings in £'s for residents living in the local authority area who are employed – full time weekly gross pay</p> <p>Median earnings in £'s for workforce based in the local authority</p>	<p>Annual, local, Corporate and Commercial Services</p>	<p>2007 Residents £429.60 Workplace £418.40</p>	<p>Improve</p>
		<p>No of claimants in receipt of employment related benefits</p>	<p>Annual, Job Centre Plus</p>	<p>17.1%</p>	<p>Decrease</p>
		<p>Reduce the earnings differential between male and female residents</p>	<p>Annual, ASHE 2007, Corporate and Commercial Services</p>	<p>£493.90 m £402.30 f</p>	<p>Reduce</p>

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of people experiencing multiple deprivation i.e. people living in the worst 15% of areas in Scotland	Bi annual SMID, Local Corporate and Commercial Services 2006 SMID	12,985 (8.8%)	Decrease
		% of households where respondent or partner has a bank or building society account	Annual, local, Corporate and Commercial Services	SHS 2005/06 91%	Increase
		The number of new learners participating in adult literacy programmes Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	Annual, CP, Community Services	178 650	Increase
		Learning centres and learning access points A – number of users as a % of resident population B – the no of times the terminals are used per 1,000 population	Annual, SPI Community Services SPI	8.9% 565.6	Increase
		Number of new IT learners from priority area Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	Annual, CP, Community Services and Forth Valley College	777 650	Increase
		Number of time the free public access terminals are used in libraries	Annual, CP, Community Services	84,360	Increase
		The number of individuals obtaining Welfare benefits advice Debt advice – new cases	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	17,150 681	Maintain Maintain

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of benefit enquiries and benefit gains (FSF)	Annual, SCP, Social Work Services and CABs	23,647 £7.7m	Increase
		Number of new debt cases and total debt negotiated (FSF)	Annual, SCP, Social Work Services and CABs	1411 £26.7m	Reduce Increase
		Average time (days) to process new housing benefit claims	Annual, SPI, Finance Services	29.8 days	Reduce
		Number of working age benefit claimants relative to Falkirk Council average in Priority areas – areas in worst 15% SIMD 2006	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	2.02:1	Reduce
		The number of benefit claimants in priority areas participating in work based training	Annual, CP, Community Services and Forth Valley College	102 183 in Falkirk LEA	Increase
		Reduce standardised mortality rates in our most deprived communities	Annual, SCP, Health	Grangemouth 155	Reduce
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Decreasing the opportunity gap between our communities;</li> <li>❖ Improving the employment opportunities for people living in our areas of need;</li> <li>❖ Improving the health and well-being of people in our areas of need;</li> <li>❖ Reducing the stigmatisation of greatest areas of need;</li> <li>❖ Making our most disadvantaged communities safer;</li> <li>❖ Working in partnership to target appropriate services on areas of disadvantage;</li> <li>❖ Supporting the health service to provide services to our most disadvantaged areas;</li> <li>❖ Improving the image of areas of needs;</li> <li>❖ Working with our tenants and residents to improve our housing estates;</li> <li>❖ Developing housing and community regeneration strategies in identified priority areas;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring benefits and money advice is readily available to those who may need this service; and</li> <li>❖ Providing money and debt advice services in conjunction with partners.</li> </ul>			

	<p>Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome</p>	<p>The Scottish Government should determine a national definition of ‘vulnerable adults into employment’.</p> <p>The Scottish Government should work with Community Planning Partners to ensure all available information relating to vulnerable / equalities groups e.g. ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, looked after and accommodated children and under performing young males that is collated by the Government through surveys is made available to LAs to assist in targeting services for those groups.</p> <p>Scottish Government to work with Community Planning Partners to develop equality indicators.</p>
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<p><b>National Outcome Eight</b></p> <p><b>We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.</b></p>	<p>Local Context</p> <p>Within the Falkirk Council area we have over a number of years had a focus on improving the health and wellbeing of our youngest citizens. We have developed healthy school meals options and breakfast clubs and young people are encouraged to take part in exercise and sporting activities. We also know we must focus on meeting the particular needs for our most vulnerable children. 2,750 young people aged under 16 live in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland. 16% of our primary school children were entitled to free school meals in 2007 and almost 3,000 received clothing and footwear grants. The Council provides high quality education and support for those with disabilities. The number of children attending our schools whose first language is not English has increased and although numbers remains small compared to other areas the pressures on the schools need to be addressed. 2,068 children were referred to the Children's Reporter in 2005/06 which is 7.3% of the child population age 0-15 in the Falkirk Council area, slightly higher than the Scottish average at 5.8%.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Vulnerable children will be protected (CP)	Number and percentage of children with dental cavities in P1	Annual, Local NHS Forth Valley	559 37.1%	Reduce
	People will have equitable access to local health, support and care (CP)	Proportion of children with BMI out with healthily range General Looked after and accommodated children	Annual, SCP, NHS Forth Valley	8.2% To be sourced	Reduce
	All our children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected and enabled to enjoy their lives(SCP)	Proportion of social background reports submitted to the Children's Panel within 20 days	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	42%	Increase to 75%.
		Rate per 1,000 of child protection referrals / investigations carried out during the year	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	15.2	Not appropriate

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of Children's Panel Members appointed in a year.	Annual Local, Law and Administration Services	34	Maintain.
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ensuring consistent access to children's services at a local level;</li> <li>❖ Continuing to improve access to our premises for disabled people;</li> <li>❖ Implementation of the Integrated Assessment Framework for Children;</li> <li>❖ Taking forward the framework of Getting It Right For Every Child;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring all our schools are health promoting; and</li> <li>❖ Implementing locality based children's teams.</li> </ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>The Scottish Government should adopt a more effective and joined up approach to Children's Services in their dealings with health and local authorities.</p> <p>The Scottish Government should develop strategies to decrease the incidence and impact of drugs and alcohol abuse in children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Lobbying for the establishment of a Royal Commission or establishing a high level review in relation to substance misuse and its implications for families.</p> <p>The important partnership between Councils, the Children's Panels and the SCRA should be maintained.</p> <p>Scottish Government to improve mental health services for children, young people and their families.</p>			



<b>National Outcome Nine</b>  <b>We will live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>Overall crime has fallen across central Scotland by nearly 3%. This trend has also been seen in the Falkirk Council area where the overall crime rate has gone from 71.9 crimes per 1,000 population to 65.3 crimes per 1,000 population, a drop of 10.7%.</p> <p>Vandalism and Breach of the Peace are the two most common types of crime in our area. In 2005/06, there were 2,781 reported incidents of vandalism and 2,144 of breach of the peace. There was an increase in reported vandalism between 2004/05 and 2005/06 of 5% whereas there has been a decrease of 10% of Breach of the Peace incidents.</p> <p>The fear of crime is often higher than the actual crime. 83.9% of the adults in the Falkirk Council area feel very safe or fairly during the day in their local area with 47.4% stating that they feel very or fairly safe in their local area after dark.</p> <p>We also are committed to protecting our communities by putting ever increasing emphasis on preventing fires and life threatening incidents focusing on those most at risk in our communities.</p> <p>To complement our approach to community safety, we also have in place rigorous emergency planning arrangements. We know our area has a number of hazards due to our location e.g. flooding and the petro chemicals industries.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Our citizens will be protected (CP)	% of adult residents stating that they feel 'very safe' or fairly safe' when at home alone at night	Bi annual, local, SHS	SHS 2005/06 97%	Maintain
	Improve crime reduction and community safety (SCP)				
Reduce fear of crime (SCP)	Confidence in individual safety in local areas During the day At night	Bi Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	84% 47%	Improve Improve	
Reduce the incidence of death, injury and economic loss by fire and respond effectively to a broad range of fire and other emergencies (CSFRS)					
Support the delivery of safer communities (CSP)					

	Preserve and restore public order; (CSP)	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2007/08)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
	Investigate crime effectively (CSP)  Contribute to the reduction of crime (CSP)  Continue to increase public re-assurance (CSP)	<p>Volume and rate of recorded crimes and offences per 10,000 population Crimes and offences are categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1 – Crimes of violence</li> <li>• Group 2 – crimes of indecency</li> <li>• Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty</li> <li>• Group 4 – Vandalism, fire-raising and malicious conduct</li> <li>• Group 5 – other crimes which includes all drugs offences</li> <li>• Group 6 – offences (miscellaneous)</li> <li>• Group 7 – offences (road traffic)</li> </ul>	Annual, local, Central Scotland Police	<p>14.4</p> <p>18.5</p> <p>278.5</p> <p>201.9</p> <p>135.4</p> <p>384.7</p> <p>727.6</p>	<p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Reduce</p>
		Overall prevalence of problem drug misuse – No of problem drug users in the area	Annual, local, Central Scotland Police	856	Reduce

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		The proportion of social enquiry reports submitted to court by due date	Annual SPI, Social Work Services	99.9%	Maintain
		Probation – the proportion of new probationers seen by a supervising officer within one week	Annual SPI, Social Work Services	87.5%	Increase
		Community Service – the average hours per week taken to complete Community service orders	Annual SPI, Social Work Services	3.3	Increase
		Food hygiene – the % of premises with a minimum inspection frequency of 12 months or less, that were inspected on time	Annual SPI, Development Services	99.3%	Maintain
		The number of casualties fatally or seriously injured on our roads	Annual, Local CP, Development Services	421 – rolling 5 year total	Reduce
		% communicable disease investigations started within time	Annual, CP, Development Services	98.4%	Maintain
		Inspection of trading premises – the % in high and medium risk inspections that were inspected on time	Annual, SPI, Development Services	High – 100% Medium 97.8% Both 97.9%	Maintain
		Consumer complaints completed within 14 days of receipt	Annual, SPI, Development Services	71.5%	Increase

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Cost of repairs on schools due to vandalism	Annual, CP, Education Services	£216k	Reduce
		The proportion of reports submitted by the Social Work Services Department to the Courts by the due date	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	99.9%	Maintain
		Number and rate per 1,000 of adults at risk of harm investigations	Annual, Local, Social Work Services	13 1 per 1,000	N/A
		The number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	Annual SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	7.48	Reduce
		The number of accidental fire fatalities per 10,000 population	Annual, SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	0.2	Reduce
		The number of incidents resulting in casualties per 10,000 population	Annual, local SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	0.93	Reduce
		The number of wilful fire raising incidents per 10,000 population	Annual, SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	6.16	Reduce
		The number of hoax emergency calls to the Fire and Rescue service per 10,000 population	Annual, SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	17.16	Reduce
		Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ensuring civil contingency arrangements are robust;</li> <li>❖ Reducing accidents on our roads;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring our citizens are advised how to minimise their risks;</li> <li>❖ Promoting activities that work across generations;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring people feel safer;</li> <li>❖ Developing a therapeutic unit;</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Further developing our enforcement teams;</li> <li>❖ Reducing the contamination of land in our area; and</li> <li>❖ Promoting safer routes to schools.</li> </ul>
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>The resource implications of increasing Community Penalties require to be addressed nationally.</p> <p>The resources necessary for implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 are required from Government.</p> <p>The Scottish Government to provide resources to ensure its commitment to increasing the number of Police Officers.</p>

<p><b>National Outcome Ten</b></p> <p><b>We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.</b></p>	<p>Local Context</p> <p>Over 90% of Falkirk Council area residents rate their area as a good place to live and access to services is considered to be similar to the Scottish average.</p> <p>Falkirk Council has a relatively high proportion of local authority houses in comparison to other Scottish local authorities. However, the impact of the Right to Buy on the distribution of tenure has been significant. In 1981 69.3% of Falkirk households were in Local Authority housing and only 26.3% owner occupied. Right to Buy has widened access to owner occupation significantly and 68.3% of households in the Falkirk Council area are now owners, 24.2% are in Local Authority housing, 4.4% are housing association tenants and 3.1% rent privately (based on 2007 estimates)</p> <p>House prices have risen steadily in the Falkirk Council area over the past decade. The average price of a house sold in 1997 in the Falkirk council area was £53,400 and this rose to £121,300 in 2006. The average price of a new build property has increased even more dramatically over the last decade. In 1997 the average new build house was sold for less than £64,000, and by 2006 this average had increased to £176,400, a rise of 176% over the period.</p> <p>The number of new houses built in the Council area has decreased in the last two years from a peak of around 1,000 houses per year. The area remains an attractive place to live and development pressures are expected to be maintained.</p> <p>The Falkirk Council area has seen a 29% increase between 2002/03 and 2006/07 in the number of homeless applications. The number of applicants assessed as in priority need has increased from 65% in 2002/03 to 71% in 2006/07. The Council has recently reviewed our approach to dealing with homelessness in order to ensure we can appropriately meet the needs of those who are homeless and ensure we meet the Government's target for 2012.</p>				
	<p>Local Outcomes</p> <p>Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area (CP)</p> <p>Increase pride and satisfaction with their local community (FSF)</p> <p>Ensure the provision of a range of affordable housing options which meet the needs of local people including those with specific needs (LHS)</p>	<p><b>Relevant Indicators</b></p> <p>The % of residents stating their neighbourhood as a 'very good' or fairly good' place to live. (FSF)</p> <p>The number and variety of affordable homes A social rented homes; B low cost home ownership</p>	<p><b>Frequency / Type / Source</b></p> <p>Scottish Household Survey, Corporate and Commercial Services</p> <p>Annual, local, Corporate and Commercial Services</p>	<p><b>Baseline (2006/07)</b></p> <p>SHS 2005/06 91%</p> <p>A 65 B 8 Total 73</p>	<p><b>By 2011 we will:</b></p> <p>Improve</p> <p>Increase</p>

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		% of people presenting and assessed as homeless who were offered permanent housing	Annual, local, Corporate and Commercial Services	53%	Increase
		Average time (weeks) between presentation and completion of duty by the Council for those cases assessed as homeless or potentially homeless	Annual, SPI, Corporate and Commercial Services	10.8 weeks	Reduce
		% of cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of previous cases being completed	Annual, SPI, Corporate and Commercial Services	2.7%	Reduce
		% of CHS offers issued within 2 months of application	Annual, SPI, Law and Administration Services	90.3%	Improve
		No of council dwellings being brought up to the SHQ standard by 2015 by criteria:	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services and Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services		Increase
		• tolerable standard;		0	
		• free from serious disrepair;		0	
		• energy efficient;		1,074	
		• modern facilities and services;		0	
		• healthy, safe and secure;		42	
		• Fire Safety checked		114	
		total dwelling being brought up to SHQs		1,077	

	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Number of people seeking re-location due to overcrowding	Annual, SCP, Corporate and Commercial Services	1688	Reduce
	Tenancy changes – the % of rent loss due to voids	Annual, SPI Corporate and Commercial Services	1.6%	Improve
	% of Council House sales settled within 26 weeks	Annual, SPI, Law and Administration Improve	86.1%	Improve
	Privacy - percentage of residential care places occupied by older people that are in single rooms	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	88%	Improve
	The proportion of people in single rooms with ensuite provision in care homes Older people (65+) Other adults (18 -64)	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	72% 33%	Improve
	The number and rate per 1,000 adult population of MECS community alarms provided	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	703 6 per 1,000	Improve
	The number and rate per 1,000 population of new adaptations provided during the reporting year	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	499 4 per 1,000	Improve
	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by other adults that are in single rooms	Annual, SPI, Social Work Services	93.3%	Improve
	Increase the number of hours of homecare	Annual, JPIAF target, Social Work Services	13,554	Increase



		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		% of householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	Annual, SPI, Development Services	85.1%	Improve
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Implementing more effective planning processes by adopting a Council wide local plan 2010, preparing our draft local development plan by 2011, introducing a Development Management Customer Charter and continuing to speed up the processing of planning applications;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of affordable housing for young people and families;</li> <li>❖ Continuing to upgrade our housing so it meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring private rented sector meets the needs of some of our most vulnerable communities;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring the viability of our outlying villages and towns;</li> <li>❖ Meeting the needs of homeless people</li> <li>❖ Participating in the provision of new social housing;</li> <li>❖ Continuing our investment programme in our housing stock;</li> <li>❖ Working with private landlords to ensure private tenants have appropriate standards of accommodation that are safe and legal;</li> <li>❖ Working in partnership to provide new and affordable housing;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring the provision of a diversity of housing to meet the needs of people with special needs;</li> <li>❖ Implementing our homelessness strategy; and</li> <li>❖ Developing plans for our villages.</li> </ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>Government needs a clear strategy regarding the delivery of affordable homes with a clear definition of what is an affordable home but also on how to release land for house building e.g. review planning policy NPF2.</p> <p>Clarification on subsidy/support arrangements for local authorities wishing to pursue Council house building and on the enhance role envisaged for private landlords in meeting housing needs as outlined in the Firm Foundations discussion document.</p>			

<b>National Outcome Eleven</b>  <b>We will have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.</b>	Local Context				
	Substance use is continually linked to offending behaviour and in Scotland the use of alcohol is seen as being particularly problematic in this respect. The Youth Crime Audit 2005 identified that there was a strong link between the consumption of alcohol and offending behaviour in the Falkirk area. The Youth Crime Audit also found that the young people with offending behaviour had poorer mental health than the general population of young people. 26% of the young people sampled in the youth Crime Audit had been referred to, assessed by or received treatment from a psychologist and 30% to a psychiatrist. 30% of the young people suffered low self esteem. Exclusion and truancy rates amongst young offenders are relatively high. 62% had been excluded from school and 70% had a high level of truancy. Domestic abuse is a crime, the impact of which cuts across all social, geographic and cultural groups regardless of the gender of the victim or the perpetrator. We acknowledge the right of the individual to live free from fear and regard all forms of domestic abuse as unacceptable. The Council acknowledges that addressing domestic abuse is a national priority and will adopt a responsible approach to reducing the level of domestic abuse. More people in the Falkirk Council area are satisfied with what agencies are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour (45%) than in Scotland as a whole (39%).				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Our citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well being (CP)	The number and rate per 1,000 clients obtaining self directed support	Annual, CP, Social Work Services	43 0.4 per 1,000	Improve
Changing attitudes and modifying behaviour (SCP)	Domestic noise complaints – the average time(hours) between the time of the complaint and attendance on site – dealt with as Part V of the Anti Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004	Annual, SPI, Development Services	157	Improve	
Divert young people away from criminal activity and antisocial behaviour (SCP)					

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Number of young people involved in a range of youth intervention initiatives	Annual, SCP, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services	40	Increase
		Reduce levels of reported anti-social behaviour	Annual, SCP, Corporate and Commercial Services	3474	Reduce
		ASB – % acknowledgement of new instruction issued within 1 day	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	100%	100%
		ASB - % lodged in Court within 4 days of final instruction / information	Annual, Local, Law and Administration	100%	Maintain
		Rates of domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population	Annual, local, Central Scotland Police	2007/08 126	Reduce
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Encouraging people to be motivated, involved and empowered;</li><li>❖ Reducing antisocial behaviour and bullying;</li><li>❖ Providing diversionary activities for young people;</li><li>❖ Consulting people in order that they can influence decisions on care services;</li><li>❖ Supporting people to take more control of their packages of care;</li><li>❖ Developing our community wardens services;</li><li>❖ Working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure the voices of vulnerable groups are heard in service design and provision; and</li><li>❖ Providing a network of facilities for young people.</li></ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	Scottish Government needs to recognise the value of volunteers in the community and the resources required to support capacity building. Need for the Scottish Government to improve and speed up the Disclosure Scotland arrangements for checking volunteers.			

<b>National Outcome Twelve</b>  <b>We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it enhance it for future generations.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>Our vision is to create a safe, reliable, convenient, accessible and sustainable transport system that truly contributes to a high quality of life for those living, working and visiting in the Falkirk Council area. Since 2000, there have been significant transport achievements in the Falkirk Council area. Just over £25 million has been spent on transport capital projects during this period that has enabled, among other things: the provision of a Park and Ride site at the Falkirk Wheel; completion of the railway station access project giving full access to the southern platform at Falkirk High Station; structural assessment of all the Authority’s bridges with over a 3m span; 41km of road and 64km of footway resurfaced or surface dressed; provision of additional car parking at Larbert, Polmont and Falkirk High Stations; public transport information provided at 50% of bus stops; production of six Route Accident Reduction Plans; completion of the Falkirk Orbital Road, and completion of all school travel plan assessments with 21 schools having cycle stands installed and all schools having 20mph signing provided.</p> <p>The Scottish Household Survey shows that the Falkirk Council area has a slightly higher percentage of people travelling to work or education by car (69%) when combining drivers and passengers, while the Scottish average is only (63%). Conversely fewer adults in Falkirk Council area walk or use a bicycle to work or education (13%) compared to a Scottish average of 18%. And while fewer Falkirk Council area adults get the bus (10%) than in Scotland overall (14%), more use trains (8% compared to 4%).</p> <p>The Council is proud of its rich historic heritage, including the Antonine Wall which has been put forward for World Heritage Site status, our legacy of industrial archaeology including the Carron Iron works and the Forth and Clyde and Union canals. There are two conservation area schemes underway in Bo’ness and Airth and a preliminary appraisal planned in Falkirk Town Centre.</p> <p>On site work on the Bo’ness flood prevention scheme started in March 2008. This is scheduled to take 3 years with a total contract value of £5.2m. The Council has an on going flood protection / management programme involving assessment surveys and minor projects.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	We will improve the built environment (CP)	% of non householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	Annual, SPI, Development Services	40.7%	Improve
	Our open spaces will be attractive accessible and safe (CP)	% of all planning applications dealt with within 2 months	Annual, SPI, Development Services	64.5%	Improve
	Promote a safety and efficient multi modal transport system that minimises on the local environment (SCP)	Traffic light failure repairs completed within 48 hours	Annual, SPI, Development Services	90.6%	Improve
		Street light failure repairs completed within 7 days	Annual, SPI, Development Services	96.2%	Maintain

	Improving the quality of the built and natural environment for local neighbourhoods (SCP)	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		% programmed watercourse assessments carried out	Annual, Development Services	95%	Maintain
		Assessment survey scores of cleanliness in public places	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	72	Maintain
		Abandoned vehicles removed within 14 days of notification	Annual, SPI, Development Services	85.2%	Improve
		Special uplifts completed within 5 days	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	78	Improve
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Implementing more effective planning processes;</li> <li>❖ Adopting sustainable design principles for the Council's property and facilities projects;</li> <li>❖ Maintaining the balance between open spaces and new developments;</li> <li>❖ Managing our risk from flooding;</li> <li>❖ Improving the cleanliness of our area;</li> <li>❖ Improving our open spaces and parks</li> <li>❖ Implementing our open spaces strategy;</li> <li>❖ Developing a play ground and parks development and maintenance strategy;</li> <li>❖ Continuing our approach to litter through prevention, education and enforcement;</li> <li>❖ Developing our HELIX project and other parks projects; and</li> <li>❖ Implementing our built heritage strategy.</li> </ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>Scottish Government to develop and implement a national strategy for flooding.</p> <p>Scottish Government to commit funding to the HELIX project.</p> <p>Scottish Government to amend financial legislation to allow Councils to invest developer contributions for continuing support for revenue activity such as maintenance of bus services and open spaces.</p> <p>Scottish Government to support the bid for World Heritage status for the Antonine Wall.</p>			

<b>National Outcome Thirteen</b>  <b>We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>The number of people from an ethnic minority background in the Falkirk Council area is relatively small – 1% of the population in the 2001 Census. Since then, the area has received new migrants from Eastern Europe although the numbers are small compared to other areas. The Council and its partners have been involved in monitoring and developing services for these new residents to ensure that they can be integrated into the local community whether they choose to stay for a long or a short period of time.</p> <p>Falkirk will host the National Mod in October 2008, the major Gaelic festival in Scotland.</p> <p>The population in the Falkirk Council area is projected to increase and there are projected to be significant changes in the age groups that make up the population. These differences will have implications for the services that the Council and its partners provide.</p> <p>The number of people over retirement age is expected to increase substantially between 2006 and 2031. The increase in the younger retired population may impact on Leisure Services since many are likely to be willing and fit enough to take part in social, cultural and recreational activities, and to have time available to participate. The number of people aged 85 and over is expected to show the most rapid rate of increase by over 150% across the period from 2006 to 2031 to 6,300. This has important implications for Social Work Services and for Care in the Community because this age group makes the greatest demands on their services.</p> <p>The provision of advice and assistance to allow elderly and disabled homeowners to remain in their own homes is an established element of the private sector housing services provided by the Council. Through a long established ‘care and repair’ service, home owners are supported with disabled adaptations, as well as repairs and improvements to their homes. The Council makes grants available to around 100 householder annually at a value of £100,000. The Council’s ‘care and repair’ scheme has recently been extended to include a pilot small repairs service for elderly people. It intended to develop proposals for an all tenure Handyman Service that will tackle jobs such as hanging curtains, changing light bulbs etc.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs. (CP)  Develop our approach to local community planning in all our communities (SCP)	No of civil marriages	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	307	Increase
		No of civil partnerships	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	6	Increase
		No of baby naming ceremonies	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	6	Increase
		No of renewal of wedding vows ceremonies	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	11	Increase
		No of people attending citizenship ceremonies	Annual, CP, Law and Administration	56	Increase

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		Public access % of Council buildings that are suitable and accessible to disabled people	Annual, SPI, Development Services	56%	Improve
		No of old people’s welfare organisations operating across the Council area	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	40	Maintain
		Public access % of schools that are fully or mostly accessible to disabled people	Annual, SPI, Development Services	86%	Improve
		No of racist incidents and racially motivated crimes	Annual, local, Central Scotland Police	172	Reduce
		Percentage of racially motivated crimes detected	Annual, local, Central Scotland Police	78.5%	Improve
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Improving access to services and facilities for disabled people including access to housing both in the public and private sector;</li><li>❖ Providing services that promote the interests of vulnerable groups;</li><li>❖ Positively promoting equality of opportunity across our services;</li><li>❖ Ensuring older people feel supported at the heart of their communities;</li><li>❖ Supporting people who move into our area;</li><li>❖ Continue to develop our approach to Equality Impact Assessments;</li><li>❖ Developing a specific retirement community;</li><li>❖ Developing community activities that include older people;</li><li>❖ Working with established groups to address issues of discrimination;</li><li>❖ Encouraging social justice for all including young, elderly, migrant populations; and</li><li>❖ Providing opportunities for older and younger people to understand each other’s lifestyles and points of view.</li></ul>			
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome				

<b>National Outcome Fourteen</b>  <b>We will reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>Our vision is for Falkirk Council area communities to become dynamic and sustainable communities with a good quality of life resulting from a healthy environment, prosperous economy and inclusive society.</p> <p>Falkirk Council area’s record on waste recycling is very good with it significantly exceeding the Scottish average of 28.4%. Just over 35% of household waste was recycled during 2006/07. This is a marked increase when compared with 19% in 2004/05. The Scottish Household Survey suggests that Falkirk Council area has seen a significant increase over the years in the percentage of people who recycle one or more of - glass, plastic, metal cans and newspapers or magazines from 57% in 1999/2000 and 59% in 2003/04 to 84% in 2005/06 which is above the Scottish average of 78% and well above the lowest at 55% in Glasgow.</p> <p>The Council adopted a Fairtrade policy in 2004 and Falkirk became a Fairtrade town in 2006 and is now looking to achieve this for the whole Council area.</p> <p>The area is home to a number of nationally and internationally important Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest which need to continue to receive protection from development.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	We will be greener (CP)	Tonnage of municipal waste collected per 1000 population	Annual, Local, Development Services	760.9 tonnes	Improve
	Demonstrate commitment and direct contribution to the attainment and promotion of sustainable development (SCP)	The maximum total tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste allowed to be sent to land fill	Annual, SPI, Development Services	45,142	48,144 tonnes by 2009/10
	Improving our approach to waste management (SCP)	Proportion of municipal waste collected by the Authority: recycled or composted	Annual, SPI, Development Services	35%  24.8% 10.1%	40% by 2010 50% by 2013 70% by 2025
		Modal share of adults travelling actively to work or education	Annual, Local, Development Services	2005/06 Walk – 11% Cycle – 2%	Improve
	No’s and percentage of children travelling actively to	Annual, Local, Development Services,	63.4% P 74.3% S	Improve	



		school	Hands Up Survey		
		<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Frequency / Type / Source</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
		% of our vehicle fleet with reduced emission technology	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial services	80%	Improve
		Exceedances of each Government air quality objective to remain within the limits of allowable no of exceedances	Annual, CP, Development Services	15 minutes SO2 was over limit of 35 at 2 sites.	Improve. Below target for 8 objectives until 2010.
		% of educational establishments achieving Eco Schools awards: Bronze awards; Silver awards; Green Flags	Annual, CP, Education Services	73% 47% 12%	Improve Improve Improve
		Reported incidents of illegal tipping Refuse Accumulations	Annual, SCP, Development Services	134 476	Reduce Reduce
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2005/2010. Complete Action plans for 20 priority habitats and 112 species;</li> <li>❖ Producing an integrated habitat network study;</li> <li>❖ Promoting sustainable development;</li> <li>❖ Reducing energy use;</li> <li>❖ Reducing carbon emissions;</li> <li>❖ Reducing the amount of waste generated in the Falkirk Council area;</li> <li>❖ Exceeding national waste recycling targets;</li> <li>❖ Tackling climate change;</li> <li>❖ Protecting the natural environment and promoting biodiversity;</li> <li>❖ Reducing the Council's carbon emissions by 20%;</li> <li>❖ Enforcing building standards;</li> <li>❖ Providing state of the art recycling centres and facilities;</li> <li>❖ Encouraging the reduction in unnecessary packaging;</li> <li>❖ Increasing public awareness of recycling and other 'green' initiatives;</li> <li>❖ Protecting the natural environment through adherence to the development plan;</li> </ul>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Promoting sustainable procurement;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring the safety of our estates and green spaces; and</li> <li>❖ Continuing to improve our paths network and open spaces.</li> </ul>
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	<p>Scottish Government to put pressure on Europe to introduce legislation to reduce packaging.</p> <p>Scottish Government to complete timeously their review of National Waste Strategy.</p> <p>Scottish Government to determine way of measuring carbon footprint of the Council and other public sector partners.</p>

<b>National Outcome Fifteen</b>  <b>Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.</b>	Local Context				
	<p>The Council and its partners accept the challenge to provided high quality services, efficiently and effectively, to all its residents. 44% of residents agree that Falkirk Council provides high quality services, a similar proportion to the Scottish average.</p> <p>The Council has a good record in having buildings which are fit for purpose and in good condition and an increasing number provide suitable access for people with disabilities.</p> <p>The cost of administering council tax and housing benefit applications is among the lowest is Scotland and Council Tax levels are also amongst the lowest in Scotland.</p> <p>Falkirk Council is the largest employer in the area with approximately 6,500 employees, followed by the health service, while other public sector partners are also major employers. This gives the Council and its partners a duty not only to provide high quality services but also to their employees to be a good employer. The Council is striving to be an employer of choice in the Falkirk area. Work remains to be done to improve sickness absence rates among public sector staff.</p> <p>The size of the public sector budgets means that the Council and its partners make a major contribution to the economy of the area. Falkirk Council's budget alone is over £300m. Our largest services are Education £143m, and Social Work Services £66m.</p> <p>The Council and its partners will continue to consult its citizens on its policies and plans.</p>				
	Local Outcomes	Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
	We are committed to	Sickness absence - % of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees	Annual, SPI, Corporate and Commercial Services	5.4%	Reduce
	Public service				
	Performance	% of who people who contacted the Council that were satisfied with the service they received	Biannual, Council Tax Survey, Corporate and Commercial Services	72.7 % (2008)	Improve
	Partnership (CP)	% of operational buildings of appropriate condition for current use.	Annual, SPI, Corporate and Commercial Services	89.4%	Improve

		Relevant Indicators	Frequency / Type / Source	Baseline (2006/07)	By 2011 we will:
		% of people who feel informed about the Council	Biannual, Council Tax Survey, Corporate and Commercial Services	75% (2008)	Increase
		% of SPIs in upper quartile	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial Services	33%	Maintain
		Response repairs The % of housing repairs completed within the target times	Annual, CP, Corporate and Commercial services	77%	Improve
		% of Council tax collected in the year	Annual, SPI, Finance Services	96.2%	Increase
		Time taken to respond to emergency calls Central Scotland Police Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service - % handled in less than 1 minute	Annual, SCP, Central Scotland Police	84% 61.8%	Improve Maintain
	Required Actions/commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Meeting our efficiency targets;</li> <li>❖ Becoming the employer of choice in the local area;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring we have the necessary qualified and motivated workforce to meet our service delivery priorities;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring our customers have information they need to access services and is easily understood;</li> <li>❖ Ensuring we continue to understand and meet the needs of our customers;</li> <li>❖ Working with other public sector agencies to provide seamless services;</li> <li>❖ Implementing our Human Resources Workforce Strategy;</li> <li>❖ Working with our employees and trade unions;</li> <li>❖ Continuing to develop our management and leadership training;</li> <li>❖ Continuing to survey our customers to find out their views;</li> <li>❖ Responding to public feedback; and</li> <li>❖ Working with our partners to review the services we provide.</li> </ul>			

	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	Scottish Government to ensure the recommendations of the Crerar Review are implemented timeously.
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**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY:  
BO'NESS HARBOUR AND FORESHORE INITIATIVE**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the method and outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken with the Bo'ness community on the Bo'ness Harbour and Foreshore Initiative, in accordance with the request made by Members at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008. The report considers the feedback in some detail and provides an updated perspective on the proposed development. Taken together these recommend that Members endorse their earlier 'in principle' decision and agree to entering into a development agreement accordingly.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Policy & Resources Committee received a report in relation to the Bo'ness Harbour and Foreshore initiative at its meeting on 11 March 2008. This outlined a revised approach to the phasing of the scheme, involving commencement of works at the east end of the site, and revised means of funding the package of harbour works. The report was approved by a majority and was then referred to Council.
- 2.2 Council considered the Report and supported in principal its recommendations. However, given concerns over the re-phasing of the scheme, it required that consultation be undertaken with the Bo'ness community, reporting back to Council in June.
- 2.3 This phase of consultation with the Bo'ness community has been completed.

**3.0 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken previously with the Bo'ness community in relation to the regeneration of the town centre and development of the Harbour and Foreshore initiative. A further phase of consultation was undertaken during May and June to inform the Bo'ness community of the proposed amendments to the delivery of the masterplan and to seek its views on proceeding with the initiative proposed.
- 3.2 An initial scoping exercise to establish a proper framework for the consultation was presented at the Area Forum meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The principal changes, reasons for the revised phasing and an announcement on the intention to consult with the Bo'ness community, were all set out in a presentation. This sought feedback from the community and local groups as to how the Council should consult, giving as examples the consultation undertaken for Denny and Grangemouth town centre regeneration.

- 3.3 A draft consultation framework was then presented to the Bo'ness Town Centre Development Group which met on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008. This meeting involved local members, community representatives and representatives of ING. This confirmed the aims of the consultation exercise. These sought to inform the Bo'ness community of the revised proposals for the Harbour and Foreshore; obtain a firm expression of views from all elements of the Bo'ness Community as to their support (or otherwise) for the scheme; and to use this to enable the Council to make a fully informed decision on the proposal.
- 3.4 Despite concern at the timescales for delivery of the consultation exercise, there was agreement from the local community groups and Members attending that the exercise should proceed as outlined.
- 3.5 The consultation exercise on the revised proposals commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> May. It was advertised fully in the local press and included:-
- 1) Display of boards detailing the revised proposals at three locations in the town, the library, One Stop Shop and Recreation Centre
  - 2) Consultation and opportunity to give responses up to 13<sup>th</sup> June
  - 3) Material displayed online at the Council's website for people to view, express their preference and make comment.
  - 4) An open exhibition event at Bo'ness Town Hall, held on 26<sup>th</sup> May between 2pm and 7pm for members of the public to attend and ask questions of officers from the Council's Economic Development team. Over 90 people attended seeking information on the revised phasing.
  - 5) An evening public meeting at Bo'ness Town Hall, held after the open exhibition event, from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm. The event was independently hosted and involved Council Officers and ING setting out the financial, development and economic reasoning behind the changes to the delivery of the scheme, the community consultation framework and questions being posed to the community. The consequences of the result of the consultation to Bo'ness were also outlined. The meeting was attended by 109 members of the public and they had an opportunity to express views and ask questions of Council officers or ING regarding changes to the development phasing and consequences for the harbour.
  - 6) The drafting, printing and delivery of a newsletter to every Bo'ness household by 28<sup>th</sup> May. The text of the newsletter:
    - detailed the original community aspirations, marketing process, and selection of ING as the Council's preferred developer.
    - illustrated the original ING masterplan proposals, detailing why this scheme was no longer viable
    - confirmed the revised ING proposals for delivery of the masterplan and future opportunities for delivery of the scheme
    - directly offered the option of a response from the community, with a tear off slip requesting a Yes or No preference to the revised scheme progressing. The opportunity for further comment was given.
    - Instructions for returning the slip to either a FREEPOST address, or hand delivery to the consultation mail box in Bo'ness library by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

- 7) Final public meeting held at Bo'ness Town Hall from 11am to 12.30 pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June again independently hosted, to feedback to the community on the outcome of the consultation process.
  - 8) Canvassing of opinion by established local community groups. This resulted in letters or comments being supplied by these groups in regard to the revised proposals.
- 3.6 The approach to the consultation and the results obtained from each of the above activities are summarised in the Consultation Report, available as background to this report.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION - NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

### ***First Distribution Phase***

- 4.1 The Newsletter was printed in-house by the Council and an external distribution company engaged to undertake delivery of the newsletters. However, following delivery of the newsletters by the distribution company it became apparent within one week that not all streets within Bo'ness had received the newsletter. Several emails and phone calls were received from the community, community group representatives and local members expressing frustration at this development.
- 4.2 The streets were checked against returns, where respondents had been asked to state their postcode on the return slip. Cross checking and plotting of postcodes confirmed the position with no return being recorded from the streets identified by the community.
- 4.3 This was an extremely disappointing position given the credentials and quality assurances offered by the distribution company. The company had been used previously by Falkirk Council, other local authorities and public bodies to deliver mail distributions to the community.

### ***Second Distribution Phase***

- 4.4 Immediate steps were taken to redress this position;
  - 3,000 further newsletters were printed (in the same style and colour as previously) and delivered by Council staff on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June to the addresses identified
  - Further advertisements were taken in the Bo'ness Journal with a direct Falkirk Council telephone number for households to phone and notify non-receipt of a newsletter and request a copy.
  - Website updated to inform the community of developments, the contact number and additional deliveries being made.
- 4.5 As part of this combined process 570 slips were returned from the first and second phases.



### ***Third Distribution Phase***

- 4.6 Despite earlier distributions, reports were still received that a minority of households at certain addresses had not received newsletters. This was despite several returns recorded from these postcodes. To ensure all Bo'ness residents and businesses received the newsletter, a further print of 7500 newsletters was undertaken and delivered by first class Royal Mail post on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The consultation exercise was also extended until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. This additional newsletter was printed in a different colour wash to differentiate it from earlier distributed editions. As a result of this process 395 slips were returned.

## **5.0 WEBSITE - CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The website provided full details of the revised proposals and additional information concerning the consultation. An online consultation and survey was also available. Several complaints were received with regard to the operation of the website. Each complaint was investigated and there were found to be no faults with the operation of the system. As each computer registers a vote within the online system, computer IP addresses are registered to prevent further voting and consequently prevent multiple voting on the website from one computer.
- 5.2 In a recent review of Council websites, Audit Scotland found the Council's website to be an example of good practice and in compliance with the web content accessibility guidelines 1.0 which is the government target standard in this area. Further, an external survey of UK Council websites, the site was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> and received the highest rating of any Scottish Council. The online consultation system was procured by Falkirk Council as part of the website has been used on many other Council exercises with no complaints received.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION RETURNS ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

- 6.1 A Consultation Report has been produced as background to this report, providing full details of the overall consultation method and information supplied to the Council, and an analysis of the results obtained. These results have been examined by the Council's Research staff, who confirm that the responses received provides a representative geographical spread across Bo'ness and a response rate constant with response rates to similar surveys.
- 6.2 It was stressed at each point that the consultation exercise was not a referendum or an election. As a result the views expressed represent a combination of views obtained from whole households as well as individual views expressed by letter or online.
- 6.3 Particular areas of concern raised by the community include:

### ***Six Storey Blocks***

Repeated concern was expressed at public meetings and in newsletter returns about the prospects for development of six storey blocks throughout the Foreshore area. Council officers and ING have emphasised that these proposals were indicative and would be subject to formal planning approval. The revised scheme is on the basis of the approved masterplan, this shows a two, three and four storey townhouse and apartment development with five storey architectural feature elevations at key points in the development. In the case of blocks 15 & 16, two, six-storey corner features were identified. This has been incorrectly represented to the community as proliferating across the scheme and has been used as a basis of principal objection to the revised ING proposals.

### ***Land Sold to ING too cheaply***

Claims have been made that the Council's proposed transfer of assets would not obtain best price for the land. However all values associated with the scheme were subject to independent verification by either the District Valuer or independent consultants. This includes allowances for the costs to rectify the extensive mine workings and contamination on site and infrastructure investment required to service Blocks 15 and 16. The independent advice has verified for the Council, that it will receive best value for its land from ING's proposals. All additional values from future plot sales will be reassessed on an open book basis with 100% additional value over and above developer profit at 12% being ring-fenced for ongoing harbour restoration.

### ***Re-tendering the Project***

It was suggested by several respondents that the scheme should simply be re-tendered. Schemes for the regeneration of the foreshore area had been discussed for Bo'ness for the last 30 years, with little or no progress. The foreshore and harbour opportunity was extensively marketed by Falkirk Council in 2003 and ING were selected as the Council's preferred developer. This was on the overall quality of their submission. The fact that they chose to proceed initially from the harbour was an added element in favour of ING, but it was not the determining factor.

Work by ING, verified independently, determined that the costs associated with the restoration of the harbour make the project unviable in the current economic climate. ING have publicly confirmed their commitment to deliver the whole masterplan but in a structure that reduces the extent of financial risk.

On the basis of identified development and infrastructure costs, independent consultants for Falkirk Council have confirmed that it is highly unlikely that another developer will be secured for the development of the foreshore, particularly where redevelopment and restoration of the harbour as the first phase of development is made a precondition for overall development.

Were the project to be retendered, the regeneration of the harbour would be likely to be delayed by three to five years, possibly longer. This has been stressed to the community throughout the consultation process. Again there has been concern at how this and other inaccuracies have been reported by the groups opposed to the scheme.

### ***Safeguard Harbour Regeneration***

Concerns were expressed regarding the legal agreements needed to safeguard the regeneration of the harbour. Whilst Policy and Resources Committee were asked to approve the heads of terms for a development agreement which saw the restoration of the harbour as the first phase of development, the actual legal negotiations to conclude this transaction were never finalised. This was due to the difficulties in finalising the cost of delivering the scheme, the changes in the external financial markets and consequential effects on risk to the developer. ING have insisted that they are unable to commit legally to delivery of the harbour as the final costs of this remain unknown. Their revised scheme suggests that the regeneration can be achieved by working in partnership, channelling funds from the development into the restoration of the harbour.

### ***Town Centre Impact***

Concerns have been expressed that the town centre will not benefit specifically from these revised proposals and that the additional business and trading activity expected from the scheme will not be secured. However others have expressed the view that the additional households attracted by the housing development will add to the footfall in the town centre.

6.4 It should be noted that many comments were supplied in support of the scheme progressing. These expressed the following:

- The town needs the investment and must make a start
- Concern at the loss of future investment if ING's proposal is rejected
- The town centre will benefit from the scheme
- The scheme will restore vitality, attracting new jobs and business to the town
- Acceptance that the harbour and marina developments may take time

6.5 There are many additional comments supplied in the responses to the consultation. A commentary has been supplied in the Consultation Report in relation to each comment provided by respondents opposing the scheme.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION OUTCOME AND WAY FORWARD**

7.1 The consultation exercise has been extensive and has generated a significant degree of local interest, engaging local people, businesses, community groups and the local press. It was intended to secure opinion by a variety of means in order to reflect views from across the whole of the community. There has been an extensive debate and examination of the issues involved and this permits valid conclusions to be reached on the opinions of the Bo'ness community concerning the scheme. This enables the Council's decision to be informed by a variety of sources, including surveys, representations and correspondence.

7.2 The outcome of the Consultation is summarised below:

<b>CONSULTATION METHOD</b>	<b>Number of Returns</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Newsletter slip returns:</b>		
<b><i>First &amp; Second Delivery Phase</i></b>		
<b>YES</b> <i>(in favour of scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>290</b>	<b>50.9%</b>
<b>NO</b> <i>(against scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>280</b>	<b>49.1%</b>
<b>Total returns</b>	<b>570</b>	
<b><i>Third Delivery Phase</i></b>		
<b>YES</b> <i>(in favour of scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>205</b>	<b>51.9%</b>
<b>NO</b> <i>(against scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>190</b>	<b>48.1%</b>
<b>Total returns</b>	<b>395</b>	
<b>Website - <i>online response</i></b>		
<b>YES</b> <i>(in favour of scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>214</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>NO</b> <i>(against scheme proceeding)</i>	<b>272</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Total returns</b>	<b>486</b>	

- 7.3 Responses to postal surveys are normally low (less than 10% can be expected), however the percentage responses at 7.6% and 5.23% respectively provide a reasonable and valid response by the community. The results suggest that, while views in the community are fairly evenly split over the decision to commence, a small majority of local people would like the scheme to proceed.
- 7.4 It was considered important to canvass opinion from within the community through the various groups active in the area. Interest in the scheme increased with the announcement of the proposal and a dedicated pressure group, the Bo'ness Residents Harbour Group, formed to convey opinions against the scheme. Each group was encouraged to seek opinion from within its membership, to participate at the public meetings and to supply a summary of its responses on the scheme.
- 7.5 Copies of the responses received are included in the Consultation Report. In summary, these responses are as follows:
- a) **Bo'ness Community Council.** The Community Council convened a meeting attended by representatives of the local community, Council and ING. Following this debate, the Community Council members voted in favour of the proposal by 10 votes to 2. This is an important indicator of opinion as the Community Council are a statutory body, established to engage with, consult and express opinion from within the community.
  - b) **Bo'ness Means Business.** This is an active group of local businesses who engage extensively with the work of the local Town Centre Management team and have organised a number of events in the community. The group considered the revised scheme and agreed a resolution that:  
  
*"Bo'ness Means Business regrets the change to the phasing but supports the Harbour Development and looks forward to working with ING and Falkirk Council to help maximise the benefit to Bo'ness and the economic sustainability of the town."*
  - c) **Bonnie Bo'ness** This group has played a prominent role in measures to enhance the town, promoting environmental projects such as the recent Miners Memorial. The group supplied a letter confirming its support for the project to proceed.
  - d) **Scottish Railway Preservation Society (SRPS).** This organisation plays an active part in the tourism activities operating in the town, with its railway museum and steam railway attracting 65,000 visitors annually. SRPS consider that the new proposal offers the best current opportunity to generate the funding required to redevelop the harbour area. They are keen to see the delivery of the scheme and will assist in its delivery.
  - e) **Bo'ness Traders Association.** This group represents a number of traders in the town and has provided comments against proceeding with the revised proposal, suggesting that efforts should instead be directed towards increasing trading and footfall in the town centre.

- f) **Bo'ness Residents Harbour Group.** This group has provided a number of letters and correspondence against the proposal citing concerns about the land values, ING's commitment to the harbour, six-storey developments and the Council's handling of the decision to proceed with ING. This group channelled the views of many of those opposed to the scheme and its members were active participants in the various events. They were also invited to participate in the Town Centre Development group meeting.

7.6 The Consultation exercise has been extensive and has highlighted the strength of opinion in the Bo'ness community concerning the development. The range of views expressed gives a solid basis for the Council to express its views on the progress of the scheme.

7.7 The results of the consultation exercise suggest that, while opinion is divided in the Bo'ness community, there is a balance in favour of progressing. The positive response in the household survey and the expressions of support from community organisations who have had a longstanding involvement with the town adds weight to the scheme progressing. The specific criticisms supplied by groups opposed to the scheme are addressed in paragraph 6.3.

7.8 It is important to consider the overall benefits to be secured in proceeding with the revised proposals for Bo'ness to be delivered by ING Real Estate. These will secure:

- the commencement of works to regenerate the foreshore and the harbour area
- a partnership for the community, Falkirk Council and the developer to work together in delivering the scheme
- investment by ING of up to £28.5m in the first phase of works
- expenditure of £2.9m to regenerate the harbour
- attraction of an additional 137 households to the town, increasing income to the town and footfall to the town centre
- a significant expression of confidence in the regeneration of Bo'ness and that, despite current market uncertainty, development in the town can proceed.

7.9 It is therefore recommended that the Council should agree to proceed with the revised offer made by ING. This will enable the completion of a Development Agreement, on the terms set out previously in the report to Policy & Resources Committee of 11 March 2008 and the commencement of a work programme to initiate the development. The Council's decision on the outcome of the consultation will be communicated via the website and press and efforts to progress the scheme with the support and involvement of the local community will continue via the Development Group.

## **8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The community consultation exercise that has been undertaken by the Council has demonstrated the strength of interest and commitment to regeneration within the community. The importance of the decision was fully recognised and that has been demonstrated in the high degree of involvement and the strength of opinion expressed. It is suggested that the views expressed by the groups opposed to the scheme, can be tackled in progressing the scheme and need not prevent its progress. The revised scheme proposed by ING represents a positive way forward for the regeneration of Bo'ness. It is an expression of confidence in the town and in the Falkirk area. It is therefore recommended that the Council should affirm its support for the project proceeding.

**8.2 It is recommended that the Council:**

- i Notes the extent and outcome of the consultation on the proposed rephasing to the Bo'ness Initiative and the comments supplied in response to the views of the community as set out in this report.**
- ii Agrees that, having considered the outcome of the consultation, the revised phasing of the Initiative should proceed and that the Director of Community Services be authorised to work with ING RED UK (Bo'ness) Ltd, with ING RE BV as guarantor, to progress and deliver the regeneration masterplan and finalise a Development Agreement on the terms set out in the original Policy & Resources Committee Report of 11 March 2008.**

.....  
Director of Community Services

**List of Background Papers**

- 1. Bo'ness Regeneration Consultation Report
- 2. Bo'ness Town Centre Regeneration Consultation File
- 3. Report to Policy & Resources Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FALKIRK GATEWAY**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides an update of progress in regard to the Falkirk Gateway development. It proposes that the Council make a contribution towards meeting increased infrastructure costs associated with the project, repayable by the developers, subject to levels of return from subsequent phases of the scheme.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council together with adjoining landowners Callendar Estate and Forth Valley College have entered into a Development Agreement with Macdonald Estates and their development partners KUC Properties Ltd., a company wholly owned by The Royal Bank of Scotland, in relation to the proposed mixed use development at Falkirk Gateway. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by the developers in conjunction with the Council and the other landowners in developing an agreed masterplan for the entire site. The masterplan secured the approval of the Council's Regulatory Committee, providing outline planning permission for the proposed development incorporating non-food retail units, office, business village and leisure opportunities. This is subject to the terms of a Section 75 Agreement, agreed between the parties.
- 2.2 Macdonald Estates has made strenuous efforts to secure a strong tenant base for Phase I and negotiations in this regard are at an advanced stage. However, current trading conditions for retailers arising from the wider economic climate, increasing construction and infrastructure costs and the continuing difficulties in the funding and investment markets has created significant challenges to early advancement of the project.

**3.0 DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 There has been on-going dialogue between the Council and the other landowners with Macdonald Estates in terms of how most appropriately to overcome the market difficulties thus securing the earliest possible site start for the Gateway project.
- 3.2 Under the terms of the Development Agreement, a formula exists for calculation of the land price due on phased land drawdown by the developers, together with provision for minimum land prices. These arrangements will remain unchanged.
- 3.3 The situation outlined at 2.2 above is however continuing to adversely impact on the current viability of the project. In particular, the very considerable expenditure required to carry out the essential site servicing and infrastructure works across the entire Falkirk

Gateway site have increased from £10m to £12m since the terms of the Development Agreement were finalised.

- 3.4 In order to address this issue, it has been agreed in principle, and subject to formal Council approval, that following Phase I land drawdown by the developers, the Council and Callendar Estate shall make a contribution towards meeting this increase in essential site servicing and infrastructure costs not exceeding a total of £1m.
- 3.5 The Council's share of this contribution will not exceed £500,000, phased over financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11. This expenditure will require to be met from the Three Year General Services Capital Programme and will enhance the value of the remaining Council land asset at Falkirk Gateway.
- 3.6 The contributions will only become payable to the developer upon delivery and verification on an open book basis of certificates confirming completion of the infrastructure works to the sites outwith Phase I.
- 3.7 Negotiations with Macdonald Estates have resulted in their agreeing, in principle, to a provision whereby subject to the levels of return from each phase, these sums are repayable in full to the Council by way of an additional overage payment(s) to the landowners following Macdonald Estates receiving an appropriate commercial return from the project. The company propose to accept a lower than normal developer return than previously agreed until such time as this sum is repaid in full in order to facilitate this infrastructure investment.

#### **4.0 PROJECT TIMESCALES**

- 4.1 Macdonald Estates intend to make imminent application for reserved matters consent in order to be in a position thereafter to commence works on site. Notwithstanding current market conditions, there is continuing interest from potential retail, office, business and from commercial leisure users, and every effort continues to be made to secure early progress on the development.
- 4.2 It is currently envisaged that, subject to the terms of this report, and receipt of reserved matters planning consent, Phase I land draw-down and site start will take place prior to the end of the current financial year.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial**

The risks associated with the proposals contained in this paper are considered to be manageable for the Council. The necessary phased Council contributions totalling £500,000 during financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 are being invested in infrastructure works to service a Council asset, from which returns can be anticipated in future years. Significant contributions to this are being made by the developer and Callendar Estates. The Council's contribution will require to be accommodated within the Three Year General Services Capital Programme.



## 5.2 Legal

The arrangements shall be subject to completion of the necessary legal documentation in satisfactory terms.

## 5.3 Human Resources

There are no implications for staff arising from these proposals.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Securing progress on this key project has proved extremely challenging in the current economic climate, however, the proposals outlined in paragraph 3 above represent an acceptable means of progressing the project within an early timescale.
- 6.2 The Council will be enabled to secure the previously programmed capital receipts for reinvestment via the General Services Capital Programme whilst ensuring best value obligations on disposal of Council assets are maintained.

## 7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees to:-

- (a) Authorise a phased contribution, up to a maximum of £500,000, towards the increased costs of site servicing and infrastructure at Falkirk Gateway following Phase I drawdown; and
- (b) To note that this will be subject to:-
  - (i) open book verifications of such costs being properly incurred by Macdonald Estates; and
  - (ii) conclusion of the necessary legal agreements in satisfactory terms.

.....  
Director of Community Services

19<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Contact Officer: Alan Urquhart.

Tel: 0982.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

Question 1:

***Do you agree that a policy for the protection and sustainable management of historic battlefields is necessary? If not, what alternative course of action would you suggest, and why?***

Yes. Given the vulnerability of some sites it is considered that a national policy and strategy should be prepared. However, if they are considered to be of national significance they would be better protected through additional primary legislation, as are Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments.

Question 2:

***Do you agree with the scope and definition? If not, what changes would you propose and why?***

We would agree in part with the definition and the reasoning, and the need to start with nationally significant sites. However, we would ask that it be broadened to include lesser battles, skirmishes etc where there is local evidence and support. and would the call for a tiered classification system to be considered, similar to listed buildings i.e. Category A, of National importance; B Regional; and C Local. The local authorities and Historic Scotland have policies and mechanisms in place to accommodate the tiered approach.

Question 3:

***Are there other reasons for valuing battlefields that should also be considered?***

The above comments highlight the sense of ownership held by local communities as well as a national feeling for a site and in particular to lesser sites giving rise to place names, street names and local community facilities.

Question 4:

***Do you support the proposal to create a non-statutory Inventory of nationally important battlefields? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?***

We would support an Inventory of Battlefields, although it should be broadened to a tiered system as described above. Moreover, it should be backed by primary legislation especially if they are to be confined to only nationally important sites.

Question 5:

***Should an Inventory of Historic Battlefields be given the same status currently enjoyed by Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the planning system (see Note 6)?***

It would be an added and explicit security layer, but would still fall short of **Statutory** protection under primary legislation.

Question 6:

***Do you agree with the purpose of the proposed Inventory? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?***

Yes, we would agree with the purpose, but would call for a broader scope to include a tiered approach or the reasons mentioned above.

Question 7:

***Do you believe that the criteria set out in Annex A are suitable? If not, what alternative criteria would you suggest and why?***

Yes, but again this is for nationally important sites.

Question 8:

***Do you agree with the proposed definition of the area of interest? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?***

It is accepted that you have to draw a line somewhere and this would be based on written and archaeological evidence. However, could thought be given to amenity zones or, in the case of World Heritage Sites, Buffer Zones or other spheres of influence and the effect on the site's setting?

Question 9:

***Do you agree that policies are needed for both the overall area of the battlefield and specific areas within it? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?***

Given that the SHEP proposes no added primary legal protection, it would be essential to have as much non-statutory added protection as possible, whether it be through nationally or locally administered policies via the local planning process or development management. This could be compared with the setting of listed buildings or the curtilage of a building or a buffer zone of a World Heritage Site.

Question 10:

***Do you agree that best practice guidance would be useful? If so, who should lead in developing this? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?***

If this to be for National sites then the best practice guide should be applicable to all areas of the country and should be produced by Historic Scotland in partnership with stakeholders. This should then form the basis for each Local Authority's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Battlefield sites, be they national, regional or local.

Question 11:

***Do you agree with the roles identified here? If not, what changes would you propose, and why? Are there other key stakeholders who have significant roles to play?***

Broadly speaking we would agree but other issues may have to be considered e.g. scheduled and non scheduled areas, listed buildings within sites with statutory protection whereas the battlefields have none, sites in guardianship, non co-operative or responsive landowners, compulsory acquisition powers, Section 75 agreements, grants or tax incentives. Stakeholders and owners could be broadened and classified into: statutory undertakers, power generators, infrastructural organisations, road, rail and air transport providers and forestry enterprise companies.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: DISCONTINUED BUS SERVICES**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 JUNE 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At the meeting of Falkirk Council on March 5, 2008, the following motion was agreed:

*Now that the precedent has been set in setting aside the criteria for sustainability of subsidised bus services brought in by the then Labour Administration in 1997, Council agrees to instruct Officers to bring forward a report listing all of the services cut in the subsequent eleven years. This report should also give an explanation as to the reasons why these services were discontinued. As the 1997 policy is no longer the sole criteria for the retention or re-introduction of previously discontinued bus services, this would allow all communities equality of representation and treatment.*

**2 DETAIL**

- 2.1 The current Policy for the Procurement of Public Transport Services was approved by the Council in 2006 and had been prepared in conjunction with the Local Transport Strategy. This policy replaced the one approved by Council in 1997. The current policy (para 4.28) states that “The Council will normally confine its funding to journeys which have an average of at least four passengers”.
- 2.2 Appendices 1, 2 and 3 detail services that have been withdrawn since 2005 and the reasons why these services have been discontinued. Figures are not available for the usage of services or journeys withdrawn prior to 2005. These services were tendered over seven years ago and passenger statistics are no longer available.
- 2.3 In general some of the service reductions that have taken place in the last eleven years have involved services which were originally introduced to take people to work for which there has subsequently been little or no demand, either because employment was reduced or the place of employment closed, or because of increased car use and flexitime or variable shift patterns. Examples are Maddiston to the Refinery in Grangemouth (other services were available), Denny to Greenhill, Maddiston to Larbert, Bo’ness to the brickworks at Whitecross.
- 2.4 Some other journeys which were withdrawn have now been reinstated in another format and some are now operated commercially. Others have been withdrawn and amendments made to other subsidised journeys or commercial services to cover the withdrawal.

- 2.5 For example, in 2003 an experimental service was introduced between Skinflats and Falkirk. The service operated for a short period of time and was then withdrawn for lack of use. However, Fife Scottish introduced a new service between Dunfermline and Falkirk via Skinflats and this provides a much better level of service between Skinflats and Falkirk.
- 2.6 The majority of service withdrawals for other reasons have been in the last two years; refer to appendices 1, 2 and 3.
- 2.7 Whilst in the past there have been a number of very poorly used journeys lost, there have also been instances where subsidised services have been increased with very little cost to the Council or no cost by making changes to commercial services. For instance a late evening Monday to Friday journey from Falkirk to Bo'ness was withdrawn in August 2005. In April 2008, First reinstated this journey on a commercial basis.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Officers have administered the subsidised bus contracts budget in accordance with successive Council policies. Overall, in spite of growing car use, most bus services in the Falkirk Council area are as frequent or better than those available before the deregulation of bus services in 1986.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the report be noted.

.....  
**Director of Development Services**

**Date: 18 June, 2008**

Contact Officer: Stephen Bloomfield, Tel. 01324 504723

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NONE

### **Appendix 1**

## **Bus services withdrawn in 2005**

In 2005, the following withdrawals took place on services which were subsidised by Falkirk Council:

- Evening journeys on service 13 between Polmont and Avonbridge. Passenger useage was very intermittent. On most evenings the journeys operated empty both ways between Polmont and Avonbridge
- One early morning journey on service 6 between Bo'ness and Falkirk. This journey was only used by one person.
- One early morning journey on service 15 (Alloa to Falkirk) was withdrawn between Kincardine and Carronshore. This journey was only used intermittently by one person travelling between these points.

## Appendix 2

### Bus Service changes introduced in August 2006

In 2006 a number of local bus contracts were due to expire. Prior to issuing new contracts an in depth review was carried out of the contracts due to expire. The review indicated that many of the services or journeys did not carry many of passengers and thus did not warrant them being continued. Also, as a result of other service changes introduced by First, many passengers could travel on commercial services or journeys provided by that company.

- Withdrawal of services 580 and 592 linking Falkirk, Maddiston, Avonbridge, Slamannan, Airdrie / Caldercruix. Partial replacement provided by new service 20 linking Falkirk and Caldercruix only, Airdrie service available from Caldercruix. Reduced frequency between Avonbridge and Slamannan and no service direct between Avonbridge and Limerigg, all journeys operate via Slamannan. The majority of the passengers that travelled on these services were carried locally between Airdrie and Caldercruix. There are other local services on which these passengers can travel. The average number of passengers carried per day from Standburn was one. Other passengers can be catered for on other commercial or tendered services between Limerigg, Slamannan, Avonbridge, Maddiston, Whitecross and Falkirk.
- Withdrawal of last Falkirk to Limerigg journey on weekdays. The average number of passengers carried on this journey was three.
- Revised Sunday timetable between Falkirk and Limerigg only, fewer journeys but standard headway (2 hourly) instead of previous gaps. No Sunday journeys to Caldercruix, evening service reduced. Over a period of three weeks only three passengers travelled to or from Caldercruix.
- Reduction in number of buses operating direct (i.e. via Redding Road) between Maddiston and Falkirk from basic service of one an hour to one every two hours due to replacement of services 580 and 592 with new service 20. Alternative service operates every ten minutes via St Margaret's (First 1 and 2). Service 42 also provides an additional service between Whitecross and Falkirk.
- Between Newlands Road and Redding Cross fewer buses now operate but the proposed Tesco store may result in further service changes with a probability of more services operating through this area.
- New service 20 does not serve the section of route between Maddiston Stance and Bowhouse Roundabout as all journeys operate via Whitecross.
- Service 8 was withdrawn in the evenings after the 1755 hours departure from Falkirk. Also early Saturday and Sunday morning journeys will be withdrawn. Alternative services are available to both North and South Gates of Westquarter Valley. The maximum number of passengers on any one journey was four. Many journeys operated with no passengers.
- Late evening service to Hallglen from Falkirk was withdrawn; alternative service 9 through Glen Village is available. Passenger loadings on this journey averaged 3 per day.
- Service 18 (Falkirk, High Station, Lionthorn) with no direct replacement. Other services are available along all parts of this route with exception of the High Station forecourt. Alternative limited service to this point is provided by services 17 and 42. An average of



eighteen passengers per day was carried on the twenty journeys scheduled to operate on this service. On average only two passengers per day started their journey at Falkirk High Station.

- Early morning service 578 from Slamannan and California be rerouted to omit Lionthorn and Slamannan Road due to nil demand in these areas.
- Early morning services 3, 4 and 4A between Tamfourhill (3) / Camelon (4/A) and Falkirk retimed slightly to allow for more efficient use of vehicles but continue to operate.
- Service 4A withdrawn in the evening and on Sunday mornings reducing Camelon Ochiltree to one bus an hour to and from the town centre as elsewhere (Tamfourhill, Langlees, Hallglen, etc). The maximum number of passengers carried on any of the evening journeys was four. Sunday daytime service 4A continues to operate.
- Evening service ended earlier on services 3 and 4. The maximum number of passengers travelling on the journeys withdrawn was two.
- Merchiston Avenue continued to be served by service E43 although the last journey into Falkirk (approx 1845) and last journey from Falkirk (2015) will be withdrawn. No passenger demand.
- Service 5 to operate a reduced service on Saturday early mornings between Langlees and Falkirk. Only one passenger was carried on each of the journeys that were withdrawn.
- The last departure from Falkirk to Bo'ness via Grangemouth Old Town was withdrawn on weekdays (currently 2315 from Falkirk) the last bus departing at 2215 in future. The Saturday service did not change. The 2315 journey carried an average of two passengers per day. This journey was subsequently re-introduced by First.
- The additional short journeys between Allandale and Falkirk on service X37 withdrawn with the exception of the early weekday morning journey. Alternative commercial services are available for all the withdrawn journeys with the exception of the little used early departure on Saturday mornings. Saturday daytime frequency reduced to hourly the same as the weekday frequency. Other frequent services are available between Falkirk and Bonnybridge Toll. On Saturday the average number of passengers carried per journey was 4. However, the majority of passengers travelled on the section of route between Bonnybridge Toll and Falkirk for which other services are available.
- The last departure from Stirling on service 24 was withdrawn. Alternative service X39 is available 20 minutes later operating the same route as far as Haggs. Few passengers carried to any point on the section of route between Haggs and Banknock.
- The first journey from Stirling to Falkirk via Larbert on service 38 withdrawn. No one used this journey, so alternative provision is not needed.

## Appendix 3

### Bus Service changes in October 2007

On Monday to Saturday, the two main services are:

E1 Falkirk, Callendar Park Flats, Hawley Road, Laurieston, Polmont Gilston Park, Redding, Reddingmuirhead, Maddiston to Whitecross; and  
E3 Dollar Avenue, Williamson Place Asda to Finistere Avenue and Callendar Park Flats.

These services were not changed

Monday to Saturday evenings there were two services - E2 and E5. In view of the very low use of these journeys (usually one or no passengers). They were discontinued. The passenger numbers are shown below.

On Sundays the only service that operated was service E5 (five journeys only) between Avonbridge, Standburn, Maddiston, Reddingmuirhead, Laurieston, Hawley Road, Callendar Park Flats, Town Centre Bainsford, RSNH, Larbert Cross, Denny to Strathcarron and Fankerton. This service was an amalgam of various Monday to Saturday journeys (E1, E2 and First service E43). Details of passenger usage of the various journeys are detailed below.

Apart from people travelling between Finistere Avenue/Callendar Park and Falkirk town centre (see below), there was very limited or no demand for travel on this service. Best value dictated that the service was not reinstated. Passenger numbers are shown below.

The only relatively significant numbers of passengers were travelling between Finistere Avenue/Callendar Park and Falkirk town centre. Although the numbers were low and for a very short distance, they were sufficient for further consideration to be given to maintaining a service, but not as part of the main contract.

Monday to Saturday evenings there were two services E2 and E5.

On service E2 there were three journeys in the evening service between Falkirk, Laurieston, Polmont Station, Brightons Cross to Maddiston and Standburn. Passenger usage on these journeys is as follows:

18:55 Falkirk Royal Infirmary to Standburn, Monday to Friday no passengers, Saturday 1 passenger Falkirk Royal Infirmary to Maddiston.

19:30 Standburn to Falkirk Royal Infirmary, Monday to Friday 1 passenger Polmont Station to Falkirk town centre. Saturday no passengers

21:00 Standburn to Falkirk Royal Infirmary Monday to Friday 1 person travelled between Laurieston and Falkirk East Bridge Street. Saturday no passengers travelled on this journey.

On service E5 there was one evening journey Monday to Saturday at 20:10 between Falkirk, Callendar Park Flats, Hawley Road, Laurieston, Polmont Gilston Park to Standburn.

As with service E2, the number of passengers using this service was very low. On the weekday journeys surveyed, only 3 passengers boarded at Falkirk ASDA (1 travelled to Callendar Park Flats and 2 to Reddingmuirhead). On the Saturday journey, 3 passengers boarded at Falkirk

ASDA and all got off at Callendar Park Flats, 1 passenger boarded at Laurieston and travelled to Polmont St Margaret's. No passengers travelled to Reddingmuirhead, Maddiston or Standburn.

On Sundays the only service which operated was service E5 (five journeys only) between Avonbridge, Standburn, Maddiston, Reddingmuirhead, Laurieston, Hawley Road, Callendar Park Flats, Town Centre Bainsford, RSNH, Larbert Cross, Denny to Strathcarron and Fankerton. This service is an amalgam of various Monday to Saturday journeys (E1, E2 and First service E43). Details of passenger usage of the various journeys are detailed below:

12:18 journey from Falkirk to Avonbridge carried nobody.

13:10 journey from Avonbridge to Fankerton picked up the first passenger at Polmont Gilston Crescent, 2 others boarded at Laurieston, and 9 were picked up at Callendar Park Flats, 3 at Finistere Avenue and 1 in Falkirk Town Centre. 2 passengers got off at East Bridge Street, 6 in the Town Centre, 5 at the hospital, 2 at the Central Retail Park and one at Merchiston Avenue. From Merchiston Avenue the bus then ran empty to Fankerton.

15:25 journey from Fankerton to Avonbridge. The first passenger to board the bus was at the Central Retail Park in Falkirk. 11 Passengers were picked up in the section of route between Central Retail Park and East Bridge Street, 8 got off at Finistere Avenue or Callendar Park Flats. The remainder got off at Hawley Road, Laurieston and Polmont Gilston Park. The bus then ran empty to Standburn.

17:10 from Avonbridge to Fankerton. One person boarded at Standburn and travelled to Polmont Gilston Crescent. One person travelled from Laurieston to the town centre. 6 people were picked up at Callendar Park Flats, all travelled to the town centre. The bus then ran empty to Fankerton.

19:25 from Fankerton to Avonbridge only one passenger was carried on this journey and he/she travelled between Falkirk town centre and Callendar Park Flats.

To confirm the above, further surveys were carried out.

12:18 journey from Falkirk to Avonbridge, one passenger carried from Asda to Redding and one passenger from Laurieston to Polmont St Margaret's. One person travelled a short distance from Wallacestone Brae to Wallacestone Brae, the bus then empty to Avonbridge.

13:10 Avonbridge to Fankerton. Bus empty from Avonbridge until St Margaret's where one person boarded and travelled to Laurieston, 2 people boarded at Gilston Park one travelled to the Town Centre and one to the Infirmary. 3 People boarded at Callendar Park Flats and one alighted each at East Bridge St, Newmarket St and the Central Retail Park. One person got on at Finistere Ave and travelled to the Central Retail Park. The bus operated empty to Fankerton.

15:25 Fankerton to Avonbridge operated empty to the Central Retail Park. 3 people boarded at the Central Retail Park, 3 people at Newmarket St and 4 at East Bridge St. 1 person alighted at the Infirmary, 2 at Finistere Ave, 5 at Callendar Park Flats and 1 at Gilston Park. The bus travelled empty to Avonbridge.

17:10 Avonbridge to Fankerton. Bus operated empty for the duration of this journey.

19:25 Fankerton to Avonbridge. Bus operated empty for the duration of this journey

This bus operated empty between 1643 and 2105.

The only requirement for travel is for people travelling to and from Finistere Avenue/Callendar Park and Falkirk town centre.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 June 2008**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Falkirk Council, as lead Authority for the purchasing consortium of Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils invited three tenders for the provision of waste management services for all three Council areas.
- 1.2 The report provides Members with information on the tenders the evaluation exercise and officers' recommendations in respect of the award of the contract.

**2. CONTRACT DETAILS**

- 2.1 Previous reports to the Environment and Heritage Committee have outlined the obligations upon the Council to meet the targets set out in the National Waste Plan and Area Waste Plan in addition to the requirement to stay within annual Landfill Allowances which are determined by the Scottish Government. These limit the amount of waste each Council can send to landfill. Exceeding such allowances would expose the Council to a fine but excess available allowance can be sold to other authorities.
- 2.2 The Council required to tender for a disposal contract to replace the existing arrangement that ends in August 2008. The tender focused upon the immediate need for landfill services after August 2008 but also allowed for sufficient flexibility for tenderers to offer any residual treatment facilities, that may be available during the term of the contract, which would assist the Council in achieving future waste diversion targets. These treatment facilities are required to process the remaining biodegradable fraction of the residual waste stream to meet the Landfill Directive and future Scottish Government targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. The contract period is from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with the option of two, one year extensions. The tender documents offered the following three options;
  - 1. Disposal of residual municipal waste to landfill
  - 2. Transfer and haulage of waste
  - 3. Residual waste treatment/disposal
- 2.3 As stated in paragraph 1.1 above Falkirk is acting as the lead authority on behalf of all three Councils, however, due to variance in locations and the impact this has on price for the respective authorities, each Council will enter into separate contracts.

- 2.4 In addition, option two detailed above was incorporated into the contract specification for the benefit of Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils who have current contractual arrangements in place for the transfer and haulage of waste and therefore require a replacement service. As Falkirk currently operates its own waste transfer and haulage of residual waste it was not intended that Falkirk would participate in option 2. The Council therefore requires to choose between options 1 and 3.

### **3. TENDERS RECEIVED**

- 3.1 Three tenders were received by the due date of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008, and opened in accordance with Standing order 12 relating to contracts.
- 3.2 Two contractors priced the waste disposal/treatment element. (Option 3) The checked tendered prices ranged from £20,749,000 to £22,665,950. This includes the total cost to the authority and includes all associated costs of the treatment/disposing of waste at the facilities.
- 3.3 Three contractors priced the waste disposal element. (Option 1) The checked tendered prices ranged from £20,948,750 to £24,565,450. This includes the total cost to the authority and includes all associated costs of the disposing waste to the facility.
- 3.4 Two contractors priced the waste transfer and haulage element. Due to Falkirk not requiring this service no award for this service is recommended.

### **4. TENDER EVALUATION**

- 4.1 Following evaluation of all tenders the option in relation to landfill/treatment received from Avondale Environmental Ltd of Polmont was selected as the preferred tender as it represented best value and the proposed treatment is in line with the objectives of the Forth Valley Area Plan and the Strategic Outline Case submitted to the Scottish Government, and offers sufficient waste treatment capacity to meet future waste diversion targets.

From the detailed costs mentioned above the total elements payable to Avondale Environmental Ltd incorporate gate fee, landfill tax and waste treatment resulting in a total contract value payable to Avondale Environmental Ltd of £20,096,500, following the deduction of existing in-house waste transfer costs, in addition yearly price increases in line with the relevant price index will be applied. The additional transfer arrangements and associated costs are currently operated by the Council and are part of existing budget arrangements.

- 4.2 As a result of the tender exercise the Council are now in position where a residual waste treatment facility will be available for use in 2010/11. This would ensure compliance with future waste diversion targets. In addition, it is estimated that, based on current levels of increase in landfill tax which is continuing to rise by £8 per tonne year on year, this contract could yield a saving over landfill only over the term of the contract.

- 4.3 Landfill tax levels have only been set to Financial Year 2010/11 and no decision has been made as to future increases beyond this date therefore, Members are asked to note that treatment may be more expensive than landfill in the short term. It is important to note, however, that, by selecting a treatment option, the Council is ensuring compliance with future waste diversion targets which in turn would allow the Authority to avoid any potential fines which may be as much as £150 per tonne. These costs have not been applied in the evaluation process as the financial penalties for failure to reach targets have still to be confirmed.
- 4.4 In addition, the selection of a local waste treatment facility would also comply with the Scottish Government policy in moving to a Zero Waste policy and Council officers will continue to explore any funding opportunities that may be open to the Council due to the innovative nature of our approach.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

- 5.1 Ongoing increases in landfill tax will required to be budgeted for, year on year, in line with the landfill tax escalator.
- 5.2 The costs of treatment in year three of the contract will exceed the cost of landfill by £125,750. However, over the term of the contract based on current increases in landfill tax could result in a net saving of £199,750. In addition, the Authority would have excess landfill allowances which could be sold to other authorities.
- 5.3 Within the Waste Strategy budget there is currently a budget that assists & compliments the work funded by the Strategic Waste Fund (SWF). This enables further recycling projects to take place & therefore add to our recycling targets. Alongside this if the SWF funding continues at the same level, the expected funding for Revenue expenditure in 2011/12 is £764k then the additional cost of the treatment could be accommodated within these 2 current Council funding streams.

### **Legal**

- 5.2 There are no legal implications other than those already mentioned in the body of the report.

### **Policy**

- 5.3 The acceptance of a tender including the proposed residual waste treatment is in line with the objectives of the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan and the Strategic Outline Case submitted to the Scottish Government.

### **Personnel**

- 5.4 None

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 6.1 In respect of Falkirk Council only and in accordance with Standing Order 6.2(iv), approve the acceptance of the tender submitted by Avondale Environmental Ltd, Polmont in the sum of £20,096,500, for the five years of the contract 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with an option to further extend this contract by a further two one year extensions.
- 6.2 Note the positive impact residual waste treatment will have in achieving future waste diversion targets.

.....  
**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
25 June 2008

.....  
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**  
25 June 2008

Ref: DSWS1-4  
Contact Name: Robin Baird Ext 0437

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1 \* Tender documents and tender evaluation matrix
- 2 Landfill Tax Escalator
- 3 Landfill Allowance Scheme Regulations



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 JUNE 2008**  
**Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW & ADMINISTRATION**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of (i) an application for appointment to the vacant position on Cornton Vale Prison Visiting Committee, and (ii) the introduction of the Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Development Partnership..

**2. CORNTON VALE PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 The Council has six places on the Cornton Vale Over 21's Prison Visiting Committee and the current appointed representatives are:-

Provost Reid  
Mr Bill Strathearn  
Miss Jill McIntosh  
Miss Lindsay Drummond  
Ms Anne McFarlane  
Vacancy

- 2.2 Council previously agreed that the vacant position would be filled by a further non-elected lay member. An application has now been received from Ms Julie Reilly and, following reference checks, Ms Reilly is considered suitable for appointment.

**3. THE ARGYLL, LOCH LOMOND AND FORTH VALLEY TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**

- 3.1 At the meeting of Falkirk Council held on 27 June 2007, Councillor Mahoney was nominated to serve as the Falkirk Council representative on the Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Area Tourism Partnership.
- 3.2 Notification has now been received from Visit Scotland advising of a proposal to replace the former Area Tourism Partnership with a more strategically focused Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Development Partnership with the aim of bringing stakeholders together to promote collaborative working in the development of tourism throughout the area. In noting this re-branding, Members are asked to note the request from Visit Scotland for a Member to be nominated to join the new partnership. As this new body is succeeding the Area Tourism Partnership on which Councillor Mahoney already sits, members may wish to confirm Councillor Mahoney as the representative on the new body.

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

**4.1 It is recommended that Council:-**

- (1) approves the appointment of Ms Julie Reilly to Cornton Vale Prison Visiting Committee, and**
- (2) nominates a member to be the representative on the Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Development Partnership.**

.....  
**Acting Director of Law & Administration**

**Date: 9 June 2008**

**Contact Officer: Derek Kelly, Senior Committee Officer, Tel. 01324 506128**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

## AGENDA ITEM

### FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: DELEGATION OF POWERS TO DETERMINE URGENT  
ISSUES DURING THE SUMMER RECESS**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 June 2008**  
**Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION  
SERVICES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In order that urgent items of business, normally determined by Council or Committee, might be dealt with during the summer recess, it is proposed that Chief Officers be given delegated powers to determine such items, in consultation with the Convener and Depute Convener of the appropriate Committee. Where it is proposed that matters are to be so considered, the Chief Officer will require to submit these items to the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services in the first instance. This is, however, a general principle of delegation and is subject to a number of important exceptions.
- 1.2 These exceptions are:-
- (a) No Officer shall be entitled to take decisions involving Council expenditure outwith the approved Revenue Budget and Capital Programme;
  - (b) No Officer shall take decisions involving an increase in the permanent establishment of his/her Service; and
  - (c) No delegated decision shall be taken where there is a dispute as to the legality, propriety or the proper interpretation of Council policy arising from the matter to be decided.
- 1.3 In relation to all of the above exceptions, a special meeting of the appropriate Committee could be convened, if required.
- 1.4 In the circumstances described at paragraph 1.1 above, each Director would be required to consult as widely as necessary and in any event with the Chief Executive and Acting Director of Law and Administration Services.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1** It is recommended that Chief Officials be given delegated powers, in consultation with the Convener and Depute Convener of the appropriate Committee, to determine urgent items of business during the summer recess (from 25 June 2008 to 11 August 2008) and to report the decisions thereon to the first meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee thereafter, provided that:-

- (a)** any such decision is required to secure the proper delivery of Council Services and to comply with the Council's statutory duties;
- (b)** any such decision does not involve expenditure of Council monies outwith the approved Revenue Budget and Capital Programme;
- (c)** any such decision does not involve an increase in the permanent establishment of the particular Service; and
- (d)** any such decision involves no dispute as to legality, propriety or the proper interpretation of Council policy as affecting the decision.

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

**Date: 25 May 2008**

**Contact Officer: Rose Mary Glackin, Tel: 506078**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**1.** Falkirk Council's Scheme of Delegation to Committees, Sub-Committees and Officers.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506078 and ask for Rose Mary Glacking.

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: EXECUTION OF DEEDS**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 June 2008**  
**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: 10 June 2008

Contact Officer: Iain Tough (Tel: 01324 506110)

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

**AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and**

A Y Henderson

Subjects at North Inches, Falkirk

**CHARGING ORDER by FALKIRK COUNCIL**

M Gusz and M H Gusz

4 Muirhall Place, Muirhall Road, Larbert

R McI Baird

11 Thornbridge Square, Falkirk

**COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

The Falkirk Council (A905 North of Bowtrees) Compulsory Purchase Order 2008

**DISCHARGE by FALKIRK COUNCIL**

2 Abercairney Place, Grangemouth

Sovereign House Developments Limited

Redding Park, Falkirk

E Thomson

27 Langlees Street, Falkirk

The Late Charles James Peace

8D Market Street, Bo'ness

**DISCHARGE by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of**

A R Barber

1 Alloa Road, Carron

E Thomson

27 Langlees Street, Falkirk

**DISCHARGE of INHIBITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-**

C O Robertson

The Late C J Peace

J Campbell & A Campbell

**DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of:-**

L J Sneddon

199 Dean Road, Bo'ness

J S Waugh

70 Hamilton Road, Grangemouth

T Ure and J Ure

55 Livingstone Drive, Bo'ness

J Speirs

49 Orchard Street, Grangemouth

J J Penman and J Penman

Ground at 17 Finistere Avenue, Falkirk

R Black

56 Balfour Crescent, Larbert

T McKellar and T Breslin

17 Norwood Avenue, Bonnybridge

S M Jackson

29 Westquarter Avenue, Westquarter

E C K McCracken

13 Corentin Court, Falkirk

J D Green

26 Orchard Street, Grangemouth

J E Podmore

35 School Road, Redding

C Turnbull

17 Castle Terrace, Denny

P Sheppard and J Sheppard

7 Maranatha Crescent, Brightons, Falkirk

J Hunter

49 Dochart Place, Hallglen, Falkirk

J Graham and B Graham

31 School Road, Laurieston

D Fell	3 Kersie Terrace, South Alloa
J O'Brien	14 Gerald Terrace, Stenhousemuir
D Smith	4 Elmbank Crescent, Dennyloanhead
M Stirling	23 High Street, Slamannan
M McDonald and G McDonald	7 Teviot Street, Falkirk
L Donnelly	16 Fir Grove, Westquarter
A Begum	Area of ground at Campbell Crescent, Laurieston
I Sahin	10 Woodburn Road, Falkirk
P McAllister	68 Elphinstone Crescent, Airth
G O A Corner	40 Castlehill, Bo'ness
Castlelaurie Property Limited	0.480 acres at Castle Laurie Works, Bankside, Bainsford
D E Stammers	195 Dean Road, Bo'ness
J H Nimmo and M H Nimmo	108 Alexander Avenue, Falkirk
S Garai	156 Merchiston Avenue, Falkirk
GRP Watson and E Watson	125 Carronside Street, Falkirk
J Chylewski and EJ Chylewski	132.5 m2 or thereby of land adjacent to 38B Duke Street, Denny
J S Stewart	29 Ochil Street, Grangemouth
ENM Beck and M Beck	63 Skaithmuir Crescent, Carronshore
M Rooney	2 Mannfield Avenue, Bonnybridge
M McAlpine and D McAlpine	14 Coneypark Crescent, Banknock
W Guy and H M Guy	17 Grove Street, Denny
M Cockburn	25 Manuel Terrace, Whitecross
W I Merrilees and N C A Merrilees	71 Burnbank Road, Grangemouth
M M Toland and S Toland	22 Lomond Drive, Falkirk
C J Plinston and A M Plinston	42 Dovecot Road, Westquarter

**LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-**

Street Lighting Supplies Co Ltd	20 Abbotsinch Road, Abbotsinch Industrial Estate, Falkirk
Trustees of Falkirk Golf Club	Ground at Stirling Road, Camelon
Recognise-Me-Limited	12 Powdrake Industrial Estate, Grangemouth
Calor Gas Limited	30 Abbotsinch Road, Grangemouth
Colin Graham	20 Charlotte Dundas Court, Grangemouth
PLS Medical Limited	25 & 27 Cockburn Street, Falkirk
Aileen Thomson	2A Wellpark Terrace, Bonnybridge

**MINUTE of AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and:-**

Kier Homes Limited and National House Building Co	Redding Park, (phases 2, 4 & 5) Reddingmuirhead, Falkirk
Kier Homes Limited and National House Building Co	New Carron Road, Falkirk
Shirley McClements	7 Church Walk, Denny
Mohammed Bashir	Tenants interest in 263 Carron Road, Falkirk
Cabri (Three) Limited	Areas of ground at Talbot Street, Grangemouth

D Gillespie  
Gray Marshall and Associates  
J & A Walker  
D S J Monro, R Golding & M F Scully, Trustees of  
Grangemouth Congregation of Jehovah's  
Witnesses

Consultancy Services  
Conservation Appraisal Falkirk Town Centre  
South of 4 Coneypark Place, Kilsyth Road, Banknock  
Ground at Roxburgh Street, Grangemouth

**MINUTE of LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and**

SP Distribution Limited

Substation at Kemper Avenue CHP S/Stn, Falkirk

Jackie Fraser  
Botterills Convenience Stores Limited

25m2 at West Mains Industrial Estate, Falkirk  
87 to 91 Church Walk, Denny

Reynolds Catering Supplies Limited  
G Adison, A J Bryson and D M Walker  
Victim Support Scotland

2F West Mains Industrial Estate, Grangemouth  
Suite 2, 350 Main Street, Camelon, Falkirk  
Suites A, B & D, 30 Newmarket Street, Falkirk

**RENUNCIATION by R BROWN & SON in favour  
of FALKIRK COUNCIL with consent of  
MACDONALD ESTATES PLC**

71 King Street, Stenhousemuir

On Street Parking for Disabled Persons (No:472) Order 2008  
On Street Parking for Disabled Persons (No:471) Order 2008  
On Street Parking for Disabled Persons (No:465) Order 2008  
On Street Parking for Disabled Persons (No:475) Order 2008  
On Street Parking for Disabled Persons (No.476) Order 2008

**SECTION 75 AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and**

Andrew Young Henderson and Archtarget Ltd

North Inches, Falkirk

**STANDARD SECURITY by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of**

A C Meichan

12 Fountainpark Crescent, Bo'ness

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDERS**

Waggon Road, Brightons Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order 2008  
Stirling Rd, Larbert Temporary Footpath Closure Order 2008  
Laurieston Rd, Grangemouth  
Various St, Bo'ness  
La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth Temporary Prohibition of Traffic  
Princess St & Park St, Falkirk, Temporary Footway Closure







