

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 2 MARCH 2009 at 10.30 A.M.

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

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fry and Patrick.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and of Finance Services; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Transport Planning Co-ordinator (K Collins); Acting Director of Law and Administration Services and Democratic Services Manager (B Pirie).

**DECLARATION
OF INTEREST:**

Councillor McLuckie declared a non-financial interest in item 1(e) as a result of his advisory work with local community organisations but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item, standing the terms of the Code of Conduct.

FC103.NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(a) Bonnybridge Railway Station

Councillor C Coleman, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved that:-

“Council commends the consultation exercise carried out by local MSP Michael Matheson on the proposed Bonnybridge Railway Station demonstrating that not only is there a demand but the community of Bonnybridge meets Transport Scotland’s criteria.

Falkirk Council is the statutory agency best placed to deliver the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidelines (S.T.A.G. Report) required to move this issue to the next level and hereby instructs officers to commission such and report back to the relevant scrutiny committee the outcome”.

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

“Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson MSP requesting a copy of the completed consultation exercise (including the analysis, report and conclusions) he undertook with the people of Bonnybridge regards a new train station.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all constituency and list MSP’s seeking that they overturn Transport Scotland’s Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and urge the Scottish Government to support new railway stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth”.

Councillor Spears 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 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Nimmo.

In terms of Standing Order 19.6 the amended motion, became the substantive motion upon which the further amendment may be moved.

By way of further amendment Councillor Spears seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that:-

“Council recognises that Grangemouth being one of the largest centres of population within the Falkirk Council area and that its population has grown since its Railway Station was removed. That Grangemouth needs the reinstatement of this Station and rail link.

Falkirk Council is the statutory agency best placed to deliver the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidelines (S.T.A.G’s Report) required moving this issue to the next level and hereby instructs Officers to commission such and report back to the relevant scrutiny committee the outcome”.

Council then adjourned for 15 minutes to allow members to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened with members present as per the sederunt plus Councillor Waddell who joined the meeting at this point.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 30 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the substantive Motion (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Nimmo.

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

Abstention (1) – Councillor Waddell

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

“Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson MSP requesting a copy of the completed consultation exercise (including the analysis, report and conclusions) he undertook with the people of Bonnybridge regards a new train station.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all constituency and list MSP’s seeking that they overturn Transport Scotland’s Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and urge the Scottish Government to support new railway stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth”.

(b) Community Sports Clubs

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

“Falkirk Council agrees to work with local junior football clubs, Bo’ness United, Camelon and Dunipace Juniors to become Community Sports Clubs.

Council endorses the work already undertaken by Michael Matheson MSP and Councillors Georgie Thomson (Camelon), John Constable (Bo’ness) and John McNally (Dunipace) in the early stages of Community Sports Club status.

Council believes that by, for example, using the £330K budgeted figure for a single council owned synthetic pitch to pump prime the additional grants that are available to Community Sports Clubs the community could achieve the development of not one but three synthetic pitches available for hire.

Council therefore agrees to call for a report to the relevant scrutiny committee on the various ways in which the clubs could be helped once council officials have liaised with each of the clubs, local members and other existing parties involved in the discussion to date”.

By way of an amendment Councillor C Martin seconded by Councillor Lemetti moved that:-

“Council continues to support those local football clubs from across the area to achieve the SFA Quality Club mark, which facilitates football clubs to move towards achieving “community” status.

Council also commends Community Services for their work with all sports clubs, professional or not, and Council looks forward to the 9 area wide synthetic pitches that will be available to the various communities by the summer of 2009 and further believes that the council's decision to develop a network of third generation pitches across the area will augment those 9 area wide synthetic pitches".

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Waddell.

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

Councillor Nimmo withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(c) **School Crossing Patrols**

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

"Falkirk Council recognises with concern that a number of school crossing patrols across the district are not currently operating because of vacancies and long term sick leave arising from the difficulty of recruiting crossing patrol attendants. Council understands the potential hazards this creates to primary school age children and the significant difficulties it creates for parents and therefore resolves to establish an all-party working group to examine this issue and report back to the appropriate committees with proposals to help address the difficulties in recruitment".

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

"Falkirk Council recognizes with concern that a number of school crossing patrols across the district are not currently operating because of vacancies and long term sick leave arising from the difficulties of recruiting Crossing patrol Attendants.

Council understands the potential hazards this creates to primary school children and the significant difficulties it creates for parents and therefore resolves to instruct officers to report back to the relevant scrutiny committees with proposals to help address the difficulties in recruitment”.

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

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

Councillor J Constable withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(d) Denny and Stenhousemuir Police Offices

AGREED to open discussions with Central Scotland Police regarding the soon to be vacant Denny and Stenhousemuir Police Office sites with a view to having social housing built on these sites and that a report will be sent to the relevant scrutiny committee when the discussions have been carried out.

Councillor J Constable rejoined the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(e) Heritage Lottery Funding

Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Thomson moved that:-

“Council notes with concern the poor uptake in heritage lottery funding from the Falkirk area especially in the west of the district.

Council commends the efforts of such as the Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society in the campaign to have a Heritage Centre built in the west of the district and pledges support to this group to achieve their ends.

Falkirk district has been synonymous with the industrial revolution and has exported not only iron, coal, paper, agriculture but also people to all parts of the world.

Council agrees to instruct officers to take a lead with all local communities from across the district, including tenants groups, voluntary groups, heritage and historical groups to bid for funding to deliver a variety of sculptures throughout the district commemorating the heritage and history of our various communities.

These sculptures should be placed at strategic entrances to the area with each town and village identifying its own personal theme.

Council further agrees that a progress report will be brought back to the relevant scrutiny committee during the first cycle of meetings after the summer recess on not only what progress has been made but also how this can best be phased to obtain maximum benefit”.

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

“Council welcomes the existing partnership working with the Heritage Lottery Fund to make residents more aware of the Fund – and other funding options for heritage projects.

Council notes the excellent work achieved to date to promote heritage in our communities – including heritage arts projects and the ongoing work being promoted through our Public Arts Strategy, which was adopted in 2007 and is due to run until 2011.

Council welcomes new community approaches to our external funding unit and departments for advice and assistance to help with heritage arts projects in communities across the Council area”.

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

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

DRAFT**MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2009 at 10.30 AM.**

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

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors H Constable, J Constable and J Patrick.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, of Finance Services and of Social Work Services; Head of Human Resources; Service Manager, Social Work Services and Democratic Services Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Nicol declared a non-financial interest in Items 2 and 5 as a family member was an owner of a local business, and took no part in the discussion and decision in either item.

Depute Provost Black declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 as a tenant of Falkirk Council and took no part in the discussion or decision.

Councillor Gow intimated that a family member was a craft employee but did not consider that this gave her a declarable interest in Item 13, standing the terms of the report.

Councillor McNeill declared a non-financial interest in Item 11 as a co-owner of a business referred to in the Minute of Renunciation contained in the appendix to the report, but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of this item, standing the terms of the Code of Conduct.

Provost Reid; Councillors Alexander, Jackson, Nimmo, C Martin, C R Martin and Meiklejohn each declared a non-financial interest in relation to Item 10 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 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.

FC104. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 1 December 2008;
 - (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 10 December 2008;
 - (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 12 December 2008;
 - (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 29 January 2009;
 - (e) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 11 February 2009, subject to the following amendments:-
Page 36, Item FC99 paragraph 5 Item 6 to read:- “Additional resources for Community Services to be targeted at the regeneration of smaller settlements centres in light of the SNP Government’s £60m town centre regeneration fund. Officers are asked to bring forward Development Plans for each of these centres of population not covered by the District Centres Initiative for wider community consultation. Cost **£100,000**”
- Page 38 Item FC101 to read “With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 February 2009 (Paragraph PR107 refers), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 3 February 2009 by the Directors of Finance and of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) presenting a draft Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2009/2010; (b) making recommendations on the level of council house and garage rents for 2009/10, and (c) showing indicative rent levels for the years 2010/2011 to 2011/2012.
- (f) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2008/2009; and
 - (g) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2008/2009.

Councillor Nicol withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC105. REVIEW OF BUSINESS SUPPORT DELIVERY STRUCTURES

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 13 January 2009, and (b) Report (circulated) by the

Director of Community Services proposing a revised business support delivery model for local businesses.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Fry, moved the recommendations in the report.

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

- (1) “approves the creation of a single business support organisation through the “merging” of FEAT and FDBP and the transferring of property back to the Council;
- (2) authorises the Director of Community Services to progress the establishment of the new model on suitable terms including 2 elected members, one of which must be a member of the opposition, and 2 officers of Falkirk Council, with the Directors of Law & Administration, Finance and Development Services and the boards of FEAT and FDBP;
- (3) refers the overseeing of the establishment, future operations and performance of the new business support arrangements to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee; and
- (4) notes the small minimal investment made by Falkirk Council in business support areas and calls for a report back to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee on how this can be supplemented”.

On a division 16 members voted for the motion and 12 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to:-

- (1) approve the creation of a single business support organisation through the “merging” of FEAT and FDBP and the transferring of property back to the Council;
- (2) authorise the Director of Community Services to progress the establishment of the new model, on suitable terms, in consultation with the Directors of Law & Administration, of Finance and of Development Services and the boards of FEAT and FDBP; and
- (3) refer the overseeing of the establishment, future operations and performance of the new business support arrangements to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee.

Councillor Nicol rejoined the meeting following conclusion of the foregoing item of business.

FC106. PROVISION OF CARE AT HOME & HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE AS PART OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (C/N:SW/024/09)

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 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Director of Social Work Services (a) referring to the formal tendering process for the Care at Home and Housing Support Services Contract, and (b) attaching as Appendix 1 a list of tenders selected for the provision of care at home and housing support services as part of the Framework Agreement.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Fry, moved the recommendations in the Report.

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

- (1) "Committee notes the real cuts in services being delivered to some of the most vulnerable within our communities and believes these are unacceptable in a civilised society; and
- (2) Committee therefore rejects the report until there has been a proper assessment carried out into the levels of service actually being delivered within these service areas. In the meantime the status quo both in terms of service level agreements and budgetary amounts remains in place".

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to approve acceptance of the tenders submitted as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report with an estimated annual spend of approximately £7,500,000 in respect of a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Care at Home and Housing Support Service to Falkirk Council from 6 April 2009 to 31 March 2011; and
- (2) that a further Report be submitted to the Housing and Social Care Committee to provide information on the first six months of activity under the Framework Agreement.

FC107. DRUMBOWIE RESERVOIR

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 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Director of Community Services (a) recommending that the Council does not proceed with the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir, and (b) seeking approval for the provision of a loan to Bonnybridge Angling Club in order to allow the Club to purchase the Reservoir from Scottish Water.

The Director of Finance also reported that, since the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in January, a Following the Public Pound assessment of Bonnybridge Angling Club's ability to repay the proposed loan from Falkirk Council had been carried out, and that it was now recommended that the payback period be extended from 5 to 10 years.

AGREED:-

- (1) not to proceed with the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir and to instruct the Director of Community Services accordingly;
- (2) to approve in principle the option to make a loan advance of £30,000 to be repaid over 10 years to Bonnybridge Angling Club to facilitate the purchase of Drumbowie Reservoir; and
- (3) to instruct the Director of Community Services in conjunction with the Acting Director of Law & Administration and the Director of Finance Services, that arrangements be put in place to provide a financial loan to Bonnybridge Angling Club in order to allow them to purchase the Drumbowie Reservoir directly from Scottish Water.

Depute Provost Black and Councillor Nicol withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC108. ECONOMIC DOWNTURN - ACTION PLAN

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Provost Reid and Councillor Gow.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2009, and (b) Report by the Chief Executive (a) summarising additional measures aimed at ameliorating the impact of the economic downturn in the local area, and (b) attaching as an appendix, the approved Action Plan detailing the support packages for local businesses.

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that Council:-

- (1) “Notes comments and intended actions for the suggested additional items of business support covered by this report and agrees to make the following changes to the existing recommendations.
- (2) Agrees the Action Plan as outlined in the report with the following amendments:
 - 2.1 To include non VAT rated businesses in all areas of business support.
 - 2.2 To instruct officers to bring a report back to Committee as soon as possible on the establishment of a council loan fund along similar lines as the BP loan fund that will provide short term opportunities for new and existing companies.
 - 2.3 That the Council’s Economic Strategy and Development Committee must alter its membership and role to recognise the challenging times we live in. It has to become a Committee of entrepreneurial challenge containing the best of the best with representatives of local businesses large and small, those entrusted with the provision of business support and any other relevant stakeholder if we are serious about tackling the problems we have within the local economy.
 - 2.4 To note the concerns expressed by the Grangemouth Independent Retailers Association and agree to investigate these concerns accordingly, reporting back to the first available meeting of the Economic Strategy and Development Committee. In particular officers are asked to produce a comparator between public and private sector ground rents/lease costs and report findings and proposals back to members”.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor Fry moved the recommendations contained in the Report.

On a division 12 members voted for the motion and 15 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly:-

NOTED the comments and intended actions for the suggested additional items of business support covered by the Report; and

AGREED that the existing business support services together with the Action Plan provide a positive range of support for local businesses in the current financial climate.

Council then adjourned for lunch at 1.15 pm and reconvened at 2.15 pm with all members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillors Goldie and C Martin.

FC109. REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2009
DESIGNATION OF A LITTER CONTROL AREA, MAIN STREET, AIRTH

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Report dated 24 February 2009 by the Director of Development Services outlining the decisions taken by the Environment and Heritage Committee at its Special meeting on 17 February 2009; and (b) Report by the Director of Development Services, submitted to the said meeting, (a) on the sustained littering of the car park serving at the licensed grocers' premises at 47 Main Street, Airth; and (b) requesting the designation of a Litter Control Area in terms of Section 90 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended.

AGREED to approve the proposal to designate the car park area serving the business premises at 47 Main Street, Airth, as a Litter Control Area by way of the "Airth (number 1) Litter Control Area Designation Order 2009".

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

FC110. COUNCIL SERVICE STRUCTURE

With reference to minute of meeting of Falkirk Council on 29 January 2009 (Paragraph FC97 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 February 2009 by the Chief Executive providing an update on progress on the development of a revised Service structure.

NOTED the progress to date in reviewing the Council structure.

AGREED to ask the Chief Executive to progress the consultation with employees and Trade Unions on options for a revised Service structure, and to report back to Council as soon as possible and in any event, prior to the summer recess.

FC111. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND REMUNERATION

Prior to consideration of this item the Acting Director of Law and Administration advised that she had received formal notice of the Provost's intention to resign from the Policy and Resources Committee with effect from 7 March 2009 and of Councillor McNeill's intention to resign as Convener of the Appeals Committee with effect from the same date. The Provost agreed to consider the vacancies created as a result of these resignations as competent business at this meeting.

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 February 2009 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services inviting Members to (a) confirm membership of the scrutiny committees and the Planning Committee; (b) appoint Conveners and Depute Conveners of the committees; (c) approve the programme of meetings; (d) agree the process for approving minutes; (e) confirm remuneration arrangements, and (f) agree changes to the Council's Standing Orders and to the Scheme of Delegation.

AGREED:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor Nimmo to the Policy and Resources Committee with effect from 7 March 2009;
- (2) to appoint Councillor McLuckie as Convener of the Appeals Committee.

Council then considered the report by the Acting Director of Law and Administration.

Councillor Gow seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council:-

- (1) appoints Conveners and Deputy Conveners of the Scrutiny Committees as follows:-

Committee	Convener	Depute Convener
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor C Martin	Councillor J Lemetti
Education	Councillor A Waddell	Councillor J Patrick
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor C MacDonald	Councillor C R Martin
Housing and Social Care	Councillor G Goldie	Councillor A McNeill
Leisure Tourism and Community	Councillor A Mahoney	Provost P Reid

- (2) confirms the membership of the Planning Committee to be the same as the Regulatory Committee which it replaced.
- (3) notes the revised programme of meetings from 10 March to 31 December 2009.
- (4) approves the arrangements for approving the minutes of meetings in the final cycle of the former scrutiny committees as detailed in the report
- (5) notes the 2.5% increase in the levels of remuneration due to Councillors and the Leader of the Council under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2008
- (6) agrees to apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to senior councillors, with the remuneration framework being amended, as follows

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic

	Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

- (7) agrees not to apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to the post of civic head.
- (8) approves the revised Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 3 of the Report.

Council then adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened with all Members present as per the sederunt including Councillor C Martin who rejoined the meeting at this point.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that the motion be amended by substituting a revised remuneration framework namely:-

Senior Councillor (Level 1)	Senior Councillor (Level 2)
Depute Provost	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee	Depute Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Housing & Social Care Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group
Convener of Licensing Board	
Convener of Planning Committee	

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly **AGREED** to:-

- (1) appoint Conveners and Depute Conveners of the Scrutiny Committees as follows:-

Committee	Convener	Depute Convener
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor C Martin	Councillor J Lemetti
Education	Councillor A Waddell	Councillor J Patrick
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor C MacDonald	Councillor C R Martin
Housing and Social Care	Councillor G Goldie	Councillor A McNeill
Leisure Tourism and Community	Councillor A Mahoney	Provost P Reid

- (2) confirm the membership of the Planning Committee to be the same as the Regulatory Committee which it replaced.
- (3) note the revised programme of meetings from 10 March to 31 December 2009.
- (4) approve the arrangements for approving the minutes of meetings in the final cycle of the former scrutiny committees as detailed in the report
- (5) note the 2.5% increase in the levels of remuneration due to Councillors and the Leader of the Council under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2008
- (6) apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to senior councillors, with the remuneration framework being amended, as follows

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

- (7) not apply the 2.5% increase in remuneration to the post of civic head.
- (8) approve the revised Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 3 of the Report.

NOTED:-

- (1) that the SNP members of the existing scrutiny committees would transfer to the new scrutiny committees as follows:-

Committee	
Environment and Community Safety	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor C Meiklejohn
	Councillor M Oliver
	Councillor G Thomson
Economic Strategy and Development	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor M Oliver
Education Committee	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor G Hughes
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor J McNally
Leisure, Tourism and Community	Councillor S Carleschi
	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor J McNally
	Councillor C Meiklejohn
Housing and Social Care	Councillor T Coleman
	Councillor J Constable
	Councillor A MacDonald
	Councillor J McNally
	Councillor C Meiklejohn

- (2) Membership from the remaining Groups will be confirmed to the Acting Director of Law and Administration, in accordance with the proportionality shown in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

FC112. APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 February by the Acting Director of Law and Administration inviting Council to appoint (1) a Member to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership, and (2) a Member each to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy Group and the BID Management Group.

Council considered nominations for the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that Council appoint Councillor Mahoney to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Alexander seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that Council appoint Councillor Spears to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

On a division 17 Members voted for the motion and 12 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to appoint Councillor Mahoney to the Forth Valley Tourism Partnership.

Council then considered its nominations to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy group and to the Bid Management Group.

AGREED:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor C R Martin to the Forth Valley Waste Strategy Management Group
- (2) to appoint Councillor C Martin to the BID Management Group and to appoint Councillor J Lemetti as his substitute

FC113. FALKIRK COMMUNITY STADIUM LTD: DEMERGER PLAN

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 February 2009 by the Chief Executive detailing restructuring proposals for Falkirk Community Stadium Limited (FCSL) following a strategic review thereof.

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Blackwood, moved the recommendations in the Report.

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

“The Falkirk Community Stadium was one of the key achievements of the My Future’s in Falkirk strategy that changed the economic development fortunes of the district in such a positive manner.

The stadium complex not only provided a new home for Falkirk Football Club but created leisure opportunities for thousands and employment for hundreds.

Just as importantly it sent out a strong message of innovative partnership working from the previous SNP/Independent Administration.

The stadium partnership was developed after all party, internal and external involvement in the working group established to take the issue forward.

Members believe that there is insufficient information contained in this report to justify the termination of the partnership approach to the community stadium concept and therefore agrees to the following:-

- (1) recall the multi agency working group including representatives of Falkirk Football Club and elected members of all groups to properly scrutinise the detail of the proposals
- (2) arrange a seminar for all elected members and invite partners to participate in the presentation and question and answer session

- (3) consult with the general public by way of three public meetings across the district
- (4) re-present the report with any modifications following this exercise”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (17) – Provost Reid, Depute Provost Black, Councillor Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) to approve the restructuring of FCSL to form 3 new companies and the subsequent transfer of assets to the new companies which will be wholly owned by Falkirk Football and Athletic Club (FFAC) or the Council;
- (2) that the company wholly owned by the Council retain the current FCSL Council directors as its company directors (i.e. Directors of Development Services, of Community Services and Head of Accountancy);
- (3) that a review of the new company be undertaken within a year of its formation and a further report be prepared in this regard for Members’ consideration;
- (4) to note that a further report will be presented on the issues associated with taking forward the proposed Heads of Terms with Henry Boot Developments Ltd; and
- (5) to authorise the Chief Executive to take such action and to agree the terms of such documentation as is required to give effect to the foregoing.

FC114. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 February 2009 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

NOTED the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

FC115. VALEDICTORY REMARKS – DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The Provost **NOTED** that the Director of Social Work Services would be retiring on 31 March 2009 and that this would be Mrs Birks’ last meeting. Provost Reid thanked Mrs Birks for the work she had undertaken and wished her well in her retirement. The Council then endorsed the sentiments of the Convener.

Council then adjourned for 10 minutes and reconvened with members present as per the sederunt.

FC116. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED in terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 11 & 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

FC117. SINGLE STATUS, EQUAL PAY AND CRAFT PAY AND CONDITIONS UPDATE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 February 2009 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services updating Members on the progress and discussions with Trade Unions at a local level in respect of pay and conditions for Craft workers.

AGREED:-

- (1) to extend the Single Status buy out arrangements for a 3 month period, as noted within the Report;
- (2) to note the continued negotiations with Trade Unions in pursuit of a collective agreement;
- (3) to note the continued negotiations in respect of settlement of outstanding equal pay claims and ask Officers to report back on progress;
- (4) to note the on-going discussions with Craft Trade Unions and request a further report where necessary to outline progress.

ACCESS AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

David Stout

133 Burnhead Road, Larbert

ADMISSION AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL acting in its capacity as the administering authority of

The Falkirk Council Pension Fund and Falkirk Council and Forth and Oban Limited

AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

Schools Gateway Limited

Construction and servicing of four new High Schools

COLLATERAL WARRANTY UNDERTAKING in favour of FALKIRK COUNCIL

BHC Limited

Sub contract works for Structural steelwork to library at Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir

Greenberg Glass Limited

Sub contract works for Curtain Walling Library (E) Block B, C (Asda) at Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Sub-contract works for Aluminium Entrance Doors and Screens Installation to Library at Town Centre, Development Stenhousemuir

Record UK Limited
Rodger Bullivant Limited with consent of Tannson Limited

Sub contract works for Piling Installation to Library at Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Sub contract works for Roof and Wall Cladding Installations to Library, Changing Facility and garages at Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir

H S Roofing Limited

Tannson Limited with consent of Macdonald Estates plc

Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Sub Contract Works for Lift Installation Library at Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir

Clyde Valley Lifts Limited
Mason Partnership Limited with consent of Tannson Limited
Henderson Warnock Limited with the consent of Macdonald Estates plc

Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer's Appointment New Library Development at Stenhousemuir Town Centre
Civil/Structural engineer's appointment Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Landscape Architect's Appointment Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Appointment as Employer's Agent, Planning Supervisor Quantity Surveyors, and Project Manager Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Architect's Appointment Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir
Traffic Consultant's Appointment Town Centre Development Stenhousemuir

Struer Consulting Engineering Limited
Paul Hogarth, trading as The Paul Hogarth Company with the consent of Tannson Limited

Faithful and Gould Limited with the consent of Macdonald Estates plc
Fouin & Bell Architect's Limited with the consent of Tannson Limited

Faber Maunsell Limited

COMULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947

Plots 18, 19 & 21, M8/M9 Link Road, A801, Maddiston

CONTRACT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

Cash Registers (Buccleuch) Limited, t/a CRB Solutions

NPDO Schools - Provision of Cashless Catering Equipment

DEED OF CONDITIONS by FALKIRK COUNCIL

Wholeflats Business Park, Wholeflats Road, Grangemouth

DEED of POSTPONEMENT amongst FALKIRK COUNCIL and

M Sweeney and C Sweeney

83 Allandale Cottages, Allandale

DEED of SERVITUDE by FALKIRK COUNCIL

J Penman and J Penman

Queens Drive, California

DEED of VARIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

J M Rintoul

9 Gauze Place, Bo'ness

DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of

J Miller and E C Millar

110 Braes View, Denny

J G Campbell and C Campbell

57.5 sq m at Drumside Terrace, Bo'ness

C B Beattie

35 Mavisbank Avenue, Shieldhill

J Templeton and C Templeton

10 Shanks Avenue, Denny

A Laird and J M McKinnon

41 Valeview, Stenhousemuir

J B McLellan

14 Carribber Avenue, Whitecross

A E Sneddon

63 Redbrae Avenue, Bo'ness

H H Friars

12 Lyon Court, Bo'ness

A R Gordon

5 Glenview Avenue, Banknock

Alistair Duncan McLay

44 Letham Terrae, Letham

B T McCall

24 Gateside Avenue, Bonnybridge

A G Paterson and L M Paterson

67 Culmore Place, Hallglen

P Williamson and L Williamson

1 Hillhead Avenue, Banknock

A Ferguson

3 Dundas Road, Laurieston

W Miller & Others

Area of ground adjacent to 40 Wilson Street, Grangemouth

John Jenkins & Son (Scotland) Limited

Yards 1 & 2, Redding Industrial Estate, Redding

M M Maxwell or Reid

5 Moy Court, Grangemouth

P F Mulhern

6 Charlotte Dundas Court, Grangemouth

F G Malloy

59 Windsor Crescent, Maddiston

A B Young

5 Carronhall Avenue, Carronshore

L L McArthur and K Easton

19 Langton Road, Westquarter

R K Morris and D J Morris

33 Gilchrist Drive, Falkirk

John Robert Leiper

149 Carmuirs Avenue, Falkirk

J W M Lightbody and B J Lightbody

16 St Laurence Crescent, Slamannan

A McMillan and S McMillan

46 Kintyre Place, Falkirk

K McCormick and H McCormick

49 Sunnyside Street, Falkirk

R Hughes, K F Hughes and M R Hughes

1 Crownest Loan, Stenhousemuir

J B Jenkins and M Jenkins

10 Newtown Street, Bo'ness

J C Cannon

46 Jackson Avenue, Grangemouth

W B McIntyre and A M McIntyre

115 Symon Tower, Falkirk

A Philip

36 North Street, Falkirk

G M F Simpson

43 Kennard Street, Falkirk

M W Ozkan

7 Glenbervie Road, Grangemouth

A Morrison and M Morrison

64 Wotherspoon Drive, Bo'ness

LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

D L McCabe, T/A Back2life Clinics, Falkirk

54 Vicar Street, Falkirk

Powdrake Servicecentre Ltd

1 & 2 Powdrake Industrial Estate, Grangemouth

Mohammed Imtiaz

4 Fleming Court, Denny

Liquefied Gas Pumping Services Ltd

18 Abbotsinch Road, Abbotsinch Industrial Estate, Grangemouth

Propshaft Services Limited

Unit 3, Murnin Road, Bonnybridge

Douglas Livingston, t/a D C L Joinery & Contractors
Firstform (200) Ltd
G McLean, G R McKenzie and S D Anderson as
Partners of and Trustees for the firm of Dalriada
Partnership

26A Abbotsinch Road, Abbotsinch Ind Est, Grangemouth
14 Wholequarter Avenue, Redding, Falkirk

Dalriada House, South Street, Bo'ness

MINUTE of AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

J Douglas and E L Douglas as partners of and trustees
for the firm of J D Joinery
Arinsdale Limited
Horizon Housing Association Limited

Land to east of Broomhill Road, Bonnybridge
6A and 6B West Mains Industrial Estate, Grangemouth
Land to south of 7 McTaggart Avenue, Denny
Assessment of Optins for use of Callendar Park and Associated
Buildings
24 Castle Road, Falkirk
LDP Household Survey

Ironside Farrar Ltd
Gap Group Limited
Research Resource

MINUTE OF EXTENSION AND RENT REVIEW MEMORANDUM between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

Paterson Building Services Limited

Unit 1, Etna Road, Falkirk

MINUTE of LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

SP Distribution Limited

Wholeflats Road, Grangemouth

MINUTE OF RENUNCIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL AND

A S McNeil and E I McNeil
S Ord or Leung
C Campbell
J Strang
Acer Media Limited

10 York Arcade, Grangemouth
Unit 14, Ladysmill Industrial Estate, Kerse Lane, Falkirk
4 Foundry Road, Bonnybridge
Unit 7, Redding Industrial Estate, Falkirk
Office No 6, Bo'ness Business Centre, 12-16 Corbiehall, Bo'ness
Office No 5, 7 & 8 Bo'ness Business Centre, 12-16 Corbiehall,
Bo'ness

INNP (Scotland) Limited

MINUTE OF TERMINATION of LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

J Lapsley
S Kerr

85 Church Walk, Denny
72 La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth

MINUTE OF VARIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

Leengate Welding Group Limited
Air Products Plc
Gibson Fencing Supplies Limited
Studbolt (Scotland) Limited

8 & 9 Abbotsinch Court, Abbotsinch Industrial Estate,
Grangemouth
12 Castle Road, Bankside Industrial Estate, Falkirk
Block 9, West Mains Industrial Estate, Grangemouth
8 Abbotsinch Road, Grangemouth

SECTION 75 AGREEMENT among FALKIRK COUNCIL and

J Penman and E Penman and Skipton Building

Cloybank Farm, Banknock

**STEP-IN AGREEMENT among FALKIRK COUNCIL
and**

MacDonald Estates plc and The Trustees of the
Macdonald Estates Group plc Pension Scheme

Health Centre and Tryst adjoining Stenhousemuir Town Centre

FALKIRK COUNCIL

EXTRACT OF MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

PR8. REFERRALS FROM JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 1 APRIL 2009

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 1 April 2009 (Paragraphs JCC5, JCC6, JCC7, JCC8 and JCC11 refer), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 1 April 2009 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services listing the Reports considered by the Joint Consultative Committee at its meeting on 1 April 2009, namely:-

- **Market Supplement Policy**

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor Fry moved that Committee approves the proposed Market Supplement Policy.

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that the proposed Market Supplement Policy is not adopted.

On a division 4 Members voted for the Motion and 3 voted for the amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to approve the Market Supplement Policy.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REFERRALS FROM JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 7th April 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for a number of policies and initiatives which were approved for referral to this Committee, by the Joint Consultative Committee on 1st April 2009.

2. POLICIES FOR APPROVAL

- 2.1 At its meetings on 1st April 2009, the Joint Consultative Committee agreed to refer the following to Policy & Resources Committee for approval:

- Extra Mural Employment Policy;
- Career Break Policy;
- Policy & Procedure for the Management of Stress and Mental Wellbeing;
- Policy & Procedure for Overseas Criminal Record Checks;

- 2.2 The Committee also considered a report on Market Supplement Policy:-

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that the item be continued to allow further consideration of the policy and to enable a comparison review of practices in local and central government.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved that the Policy be submitted to Policy and Resources, for approval.

On a division, 4 Members voted for the Motion and 9 voted for amendment.

Accordingly AGREED to refer the Market Supplement Policy to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- 2.3 In terms of a further Report on the agenda, Benefits 4U by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, the Committee noted the intention of the Director to submit a report on the tendering process for a Bike to Work Scheme for employees to Policy and Resources Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Policy & Resources Committee approve the implementation of the policies and procedures outlined in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 above and as detailed in the supporting reports.**

.....
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 1st April 2009
Contact Name: Karen Algie, Head of Human Resources

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: MARKET SUPPLEMENT POLICY
Meeting: JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Date: 1st APRIL 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Council is committed to ensuring the Council's ability to recruit and retain the appropriate calibre of staff for posts across the Council. The development of the Market Supplement Policy is to ensure that Falkirk Council can remain competitive in the external recruitment market and improve recruitment and retention.
- 1.2 A market supplement is a temporary allowance in addition to basic pay in order to bring the salary closer to the 'going rate' in the market.
- 1.3 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in January 2009 in relation to this Policy. This Impact Assessment identified no adverse impact.

2. MARKET SUPPLEMENT POLICY

- 2.1 Market supplements are designed to support recruitment and retention of staff, where there is objective evidence that the rate of pay offered, directly contributes to increased labour turnover or an inability to recruit.
- 2.2 The Market Supplement Policy provides guidance in relation to the processes to be followed to ensure objective justification.
- 2.3 Market supplements will only be used when a clear business case is identified and recruitment and retention issues cannot be better addressed through the total benefits package or the work environment i.e. opportunities for development or support and facilities.
- 2.4 Payment of the market supplement will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that market conditions still justify the additional payment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee submit the Market Supplement Policy, to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

.....
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 5th March 2009
Contact Name: Lynne Grieve, ext 6236

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

FALKIRK COUNCIL

EXTRACT OF MINUTE of MEETING of the HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009 at 9.30 a.m.

HSS70. CORPORATE PARENTING

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 15 January 2009 by the Director of Social Work Services (a) referring to the range of information relating to the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities, and (b) attaching as an Appendix to the Report, a copy of Falkirk Council's draft Corporate Parenting Policy.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- Numbers of children in the looked after system
- Early detection of cases
- Improvement of parenting skills

AGREED to:-

- (1) endorse the principles contained in the draft Corporate Parenting Policy;
- (2) refer the Corporate Parenting Policy to Falkirk Council for approval, and
- (3) request the Director of Social Work Services to provide an update on the content of the Corporate Parenting Policy Action Plan and thereafter on progress in its implementation.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2009**

MEETING: FALKIRK COUNCIL

DATE: 29 APRIL 2009

AUTHOR: ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The following report was presented to the Housing & Social Services Committee on 3 February 2009. Following consideration, it was agreed that the report be referred to Full Council for approval.

1. Corporate Parenting

RECOMMENDATION

That Full Council endorse the recommendations as outlined in the attached report and as approved by the Housing and Social Services Committee on 3 February 2009.

MARGARET ANDERSON
Acting Director of Social Work Services

Date: 17 April 2009

Contact Officer: Margaret Anderson, Acting Director of Social Work Services, tel. 506527

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PARENTING

MEETING: HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2009

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the content of the document “These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent” and to present Members with proposals for how corporate parenting can be strengthened in the Falkirk Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since 2007, Members have received a range of information relating to the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities. This has included an induction pack on corporate parenting and the provision of training in 2007. Specific aspects of the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities have also been highlighted in a range of reports that have been presented to Members over the last 18 months.
- 2.2 In June 2008, the Council agreed to endorse the principles in the report from the Children’s Commissioner on young people leaving care, “Sweet 16”. Those principles were informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular, by its emphasis on placing the best interests of children and young people as the primary consideration and to listening to the views of children and young people. In the same way, the proposals made in this report are informed by the UN Convention.
- 2.3 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 sets out the circumstances in which children may become looked after by a Local Authority. Once a child is “looked after”, any decisions, including the decision to discharge the child from the looked after system, should be based upon the paramountcy of the child’s welfare and should also give due weight to the child or young person’s views.
- 2.4 Corporate parenting is the term used to describe the formal partnerships needed between all local authority services and associated agencies who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children and young people and care leavers.

The way in which the Council fulfils its corporate parenting responsibilities has the potential to transform the lives of looked after children, young people and care leavers and it is therefore vitally important that everyone in our organisation is aware of their responsibilities and is aware of the potential they have to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of Falkirk's children.

- 2.5 Historically, outcomes for looked after children have been well below those of other children and this remains the case both locally and nationally. At a national level, increasing attention has been paid to the need to improve outcomes for looked after children through more effective corporate parenting. This has culminated in the publication in 2008 of "These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent".

3. A SUMMARY OF "THESE ARE OUR BAIRNS"

- 3.1 This guide was published by the Scottish Government in September 2008 and has been produced in conjunction with COSLA. It provides a very useful source of information on what looked after children need from their corporate parents and provides detailed information on the role that community planning partnerships, Chief Executives, Elected Members and individual council services can play in promoting excellence in corporate parenting.
- 3.2 This guide has been considered in detail by the Corporate Management Team who receive regular updates on aspects of corporate parenting. The guidance has helped to inform the content of the draft Corporate Parenting Policy which is attached at Appendix 1 and which offers a way forward for Falkirk Council in promoting excellence in corporate parenting.

4. DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY

- 4.1 The draft Policy contained in Appendix 1 sets out Falkirk Council's commitment to corporate parenting. It sets out the context in which we act as corporate parents and contains 10 high level commitments which, if approved by Members, would bind all council services into becoming the best possible corporate parents.
- 4.2 Part 1 of the draft Policy provides an overview of the context of corporate parenting and, in particular, highlights the vision for all children and young people in the Falkirk Council area as articulated in "for falkirk's bairns", the integrated children's services plan. Our vision is that we want every child and young person to have an enjoyable, fulfilling life in a nurturing, healthy and safe environment. We will encourage children and young people to work to their potential and make a positive contribution to society. "for falkirk's bairns" also articulates the outcomes which we seek for all children and young people. These are that all Falkirk children:
- will be happy and healthy and will be enabled to make positive decisions about their own health and wellbeing
 - will achieve their potential through learning and creativity, developing skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled, happy adults.

- will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives.

Looked after children are valued and valuable members of our local community and require our assistance to achieve the outcomes to which we aspire for all Falkirk's children. The draft Policy indicates that this can be achieved by the Council acting as good corporate parents to looked after children. The remainder of Part 1 provides additional contextual information on who our looked after children are, why they become looked after and what they expect from the Council as their corporate parents.

- 4.3 Part 2 of the draft Policy contains a summary of the contribution that can be made by the Community Planning Partnership, by Elected Members, by all Council Services to improve our effectiveness as corporate parents. The Policy contains 9 high level commitments to looked after children which are as follows:-

Commitment 1 – The Council will establish a reference group consisting of looked after children and young people with experience of the care system. This reference group will be a conduit for young people to raise issues and concerns and will also provide an opportunity for the Council to seek their views on any developments which could impact on them. This reference group will be appropriately supported by staff who the young people feel able to trust. The reference group will be entitled to invite Senior Officers and Elected Members to meet with them to discuss specific issues or concerns.

Commitment 2 – The Community Planning Partnership will ensure that our corporate parenting responsibilities to looked after children are reflected in the Community Plan, associated Service Plans, the Integrated Children's Service Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.

Commitment 3 – Elected Members will ensure they are well informed about how the Council is meeting the needs of looked after children and that, in their monitoring and scrutiny role, pose the question "is this good enough for my child"?

Commitment 4 – The Chief Executive will ensure that the promotion of excellence in Corporate Parenting is a key priority for the Corporate Management Team and that the Corporate Management Team develop a challenging Corporate Parenting Action Plan and are rigorous in monitoring this.

Commitment 5 – Social Work Services will ensure that all looked after children are able to build trusting relationships with their Social Worker and with other care staff and that plans for individual children reflect their needs, hopes and aspirations.

Commitment 6 – Education Services will ensure that all looked after children have the same opportunities, as their peers who are not looked after, to benefit from high quality full time education through Curriculum for Excellence, including progressing to further and higher education and Education Services will be proactive in addressing any inequalities.

Commitment 7 – Community Services will ensure that looked after children are able to access sports, leisure and other cultural activities appropriate to their needs and interests and that any barriers are proactively addressed.

Commitment 8 – Corporate and Neighbourhood Services will ensure that when they reach decisions about housing, housing support and responses to anti-social behaviour, they take full account of the needs of looked after children and the impact on them of any decision they make.

Commitment 9 – All Council Services, including those not directly involved with looked after children and their families, will constantly seek ways of ensuring that their role in the corporate family is a supportive one.

Commitment 10 – All Council Services will play a part in ensuring that looked after children have the opportunity to make a positive transition into adulthood and into the world of employment, education and training.

- 4.4 It is proposed that within 3 months of approval of this Policy, a detailed Corporate Parenting Action Plan will be developed by the Corporate Management Team and will be presented to Elected Members for scrutiny and approval. Following the approval of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan, it is proposed that regular reports would be provided to Members on progress achieved.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The development of the Corporate Parenting Policy is entirely consistent with the vision for children as articulated in “for falkirk’s bairns” and previously approved by Members. The Policy and its implementation will also make a significant contribution to our single outcome agreement and, in particular, outcome 8, i.e. we have improved the life chances of children and young people and families at risk. Likewise, it will demonstrate our commitment to promoting greater equality for looked after children, as outlined in our Equalities Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications arising from this Report.

7. HR IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific HR implications arising from this Report.

8. CONCLUSION

Falkirk Council has demonstrated over the years that we take our responsibilities as corporate parents very seriously. While there are many positive developments in relation to corporate parenting, e.g. the ongoing development of more local residential resources for children and young people, there remains much that needs to be done. The development of this draft Corporate Parenting Policy sets out clear commitments for how we can improve our effectiveness even further as corporate parents. The implementation of the Policy would be through the development of a detailed Corporate Parenting Action Plan which would be monitored by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team and which would be the subject of further regular reports to Elected Members.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- 9.1 Members of the Housing & Social Services Committee endorse the principles set out in the draft Corporate Parenting Policy and, in recognition of the importance of this issue for all Members, refer the policy to Falkirk Council for approval.
- 9.2 Members of the Housing & Social Services Committee request the Director of Social Work Services to provide an update on the content of the Corporate Parenting Policy Action Plan and thereafter on progress achieved in implementing this.

JANET BIRKS
Director of Social Work Services

Date: 15 January 2009

Contact Officer: Janet Birks, Director of Social Work Services, tel. 506525

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

“These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent”

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PARENTING

MEETING: HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2009

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the content of the document “These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent” and to present Members with proposals for how corporate parenting can be strengthened in the Falkirk Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since 2007, Members have received a range of information relating to the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities. This has included an induction pack on corporate parenting and the provision of training in 2007. Specific aspects of the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities have also been highlighted in a range of reports that have been presented to Members over the last 18 months.
- 2.2 In June 2008, the Council agreed to endorse the principles in the report from the Children’s Commissioner on young people leaving care, “Sweet 16”. Those principles were informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular, by its emphasis on placing the best interests of children and young people as the primary consideration and to listening to the views of children and young people. In the same way, the proposals made in this report are informed by the UN Convention.
- 2.3 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 sets out the circumstances in which children may become looked after by a Local Authority. Once a child is “looked after”, any decisions, including the decision to discharge the child from the looked after system, should be based upon the paramountcy of the child’s welfare and should also give due weight to the child or young person’s views.
- 2.4 Corporate parenting is the term used to describe the formal partnerships needed between all local authority services and associated agencies who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children and young people and care leavers.

The way in which the Council fulfils its corporate parenting responsibilities has the potential to transform the lives of looked after children, young people and care leavers and it is therefore vitally important that everyone in our organisation is aware of their responsibilities and is aware of the potential they have to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of Falkirk's children.

- 2.5 Historically, outcomes for looked after children have been well below those of other children and this remains the case both locally and nationally. At a national level, increasing attention has been paid to the need to improve outcomes for looked after children through more effective corporate parenting. This has culminated in the publication in 2008 of "These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent".

3. A SUMMARY OF "THESE ARE OUR BAIRNS"

- 3.1 This guide was published by the Scottish Government in September 2008 and has been produced in conjunction with COSLA. It provides a very useful source of information on what looked after children need from their corporate parents and provides detailed information on the role that community planning partnerships, Chief Executives, Elected Members and individual council services can play in promoting excellence in corporate parenting.
- 3.2 This guide has been considered in detail by the Corporate Management Team who receive regular updates on aspects of corporate parenting. The guidance has helped to inform the content of the draft Corporate Parenting Policy which is attached at Appendix 1 and which offers a way forward for Falkirk Council in promoting excellence in corporate parenting.

4. DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY

- 4.1 The draft Policy contained in Appendix 1 sets out Falkirk Council's commitment to corporate parenting. It sets out the context in which we act as corporate parents and contains 10 high level commitments which, if approved by Members, would bind all council services into becoming the best possible corporate parents.
- 4.2 Part 1 of the draft Policy provides an overview of the context of corporate parenting and, in particular, highlights the vision for all children and young people in the Falkirk Council area as articulated in "for falkirk's bairns", the integrated children's services plan. Our vision is that we want every child and young person to have an enjoyable, fulfilling life in a nurturing, healthy and safe environment. We will encourage children and young people to work to their potential and make a positive contribution to society. "for falkirk's bairns" also articulates the outcomes which we seek for all children and young people. These are that all Falkirk children:
- will be happy and healthy and will be enabled to make positive decisions about their own health and wellbeing
 - will achieve their potential through learning and creativity, developing skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled, happy adults.

- will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives.

Looked after children are valued and valuable members of our local community and require our assistance to achieve the outcomes to which we aspire for all Falkirk's children. The draft Policy indicates that this can be achieved by the Council acting as good corporate parents to looked after children. The remainder of Part 1 provides additional contextual information on who our looked after children are, why they become looked after and what they expect from the Council as their corporate parents.

- 4.3 Part 2 of the draft Policy contains a summary of the contribution that can be made by the Community Planning Partnership, by Elected Members, by all Council Services to improve our effectiveness as corporate parents. The Policy contains 9 high level commitments to looked after children which are as follows:-

Commitment 1 – The Council will establish a reference group consisting of looked after children and young people with experience of the care system. This reference group will be a conduit for young people to raise issues and concerns and will also provide an opportunity for the Council to seek their views on any developments which could impact on them. This reference group will be appropriately supported by staff who the young people feel able to trust. The reference group will be entitled to invite Senior Officers and Elected Members to meet with them to discuss specific issues or concerns.

Commitment 2 – The Community Planning Partnership will ensure that our corporate parenting responsibilities to looked after children are reflected in the Community Plan, associated Service Plans, the Integrated Children's Service Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.

Commitment 3 – Elected Members will ensure they are well informed about how the Council is meeting the needs of looked after children and that, in their monitoring and scrutiny role, pose the question "is this good enough for my child"?

Commitment 4 – The Chief Executive will ensure that the promotion of excellence in Corporate Parenting is a key priority for the Corporate Management Team and that the Corporate Management Team develop a challenging Corporate Parenting Action Plan and are rigorous in monitoring this.

Commitment 5 – Social Work Services will ensure that all looked after children are able to build trusting relationships with their Social Worker and with other care staff and that plans for individual children reflect their needs, hopes and aspirations.

Commitment 6 – Education Services will ensure that all looked after children have the same opportunities, as their peers who are not looked after, to benefit from high quality full time education through Curriculum for Excellence, including progressing to further and higher education and Education Services will be proactive in addressing any inequalities.

Commitment 7 – Community Services will ensure that looked after children are able to access sports, leisure and other cultural activities appropriate to their needs and interests and that any barriers are proactively addressed.

Commitment 8 – Corporate and Neighbourhood Services will ensure that when they reach decisions about housing, housing support and responses to anti-social behaviour, they take full account of the needs of looked after children and the impact on them of any decision they make.

Commitment 9 – All Council Services, including those not directly involved with looked after children and their families, will constantly seek ways of ensuring that their role in the corporate family is a supportive one.

Commitment 10 – All Council Services will play a part in ensuring that looked after children have the opportunity to make a positive transition into adulthood and into the world of employment, education and training.

- 4.4 It is proposed that within 3 months of approval of this Policy, a detailed Corporate Parenting Action Plan will be developed by the Corporate Management Team and will be presented to Elected Members for scrutiny and approval. Following the approval of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan, it is proposed that regular reports would be provided to Members on progress achieved.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The development of the Corporate Parenting Policy is entirely consistent with the vision for children as articulated in “for falkirk’s bairns” and previously approved by Members. The Policy and its implementation will also make a significant contribution to our single outcome agreement and, in particular, outcome 8, i.e. we have improved the life chances of children and young people and families at risk. Likewise, it will demonstrate our commitment to promoting greater equality for looked after children, as outlined in our Equalities Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications arising from this Report.

7. HR IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific HR implications arising from this Report.

8. CONCLUSION

Falkirk Council has demonstrated over the years that we take our responsibilities as corporate parents very seriously. While there are many positive developments in relation to corporate parenting, e.g. the ongoing development of more local residential resources for children and young people, there remains much that needs to be done. The development of this draft Corporate Parenting Policy sets out clear commitments for how we can improve our effectiveness even further as corporate parents. The implementation of the Policy would be through the development of a detailed Corporate Parenting Action Plan which would be monitored by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team and which would be the subject of further regular reports to Elected Members.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that

- 9.1 Members of the Housing & Social Services Committee endorse the principles set out in the draft Corporate Parenting Policy and, in recognition of the importance of this issue for all Members, refer the policy to Falkirk Council for approval.
- 9.2 Members of the Housing & Social Services Committee request the Director of Social Work Services to provide an update on the content of the Corporate Parenting Policy Action Plan and thereafter on progress achieved in implementing this.

JANET BIRKS
Director of Social Work Services

Date: 15 January 2009

Contact Officer: Janet Birks, Director of Social Work Services, tel. 506525

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

“These are our bairns; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent”

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMITTEES
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 29 APRIL 2009
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek nominations to the Scottish Enterprise East of Scotland Regional Advisory Board, the Helix Trust, the Twinning Association and also to invite Council to appoint a Depute Convener to the Appeals Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Scottish Enterprise East Regional Advisory Board

Following a review of the Enterprise Networks by the Scottish Government a new structure was established for Scottish Enterprise in 2007. As part of the restructure 5 Regional Advisory Boards (RAB's) were to be established with a view to providing input from business and other key regional stakeholders to the new structure. The five RABs are:-

Aberdeen City and Shire; East of Scotland; South of Scotland; Tayside and West of Scotland.

The purpose of the Regional Advisory Boards is to engage senior business leaders to advise on, and influence regional priorities, to advise and consult across the public and private sectors, to provide an international perspective and give access to influential networks which in turn can influence regional priorities. The RABs will provide a vital link between national and regional activity. Each RAB consists of between 12 and 18 members including 3 elected members. The East of Scotland RAB will include three elected members from the seven Local Authorities in the Board area (City of Edinburgh, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils). In terms of the Board membership the City of Edinburgh Council has a permanent member on the Board with each of the other Local Authorities representatives rotating with staggered end dates to allow continuity of experience. Falkirk Council's representative will sit on the Board until 26 May 2010.

Scottish Enterprise has invited Council to nominate its representative to the East of Scotland Regional Advisory Board. In terms of the constitution of the RABs nominees are expected to be either the Leader of the Council or the Convener of the Economic Development Committee (or equivalent).

2.2 HELIX Trust

The HELIX Trust is being created as a charitable company by Falkirk Council, British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust to act as guardian of the ethos of the HELIX project and to set and maintain the strategic direction of the project. Founded on the principles of sustainable development, key activities will include; communicating the achievements of the project as it evolves, ensuring the effective engagement of local communities, both in the establishment of the HELIX and in its ongoing maintenance and development and creating a platform for environment-related opportunities for local businesses. The HELIX Trust will also be responsible for the delivery of the first capital phase of the HELIX project on behalf of the partners.

The Board of the HELIX Trust will comprise a maximum of 12 directors:-

Falkirk Council – 3 Directors
British Waterways – 2 Directors
Central Scotland Forest Trust – 1 Director
HELIX Futures – 2 Directors
plus 3 co-opted Directors
1 independent Director/Chair

It is recommended that Council's representation is made up of two Members and one Officer.

2.3 Falkirk and District Twinning Association

In May 2007 Council appointed Deputy Provost Black and Councillor Buchanan to the Falkirk and District Twinning Association. Councillor Buchanan has now tendered his resignation from the Association. Council is invited to appoint a replacement.

2.4 Appeals Committee

In May 2007 Council appointed Councillor McNeill as Convener of the Appeals Committee and Councillor McLuckie as Deputy Convener. Council noted on 4 March 2009 Councillor McNeill's resignation from the post and appointed Councillor McLuckie as Convener. Council is now invited to appoint a replacement Deputy Convener.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Council is invited to appoint:-

- (1) its representative on the Scottish Enterprise East Scotland Regional Advisory Board;**
- (2) 2 Members to the Helix Trust;**
- (3) a representative on the Falkirk and District Twinning Association; and**
- (4) the Depute Convener of the Appeals Committee.**

.....
Acting Director of Law and Administration

Date: 6 April 2009
Contact Officer: Brian Pirie

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

AGENDA ITEM 5

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: AMENDMENT TO POLLING SCHEME – CHANGES TO
POLLING PLACES FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTION – 4 JUNE 2009
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 29 APRIL 2009
Author: RETURNING OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, requires local authorities to keep under review polling districts and polling places.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that elections staff constantly review polling places and make proposals to amend the Polling Scheme on a temporary or permanent basis as required.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to alert Members to the requirement to review three polling places to be used for the European Parliamentary Elections, which will be held on Thursday 4 June.

2. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

- 2.1 The proposed adjustments relate to amending three polling places as undernoted:-

Ward	Polling District	No. of electors (as at 1/4/09)	Current polling place	Proposed polling place
4 - Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	FE415	1646	Tryst Community Centre	Larbert Library – Community Room
5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert	FW510	3920	Larbert Village Primary School – main building	Larbert Village Primary School – temporary static units
5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert	FW515	270	Torwood Primary School	Torwood Primary School site – temporary static unit

- 2.2 The use of Larbert Library will allow for the deletion of Tryst Community Centre, which closed recently. It should be noted that the Community Room is located on the first floor. Stairs and a lift are located immediately within the door to the building and provide access for both ambulatory and disabled electors. An additional Polling Clerk will be appointed to work at the Library and will be based within the entrance to the premises, where his/her primary function will be to direct and assist electors as required. The building is new and is fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation.
- 2.3 The use of the static units located in the playground at Larbert Village Primary School will enable electors to vote within the same grounds as previously but will not require access to the main school building, which is currently under refurbishment. There will be three polling stations located here, all of which will be within the same temporary accommodation. It is anticipated that the polling place will revert to being located within the school building for future elections, following completion of the refurbishment. Members will be notified, in advance of future elections, if any change to this arrangement is required.
- 2.4 The use of the static unit at the Torwood Primary School site will enable local electors to vote at the same location as before. As Members will be aware, there is little, if any, alternative option within Torwood and this polling place will be kept under close scrutiny in relation to future elections. Members will be notified of any further proposed changes. In addition, all electors will be notified of change, as required.
- 2.5 Members are asked to note that the changes to polling places, once confirmed, will be notified to all electors within the polling districts concerned by way of the poll card issued by the Electoral Registration Officer on behalf of myself as Returning Officer. If considered necessary, a separate letter of notification of change will be issued to each elector. In addition, the changes to polling places will be published on the Council's website. It should be noted, however, that with the exception of Larbert Library, the other two polling places continue to be sited at the existing polling place locations. Additional and enhanced signage will be provided to assist the elector on polling day.
- 2.6 Plans indicating the locations of the existing and proposed polling places is attached (Appendix 1).
- 2.7 The polling scheme, edited for ease of reference, is attached (see Appendix 2) for Members' information. Members are reminded that the first digit contained within the Polling District reference indicates the Ward number, eg LE100 indicates Ward 1, FW325 indicates Ward 3, etc.

3. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A payment of £290 plus VAT will be charged for the use of the unit at Torwood Primary School site. This will include the delivery and uplift of the unit, as well as a generator and separate toilet facility.
- 3.2 There will be no fee payable for the use of Larbert Library or Larbert Village Primary School.
- 3.3 All proposed premises are fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislative requirements.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Local Members, Community Councils and persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities are currently being consulted on the proposed polling arrangements. Any representations received will be considered prior to polling places being confirmed. In addition, the Police and the Electoral Registration Officer have been notified of the proposed changes.
- 4.2 In addition, Members are asked to note that, with reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 5 December 2007 (Paragraph FC53 refers), a review of all polling places requires to be undertaken by 31 December 2011. Members, and all other relevant bodies, will be consulted on existing and proposed polling places as part of that process. The current proposals contained within this report should be viewed as temporary, pending the outcome of the full review of polling places.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are requested to:-

- (1) note the terms of the Report; and
- (2) approve the adjustments to the polling scheme detailed in Paragraph 2.1 of this Report and the publicising of the changes, with immediate implementation for polling purposes at the European Parliamentary Election on 4 June 2009.

.....
Returning Officer

Date: 8 April 2009

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, ext 6111

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Report to Falkirk Council on 5 December 2007 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.



Falkirk Council

Ward 4 - Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst



Current Polling Place
Tryst Community Centre

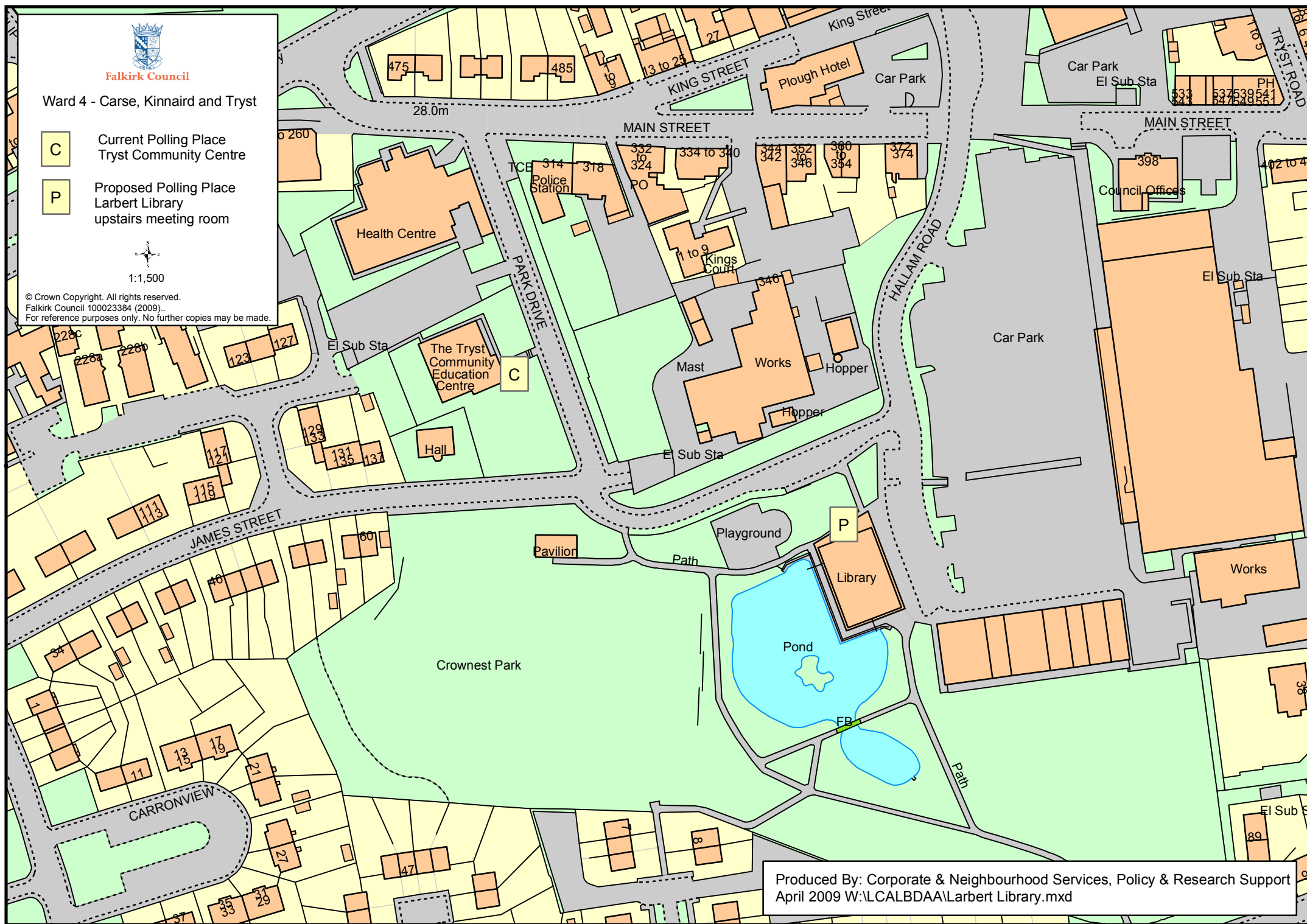


Proposed Polling Place
Larbert Library
upstairs meeting room



1:1,500

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April 2009 W:\LCALBDAA\Larbert Library.mxd



Falkirk Council

Ward 5 - Bonnybridge and Larbert

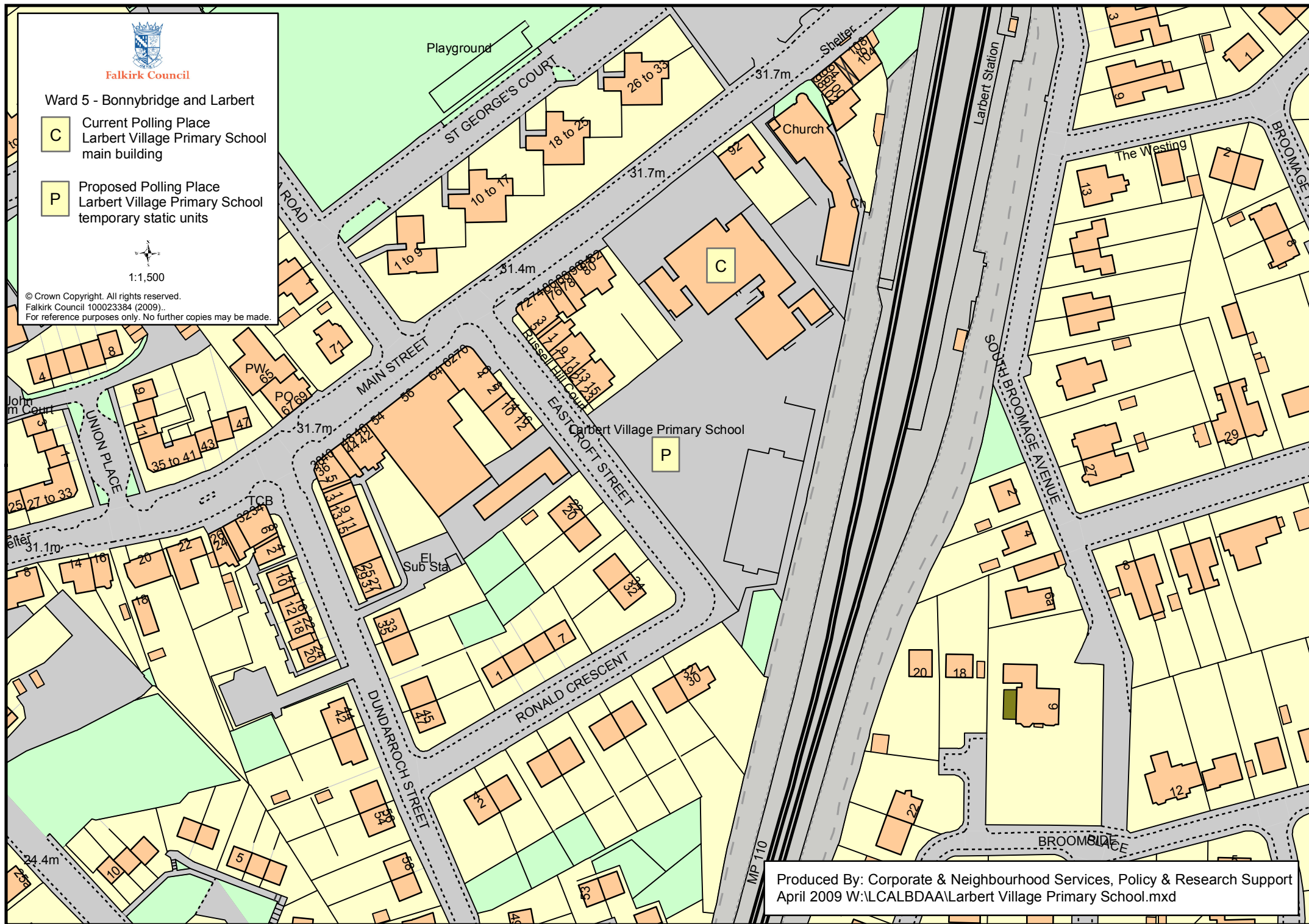
C Current Polling Place
Larbert Village Primary School
main building

P Proposed Polling Place
Larbert Village Primary School
temporary static units



1:1,500

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April 2009 W:\LCALBDAA\Larbert Village Primary School.mxd

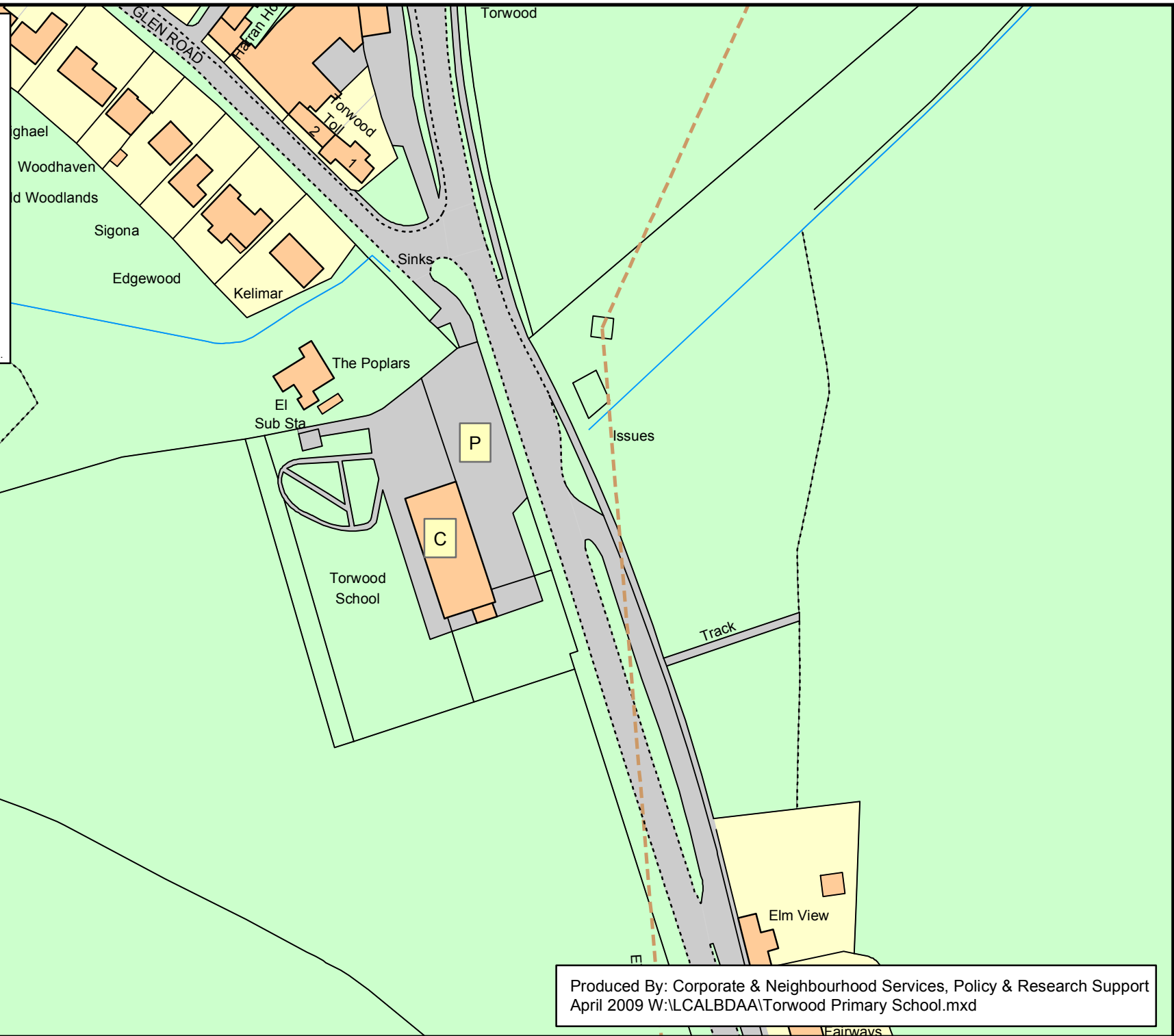


C Current Polling Place
Torwood Primary School

P Proposed Polling Place
Torwood Primary School site
temporary static unit



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**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS – THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2009
POLLING SCHEME – SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY (FALKIRK AREA)**

Box No	Polling District	Polling Place	Station No	Register	No of Electors
001	LE100	Cowdenhill Community Hall	1	Acre Road to Grange Loan	1162
002	LE100	Cowdenhill Community Hall	2	Grange Terrace to Wheatfield Road	1127
003	LE105	St Mary's Primary School	1	Academy Road to Hadrian Way	1411
004	LE105	St Mary's Primary School	2	Hopetoun Terrace, Dean Road to St John's Way	1293
005	LE110	Blackness Primary School	1	Burnshot Cottages to West Terrace	327
006	LE115	Bo'ness Town Hall	1	Braehead to Stewart Avenue	795
007	LE120	Salvation Army Hall, Bo'ness	1	Avon Place to Waggon Road	366
008	LE125	Kinneil Primary School	1	Baker Street to Ewart Grove	1069
009	LE125	Kinneil Primary School	2	Forthview Crescent to The Quarrknowes	1172
010	LE130	Kinneil Bowling Club	1	Amulree Place to Wotherspoon Drive	
011	LE135	Deanburn Primary School	1	Antonine Court to Green Tree Lane	927
012	LE135	Deanburn Primary School	2	Hamilton Square to Woodlands Drive	978
013	LE200	Dalgrain Community Hall	1	Avon Street to Zetland Drive	693
014	LE205	Newlands Community Centre	1	Alexander Avenue to Gort Place	1138
015	LE205	Newlands Community Centre	2	Gunn Road to Newlands Road	1231
016	LE205	Newlands Community Centre	3	Poplar Street to Wood Street	1068

017	LE210	Grangemouth Town Hall	1	Abbots Road to Grange Place, Park Road	1541
018	LE210	Grangemouth Town Hall	2	The Inches, Bo'ness Road to York Lane	1544
019	LE215	Bowhouse Community Centre	1	Abbots Road to Cuillin Place	1223
020	LE215	Bowhouse Community Centre	2	Cultenhove Crescent to Morar Court	1170
021	LE215	Bowhouse Community Centre	3	Morar Place to Woodhill Court	1242
022	LE220	Dundas Resource Centre	1	Abbotsford Drive to Yarrow Place	1348
023	LE225	Oxgang School - Moray Primary School	1	Abbotsgrange Road to Victoria Road	801
024	FE230	Bothkennar Community Hall	1	Binnie Place to Zetland Place	261
025	FW300	Dunipace Church Hall	1	Allan Crescent to Hawthorn Drive	1034
026	FW300	Dunipace Church Hall	2	Hazel Crescent to Windsor Drive	1056
027	FW305	Denny Westpark Church Hall	1	Anderson Park Road to Hookney Terrace	1153
028	FW305	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2	Hunter Gardens to Winchester Drive	1145
029	FW310	Fankerton Village Hall	1	Broadside Court to Myothill	390
030	FW315	Nethermain Primary School	1	Anderson Drive to Demoreham Avenue	1346
031	FW315	Nethermain Primary School	2	Dundaff Court to Netherfaulds Drive	1293
032	FW315	Nethermain Primary School	3	Nethermain Road to Woodland Way	1317
033	FW320	Archibald Russell Centre	1	Afton Drive to Hayfield Terrace	1306
034	FW320	Archibald Russell Centre	2	Haypark Road to Watson Place	1218

035	FW325	Bankier Community Centre	1	Agricultural Holdings to Hawthorn Drive	1197
036	FW325	Bankier Community Centre	2	Hazel Road to Wyndford Road	1195
037	FW330	Allandale Bowling Club	1	Allandale Cottages to Thorndale Gardens	266
038	FE400	Airth Community Hall	1	Banks View to The Wilderness	1749
039	FE405	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	1	Auchentyre Place to Mill Road	976
040	FE405	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	2	Moffat Avenue to Westerton Terrace	1050
041	FE410	Carron Primary School	1	Adams Loan to Carrongrove Road	1243
042	FE410	Carron Primary School	2	Carronlea Drive to Inveraray Drive	1275
043	FE410	Carron Primary School	3	McLaren Terrace, Carronshore Road to Waters End	1227
044	FE415	Larbert Library	1	Adam Crescent to Union Street	1646
045	FE420 & FW425	Stenhousemuir Primary School	1	Alloa Road to Madill Place and Andrew Crescent to Gerald Terrace	1381
046	FW425	Stenhousemuir Primary School	2	Hamilton Avenue to Westminster Place	1263
047	FE430 & FW435	Dobbie Hall	1	Braeview to King's Court, Main Street and Burnhead Road to Queens Drive	1328
048	FE430 & FW505	Dobbie Hall	2	Wilson's Buildings, Main Street to Waverley Terrace and Allanbank Road to Pembroke Street	1540
049	FW500	Stenhousemuir Primary School	3	Alloway Wynd to Tryst Park	1060
050	FW510	Larbert Village Primary School	1	Acorn Crescent to Broomage Bank, Main Street	1301

051	FW510	Larbert Village Primary School	2	Dobbie Avenue to Main Street	1326
052	FW510	Larbert Village Primary School	3	Russell Hill Court, Eastcroft Street to Woodside Grove	1293
053	FW515	Torwood Mobile	1	Bellsdyke Road to Stirling Road	270
054	FW520	Bonnybridge Primary School	1	Alloway Crescent to High Street	1521
055	FW520	Bonnybridge Primary School	2	Highland Dykes Crescent to Woodlea Gardens	1514
056	FW525	Bonnybridge Community Centre	1	Allan Place to Greenhill Road	1239
057	FW525	Bonnybridge Community Centre	2	Greenhill Square to Woodburn Crescent	1233
058	FW530	Antonine Primary School	1	Bonnymuir Place to Wilson Place	678
059	FW600 & FW720	Bantaskin Primary School	1	Anson Avenue to The Maltings and Windsor Avenue to Windsor Road	1177
060	FW605	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	1	Alma Lane to Westburn Avenue	1403
061	FW610	Bainsford Community Centre	1	Abbots Road to Goosedubs Place	1263
062	FW610	Bainsford Community Centre	2	Harley Court to Mungal Place	1196
063	FW610	Bainsford Community Centre	3	Mungalhead Road to Yardley Place	1370
064	FW615	Dawson Centre	1	Abbotsford Gardens to Torridon Avenue	1543
065	FW620	Thornhill Community Centre	1	Adam Street to Atholl Place, Stewart Road	1186
066	FW620	Thornhill Community Centre	2	Dalderse Avenue to Millburn Street	1132
067	FW620	Thornhill Community Centre	3	Sutton Place, Ladysmill to York Street	1142

068	FW625	Westfield Community Centre	1	Alexander Avenue to Woodburn Street	1656
069	FW630	Leishman Tower Club Room	1	Arnot Street (odds 13-19) to Wolfe Road	1250
070	FW635 & FW730	Woodlands Games Hall	1	Arnot Street (all evens 2-22) to Vicar Street and Aitchison Place to Woodlands Crescent	1470
071	FW700	Easter Carmuir Primary School	1	Antonine Gardens to Mariner Avenue	980
072	FW700	Easter Carmuir Primary School	2	Mariner Drive to Wilson Road	955
073	FW705	Carmuir Primary School	1	Brown Street to Watling Street	1249
074	FW710	Tamfourhill Community Centre	1	Arran Terrace to Tamfourhill Road	1046
075	FW715	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	1	Begg Avenue to Windsor Road	532
076	FW720	Bantaskin Primary School	2	Balmoral Drive to Teviot Street	978
077	FW725	Camelon Education Centre	1	Abercrombie Street to Watt Gardens	1123
078	FW735	Salvation Army Hall	1	Abbots Moss Drive to Elgin Place	1104
079	FW735	Salvation Army Hall	2	Farquharson Way to McKell Court	1128
080	FW735	Salvation Army Hall	3	McNab Gardens to Woodside Terrace	1135
081	FW740	Glen Village Bowling Club	1	Allan Barr Court to Parkhead Road	271
082	FW745	Hallglen Sports Centre	1	Annan Court to Ettrick Court	1042
083	FW745	Hallglen Sports Centre	2	Findhorn Place to Westray Terrace	1072
084	FE750 & FE960	Shieldhill Primary School	1	Avon Brook Steading to Lochgreen Road and Anderson Crescent to Crosshall Place, Main Street	1011

085	FE960	Shieldhill Primary School	2	Heather Avenue to Wallace View	963
086	FE800 & LE830	Laurieston Community Hall	1	Abbotsford Drive to Zetland Drive and Beancross Road to Laurieston Road	1179
087	FE805	Laurieston Primary School	1	Alder Grove to Suilven Heights	1172
088	FE810	Westquarter Primary School	1	Ash Grove to Yew Terrace	1169
089	FE815	St Margaret's Primary School	1	Alyth Drive to Meadowbank, Station Road	1246
090	FE815	St Margaret's Primary School	2	Montrose Road to Wholequarter Avenue	1184
091	FE820	Greenpark Community Centre	1	Abbotsview to Lathallan Drive	1385
092	FE820	Greenpark Community Centre	2	Smiddy Brae, Bo'ness Road to Zetland Terrace	1359
093	FE825 & FE955	Brightons Community Centre	1	Canal Walk to Victoria Place and Bruce Gardens to Woodside Gardens	1443
094	LE835 & LE910	Reddingmuirhead Institute	1	Aitken Crescent to Wesley Place and Comyn Drive to Wallacestone Brae	1607
095	LE840 & LE920	Maddiston Community Centre	1	Abercairney Crescent to Chrisella Terrace, Vellore Road	1179
096	LE920	Maddiston Community Centre	2	Hanlon Gardens to Windsor Crescent	1151
097	LE900	Whitecross Primary School	1	Almond Terrace to Station Road	633
098	LE905	Maddiston Old Folks Hall	1	Cairneymount Avenue to Vellore Road	864
099	LE915	Brightons Community Centre	2	Arneil Place to Willow Brae	1292
100	LE925	California Community Centre	1	Blackbraes Road to Whiteside	629

101	LE930	Drumbowie Primary School	1	Irene Terrace to Melons Place	207
102	LE935	Congregational Church Hall, Avonbridge	1	Avonpark to Standburn Road	570
103	LE940	Limerigg Community Hall	1	Cameron Terrace to Thomson Place	192
104	LE945	Slamannan Community Centre	1	Aitken Drive to Thorndene Terrace	1139

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/2011
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 29 APRIL 2009
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents to Members the second Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between the 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 our Community Planning Partnership in February 2009. It was then presented in draft form to Policy and Resources Committee in March 2009. Following submission of the draft, the Scottish Government reviewed the SOA and has very recently provided feedback to the Partnership. This report sets out the Agreement as Appendix One of the report and asks Members to approve this as the refreshed 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 an outcome 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 new SOA has been developed from the first SOA, signed off by the Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government in July 2008. Members will recall that further guidance was received by the Partnership on the scope, content and governance of the SOA. The guidance required that each statutory public organisation which was required to participate in Community Planning, had to approve and sign off the agreement collectively and individually. For the Falkirk Council area the following partners have, or will sign off the SOA for 2009/2011:
- Falkirk Council;
 - Central Scotland Police;
 - NHS Forth Valley;

- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College;
- CVS Falkirk and District;
- Scottish Enterprise;
- Skills Development Scotland; and
- SESTRAN.

- 3.2 It is heartening that three new partners have signed off the Agreement this year, ensuring our local outcomes are taken forward in their future planning. It is recognised that, over time, we may extend the focus of the agreement to cover other agencies and organisations. Members will recall that partners are now required to formally approve the Single Outcome Agreement. This process is currently taking place with most partner agencies seeking their Board's approval in May 2009. 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 line with the arrangements adopted last year for the development of our first SOA, the Council in leading the SOA development process, adopted a pragmatic approach. Partners met collectively on a number of occasions to review the previous agreement, discuss progress and set appropriate targets and direction of travel for this year's agreement.
- 3.4 Members will recall last year that once the SOA was submitted in draft to the Scottish Government, there was a process of negotiation that resulted in minor changes to the SOA. Due to the engagement with the Government prior to drafting our refreshed SOA, feedback on this SOA has been very positive, resulting in even fewer suggested changes. However, final confirmation of the changes suggested by the Scottish Government has only just been received and are now being discussed with partners. Although I have not been able to incorporate all of the changes into the SOA being presented to Members today, I do not anticipate that there will be any difficulty in reaching agreement and would expect the final version of the SOA to be substantially the same as the version attached to this report.
- 3.5 Copies of the finalised SOA will be issued to Members and to partners as soon as possible.

4. CONTENT OF SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 4.1 The Single Outcome Agreement has a number of key elements:
- Short statement setting out the purpose and scope of the SOA;
 - A context statement for the area;
 - A completed template for each of the 15 national outcomes that sets out a local context for the outcomes, local priorities/outcomes, progress to date, performance measures, key actions and a link to other plans and strategies that sit below the water line; and
 - A statement of governance, ongoing development of the SOA, performance management and reporting.

- 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, and indeed cannot include everything that the Council and our partners are delivering.
- 4.3 The Single Outcome Agreement reflects progress and outcomes against all 15 national outcomes. The local outcomes were derived from the Council and other Partners' Corporate Plans, as well as the Strategic Community Plan and supporting strategies. However, in including a range of local outcomes, we have hopefully reflected the capacity of the Council and our partners to address a range of issues that are of importance to our local communities.
- 4.4 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 Forum and also Scrutiny Committees. However, the SOA will be the main vehicle for reporting on progress against the Corporate Plan. Members will recall that the Corporate Plan monitoring report presented to Council in December 2008, noted progress on the outcomes and those indicators contained within the SOA that the Council has responsibility for. In addition, the Partnership will provide an update on the SOA in September each year.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 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' continued commitment to developing this SOA has again been critical in ensuring the SOA fully articulates our ambitions for our area. This joint commitment will ensure that we make progress on achieving the outcomes contained in the body of the document.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 6.1 **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**
- 6.2 **Approve the Single Outcome Agreement for the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership noting some minor changes will be required before the SOA is finally signed off by the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership and the Government.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 15 April 2009
Contact: Fiona Campbell Ext 6004
Ref: ABK0409FC

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Single Outcome Agreements, Guidance, Format and Indicators for Scottish Local Government, February 2009.

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

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

2009-2011

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership has developed a Single Outcome Agreement that will help measure the progress we are making locally to achieve our shared vision for the Falkirk Council area. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the improvements that our partnership and the Scottish Government want to achieve in our area between 2009 and 2011.

Our collective commitment will ensure that in achieving our vision we will provide the best quality services at an affordable cost to our communities and citizens and that this is at the very heart of all that we do.

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.

This agreement is shared by the following partners in the first instance:

- Falkirk Council;
- NHS Forth Valley;
- Central Scotland Police;
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College;
- CVS Falkirk and District;
- Scottish Enterprise;
- Skills Development Scotland; and
- SESTRAN

We must acknowledge that we alone cannot achieve our vision for our area and are reliant on a range of partners, communities and individuals to work with us to do this. Their contribution must be valued and recognised if we are to achieve what our communities need over the coming years.

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.

Our Area in Context

Falkirk Council is situated right at the centre of Scotland. We have a growing population which topped 150,000 for the first time in 2007. Our area is one of the best connected areas in Scotland, equidistant between Glasgow and Edinburgh and at the heart of the motorway network.

The area has always been at the focus of Scotland's history. The recently designated World Heritage Site of the Antonine Wall dates from Roman times – the largest relic of the Roman occupation in Scotland, has its largest and most well preserved remains within our area. This is one of only five world heritage sites in Scotland.

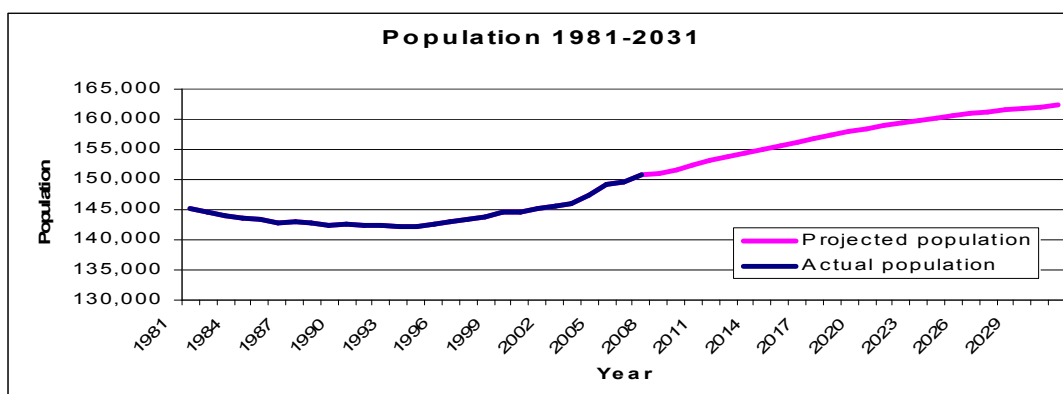
Our area was host to two major battles: the First Battle of Falkirk in 1298 where William Wallace led the Scots into battle against Edward's English army; and the Battle of Falkirk Muir in 1746 where Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites defeated the government forces. In the 18th and 19th centuries Falkirk was home to Europe's greatest cattle markets where upwards of 100,000 beasts changed hands.

Our area remains a dynamic area. The Falkirk Wheel, part of the Millennium project, was pivotal in reopening the Forth and Clyde and Union canals and now attracts increasing numbers of visitors each year. We have also just secured £25m of Living Landmarks Lottery Funding, in conjunction with British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust to transform the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth including building the Kelpies, giant public artworks that will mark the eastern gateway to the canal network. Key to this success was the active participation of our communities and demonstration of civic pride.

This profile seeks to provide a background to our area, looking at past trends and future challenges that will affect and have an impact on our area in the short, medium and longer term. The recent economic downturn means that there is considerable uncertainty around the state of the international, national and local economy. The economic uncertainty makes it difficult to forecast the future trends and anticipate what may happen to our communities in the timescale of this Outcome Agreement. However we remain committed to our long term vision. Our area has faced major challenges before. Our ability to adapt and react to changing circumstances sets us in good stead to ensure a thriving and prosperous future for our area and our communities.

Population

The population of our area is increasing. After many years when there was little change in the population, it began to rise in the mid 1990's and there have now been almost 15 years of continuous growth. The population currently stands at 150,720 (2007), having grown by over 5% in the last decade – compared to an overall increase in Scotland of 1.2%. The population is projected to increase further to 152,500 by 2011, 156,000 by 2016 and 162,300 by 2031. The growing population presents a major challenge in providing services to the partnership and individual agencies.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland mid year estimates of population 1981-2007
2006 based population projections 2007-2031 (Crown Copyright)

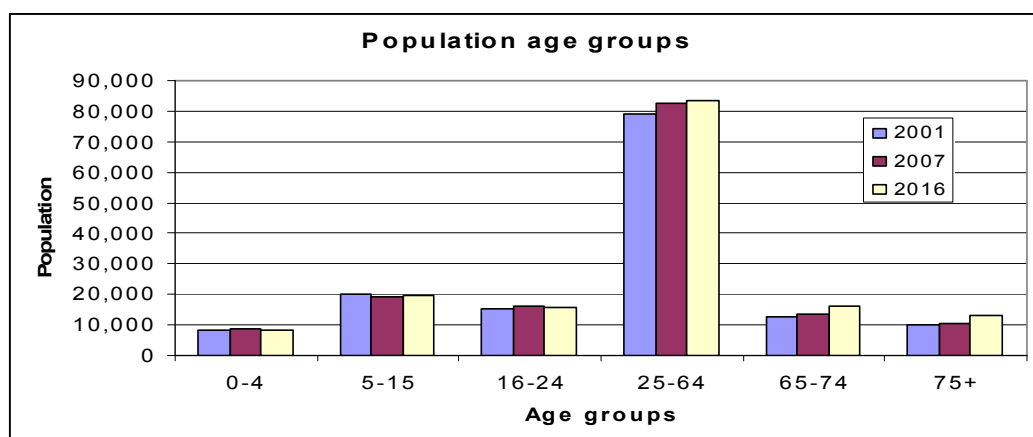
Much of the growth has been driven by net in-migration, with our area being attractive to in-migrants due to its competitive house prices, the variety of new build properties which have recently been constructed and good transport links. Average net in-migration since 2001 has been over 850 per year.

Births: In the last few years the number of births in our area has increased at a faster rate than the rest of Scotland. The number of births in 2007 returned to the level of the early 1990's at 1,892 compared to around 1,500 in the early 2000's and the quarterly figures for 2008 already published suggest that the numbers are continuing to rise. These are higher figures than included in the latest population projections, so in the next few years the number of pre-fives will be higher than originally predicted. It is impossible to say how long this new trend of increased births will continue and the figures will continue to be closely monitored.

This will put pressure on our early years' services and later on our Education Services, especially in the light of the Scottish Government's commitment to reducing class sizes.

Deaths: Along with the rest of Scotland, the death rate in our area is continuing to decrease slowly, with the annual number of deaths being around 1,600, although varying from year to year. The decrease in the death rate is expected to continue. From this we can see that the number of births in our area now is higher than the number of deaths. This is very different from most areas in Scotland and presents us with different challenges.

Compared to the rest of Scotland, the population of our area has a younger profile with a higher proportion of children and a smaller percentage of older people. However, along with the rest of Scotland, the population is aging and the Council is challenged to provide services for the additional number of elderly people.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland (Crown Copyright)

The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by a quarter by 2016 with even larger increases in the over 85's.

Age group			Change 2007-2011		2016	Change 2011-2016	
	2007	2011	No	%		No	%
65-74	13,387	14,180	+ 793	+ 5.9%	16,272	+ 2,885	+ 21.6%
75-84	7,962	8,482	+ 520	+ 6.5%	9,652	+ 1,690	+ 21.2%
85+	2,492	2,849	+ 357	+ 14.3%	3,352	+ 860	+ 34.5%
Total 65+	23,841	25,511	+ 1,670	+ 7.0%	29,276	+ 5,435	+ 22.8%

The Economy

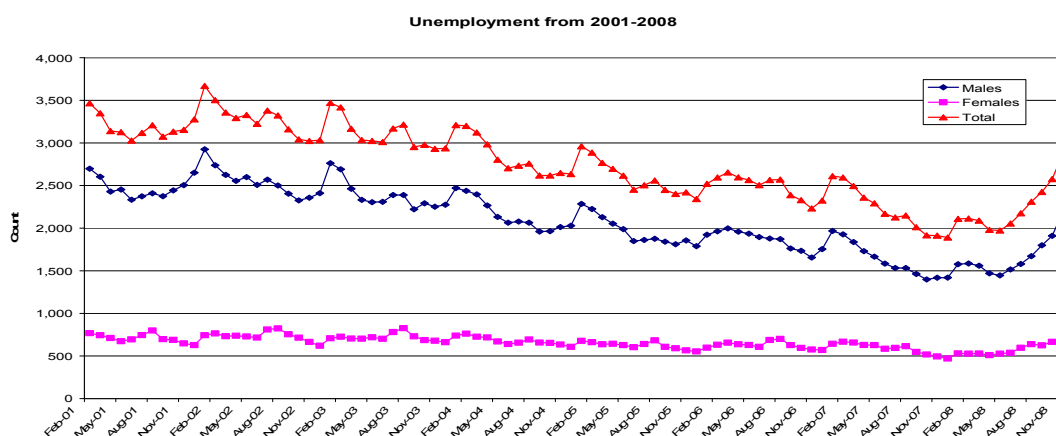
The recent international down turn in the economy will undoubtedly impact on our area. The impact of this recession is being felt already by our communities. However the long term significance and impact will not be able to be fully measured for some time.

Our area is important to the Scottish economy with over £2.2 billion of Gross Added Value being generated in the Council area in 2005. Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and the petrochemical industry based at Grangemouth is a major employer and of strategic significance to Scotland.

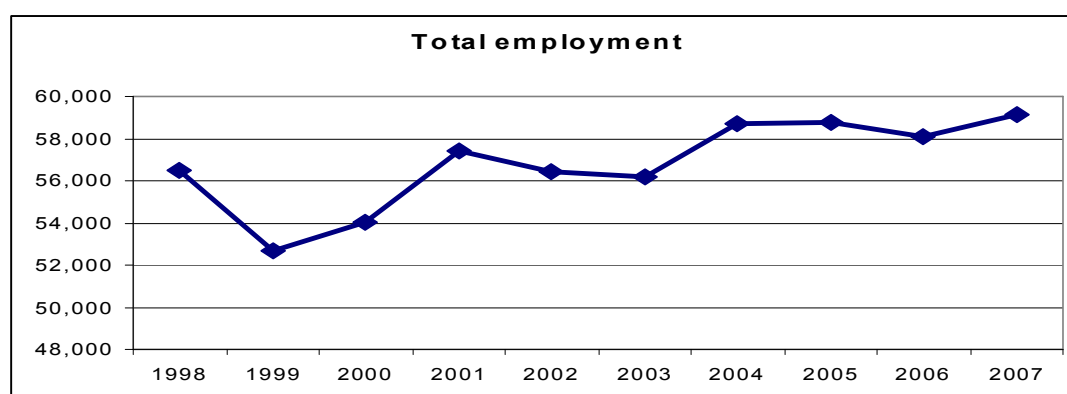
Unemployment: One data source which is timely is the claimant count unemployment data which is published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. The latest figures show that the claimant count has increased from under 2,000 in the spring of 2008 to almost 3,000 by November 2008 with an increase of over 30% since the summer of 2008. However, it has only reached the level which it stood at in 2003 and remains substantially below the figures of over 11,000 in the mid 1980's. Male unemployment is higher than female unemployment and has been increasing faster. It is likely that the numbers will continue to increase over the next year.

More worryingly is the fact that unemployment has been growing faster in our area than elsewhere in Scotland. From 2001 to 2005 unemployment in the Falkirk Council area was above the Scottish average. However, from 2005 until the autumn of 2008, we had a lower unemployment rate than Scotland as a whole. It is now above the Scotland rate again.

In line with this change, our unemployment is now the 11th highest among the 32 Scottish local authority areas, while at the start of 2008 it was only 16th highest.



Employment: The following graph shows that over the last ten years there has been a general growth in employment in the area, but these figures do not include the effect of the current recession. Based on past trends, the latest forecasts from SLIMS¹ show that the numbers in employment were expected to grow to over 63,500 by 2013, however, these forecasts were made before the current economic downturn and will require to be monitored in light of growing trends.



Source: NOMIS, Annual Business Inquiry, Crown Copyright

The ambitious “My Future’s in Falkirk” initiative, currently being reviewed, aims to create over 4,200 jobs by 2012.

Employment by sector: Our area and communities’ are less exposed to the crisis in the financial sector which in 2007 only employed 0.7% of the total in the Council area, compared to 5.5% in the East of Scotland as a whole. However, the 2001 Census showed that over 2,500 people commuted to jobs in the financial sector – mainly in Edinburgh and Stirling, and these people may be more vulnerable as a result of the downturn in that sector.

On the other hand, the construction industry which is also suffering severely in the recession is over-represented in the area with almost 6.8% employed in that sector in 2007 (5.7% in Scotland as a whole). The effects on the construction industry can be seen in the number of new housing sites where building has almost ceased and also in the increase in the number of the unemployed

¹ <http://www.slims.org.uk/aboutus.asp?h=profile>

who are seeking construction jobs – a number which has trebled in the last year indicating that unemployment has hit this sector hard.

Manufacturing has always been strongly represented in our area and 15.7% of employment is still in manufacturing compared to 9.2% in Scotland as a whole. However, in line with the rest of the country, manufacturing employment is declining. The main industries are related to the refinery and petro-chemical complex at Grangemouth together with vehicle manufacture, and timber processing.

As manufacturing has reduced over the last decade so the service industries have grown. The area's excellent transport links have encouraged the expansion of warehousing and distribution, with employment in this sector above the Scottish average. Asda have their Scottish distribution depot in Falkirk and Tesco now use Grangemouth as the destination for their daily rail freight deliveries to Scotland.

In 2011, the opening of the new Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert will increase the amount of employment in the health sector and in the longer term provide additional jobs for local people.

The public sector are the biggest employers in the area with the Council itself as the largest single employer in the area (in common with most local authorities in Scotland) with over 7,000 employees and the NHS the second largest employer. Other large public sector employers in the area are the Prison Service (Polmont Young Offenders Institution) and the Child Support Agency. 16.5% of total employment in the area is in the public sector compared to 23.2% in Scotland as a whole.

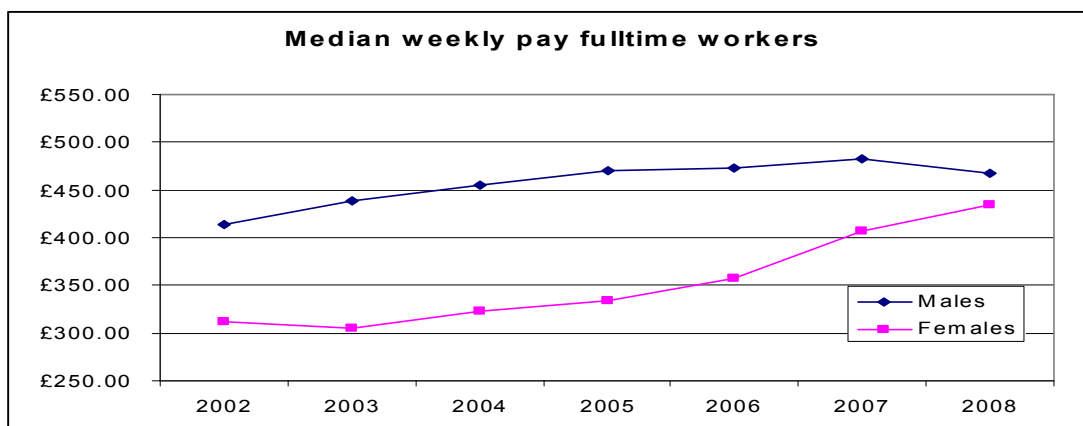
In the current economic climate, public sector jobs may be seen as more secure. However, budget pressures exist on all public sector employers. The UK Government recently announced the closure of HMRC offices in Grangemouth and Falkirk.

Economic activity: Economic activity rates in our area are above Scotland as a whole and have been for several years as the following table shows. Male rates exceed female rates but they are coming closer together with almost as high a proportion of the female population economically active as of the male population.

Year	Total		Males		Females	
	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland
2004/05	80.4	79.1	84.2	82.8	76.5	75.1
2005/06	81.9	79.3	86.1	82.9	77.5	75.5
2006/07	82.9	80.0	87.3	83.5	78.3	76.4
2007/08	81.6	79.9	83.7	83.5	79.3	76.2

Source: Annual Population Survey

Earnings: While pay for women remains below that of men, the following graph shows that the gap appears to have narrowed considerably in the Falkirk area in the last few years for full time employees. However in 2008, the male weekly pay rate for Falkirk residents fell below the Scottish average for the first time since 2002 while for women, the rate is now slightly higher than the Scottish average.



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Crown Copyright)

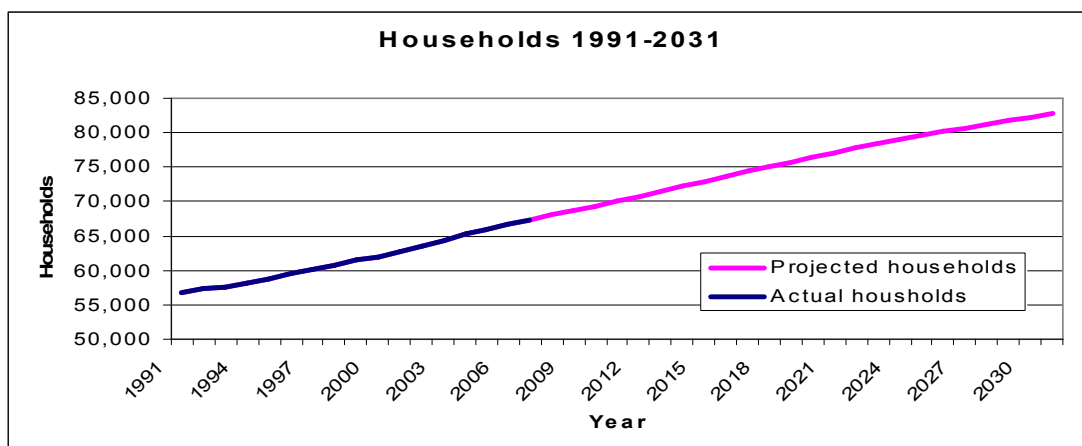
The current economic situation has highlighted the problems of debt and lack of financial resources. According to the Scottish Household Survey only 46% of Falkirk households have savings compared to over half of all Scottish households. On the other hand only 23% had taken out a loan in the previous year compared to 28% overall in Scotland. Thus levels of debt may be lower in our area than elsewhere. There is considerable interest in the levels of house repossessions, but what information there is at a local level suggests that numbers are small, although they may be expected to increase which has implications for the Council's Housing Service.

The current economic conditions make it very difficult to predict what might happen in the immediate future and it may be that circumstances will be significantly different from the recent past. The situation will need to be closely monitored.

Housing and Households

The growth in population has been mirrored by the growth in the housing stock and the number of households in the Council area. In fact, due to falling average household size, the number of households has been increasing at a much faster rate than the population. The number of households grew by 19% between 1991 and 2007 to 67,400 and is predicted to increase to 73,500 by 2011 and to nearly 83,000 by 2031. The increase in population coupled with a decrease in household size has increased pressure for housing in our area. The economic downturn and the crisis in the housing industry means we must be innovative in the way we meet these demands.

Household types: Much of the growth in the number of households has been and will continue to be, among single person households - from 22,500 single person households in 2006 to over 25,000 in 2011 and as many as 36,000 by 2031 or 44% of all households if present trends continue. Of these 40% are likely to be someone aged over 75. On the other hand, the number of households with children is predicted to decrease even though we anticipate a growth in the number of children in our area. This is mainly due to a continuing change in the type of households, with many more single people i.e. never married, separated or divorced, along with the increase of older people.



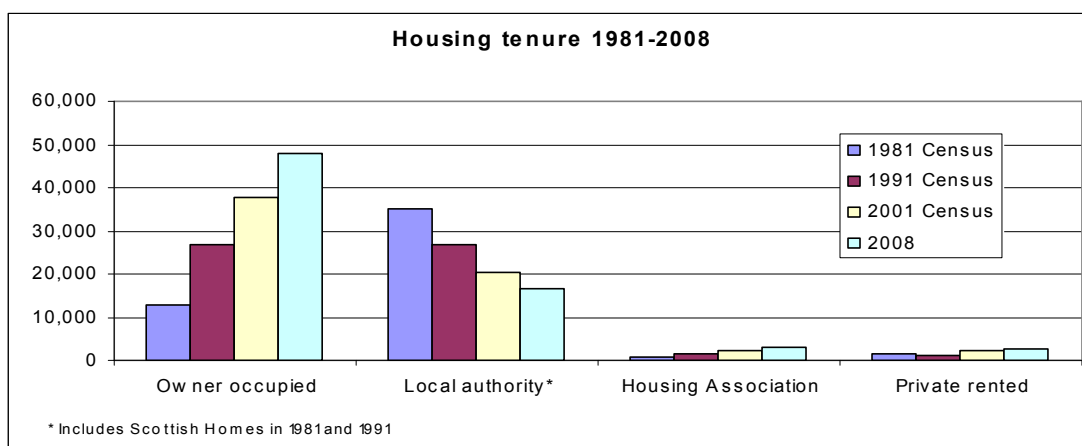
Source: General Register Office for Scotland (Crown Copyright)

House building: The increase in the number of households has largely mirrored the amount of new house building each year within the Council area. From an average of some 500 new houses per year in the 1980's, the level of house building increased to 600 per year in the 1990's but in 2002-2004 it reached 1,000 houses per year. The rate of new building has since fallen and it is expected to remain at a much lower level as long as the economic situation remains difficult. The current [Structure Plan](#) required almost 700 new houses to be completed each year over the period of the Plan (from 2001-2020) and sufficient land has been allocated to allow this growth to take place. Over the period 2009-12, the Council plans to build approximately 100 new homes for rent, whilst its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners have capacity to build over 500 new properties for a combination of renting and low cost home ownership. As noted earlier, we must now look at more innovative ways of providing housing for all our communities.

Housing Quality: The Council has recently commissioned a sample house condition survey covering all housing tenures. Results are expected to be available in summer 2009 and will provide valuable information on housing conditions that will allow the Council and its partners to plan what services can be made available to owners and landlords of properties that are in need of repair or adaptation. Approximately 2,100 properties will be surveyed which will be representative of housing stock in the area. We are committed to continuously upgrading our stock and support private owners to do the same.

Housing tenure: The following graph of housing tenure shows the substantial change which has taken place since 1981 when the Right to Buy legislation was introduced. While the total number of houses in the area has increased from just under 54,000 in 1981 to over 70,000 in 2008, the number of houses rented by the Council has declined from over 35,000 to just over 16,500, almost entirely due to Right to Buy sales.

In the same period, the vast majority of new houses built have been for owner occupation, which together with Right to Buy sales has resulted in an increase in owner occupation from around 13,000 houses (25%) to over 47,000 (68%). There has also been a small increase in the number of properties owned by RSLs, although some of this increase is due to the transfer of the Scottish Homes houses to RSLs. Private renting has also increased slightly since 1991 following many years of decline.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland Censuses (Crown Copyright), Falkirk Council, R&I Unit

This shift in the tenure pattern marks a significant social change and mirrors a similar change throughout the country. While the number of sales of council houses has fallen (largely because there are fewer left to sell and those who remain Council tenants are less likely to be able to buy), it is predicted that the number of council owned properties will continue to fall, to 13,600 by 2016, while the numbers of owner occupied houses will increase as most new build continues to be for owner occupation and the numbers will be augmented by the remaining Right to Buy sales. Falkirk Council has taken the decision to retain its own housing stock and not to transfer it to a RSL. This does mean Falkirk Council is one of the countries biggest landlords.

It seems unlikely that the recent economic problems will cause much change in this pattern, although there is some evidence of an increase in the private rental market as some people are unable to sell their homes. Equally, some developers have indicated an interest in selling properties to social landlords, but the scale of this will be dependent on the amount of funding which is available. In November, the Scottish Government announced that the Falkirk Council area was to receive £1.1m of funding to RSLs to purchase land for new affordable housing developments and to buy properties off the shelf. Funding to build new homes on the land acquired is now being pursued through the Council's SHIP (Strategic Housing Investment Programme) allocation.

The housing market: The Falkirk Council area is largely a self contained housing market. As with all other areas, our housing market has been affected by the recent credit crunch. The number of house sales in the first half of 2008 fell by 13% compared with the same period in 2007, having risen almost continually over the previous 10 years. The average house price in our area is very close to the Scottish average, having reached that level around 2000. Previously, prices in our area were generally below the Scottish average. Average house prices have also fallen slightly, from a peak in the second half of 2007 of £138,760 to £136,850 in the first half of 2008: -1.3%. This is however, less than the fall in prices in Scotland² (-7.5%) and in the UK as a whole (-12.3%).

Homelessness: There has been a 61% increase in homeless presentations over the period 2002-2003 to 2007-08 and this is exacerbating pressures on the available supply of affordable housing. A new homelessness strategy has recently been approved with the vision that by 2012, no one in the Falkirk Council area need be homeless. A key element of the strategy will be helping local

² HBOS House price index http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/04_12_08historicdata.xls

people explore a range of housing options that are available locally. It has been calculated that over the 10 year period 2007-2016, there will be an annual average shortfall of 145 units of affordable housing. In this context the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and the new Local Housing Strategy, which is being developed, will seek to increase the amount of affordable housing available in the area, including low cost home ownership and shared ownership opportunities, as well as affordable rented housing.

Specialist housing: In addition to affordable housing, we are committed to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of housing to meet special needs. This will include housing for the increasing number of elderly people and housing adapted to meet the needs of those with disabilities. This type of housing will need to be available in the private sector as well as provided by social landlords. There is already a stock of specialist housing for disabled people as well as Council and RSL properties which are allocated to older people. The Council also assists people with particular housing needs by funding adaptations to properties to allow them to continue to live in their present accommodation.

Transport and Infrastructure

Our area is fortunate to be well connected with excellent transport links to the rest of Scotland and worldwide. The area lies at the centre of the Scottish motorway and railway network. The recently opened Clackmannanshire Bridge provides a second crossing of the Forth linking the Council area with Fife, Clackmannanshire and beyond. This increases the area's connectivity with the rest of Scotland. Further upgrading of the road network including the replacement of the A80 with a motorway link and improvements to the Avon Gorge route, together with the proposed Grangemouth Freight Hub National Development (included in NPF2), will increase the area's connectivity further and make it an even more attractive place for living and for employers to locate in.

There are fast and frequent rail connections to both Glasgow and Edinburgh and there are plans to electrify the main Glasgow to Edinburgh line and make other improvements which will increase the frequency of the service. Rail services are also available to Stirling with connections further north and twice a day direct to London and Inverness. Rail freight traffic to Grangemouth remains important.

The area is only 20 minutes from Edinburgh airport which has recently overtaken Glasgow as the busiest in Scotland.

Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and largest deep sea container port. Container traffic has continued to grow and the port handles over 9 million tonnes of cargo per year. While the port is well placed to continue to prosper, any downturn in the economy may affect trade flowing through the terminal.

Because of the good transport links, commuting rates in our area are high. The 2001 Census showed over 22,000 out-commuters and 14,000 in-commuters. The main commuting links are with the two cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and also with the Council's five neighbouring local authority areas.

The Council's [transport strategy](#) seeks to achieve a balance in transport provision and *"to provide a transport network which allows people a reasonable choice of travel options as part of a safe, reliable, convenient,*

*accessible and sustainable transport system*³". Thus, we are looking to see an increase in sustainable travel, and the improved integration of modes of transport.

The Council was one of seven local authorities which were successful in the summer of 2008 in bidding for funding for its "Take the right route" project in the Larbert Stenhousemuir area which aims to achieve increased active travel and public transport use.

A transport strategy to support the opening of the new hospital in Larbert later in 2011 is being developed.

There have been restrictions on development opportunities over an extended period in the Banknock/Bonnybridge area due to sewage capacity constraints. Representations to Scottish Water through CoSLA and more regular liaison on Development Plan aspirations have assisted in addressing the issues.

Education

Educational deprivation: Looking at the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006, while only 19 (9.6%) of the 197 datazones⁴ in the Council area were in the worst 15% in Scotland for overall deprivation, 39 (20%) were in the worst 15% in Scotland on the education domain. The education deprivation domain includes the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications, 17-19 year olds enrolling in higher education, 16-18 year olds not in full time education, pupil performance at SQA stage 4 and pupil absences.

Adult qualifications: Only 28% of our population had qualifications at NVQ level 4 (degree level) and above in 2007 while the figure for Scotland was 33%. On the other hand, the same Annual Population survey showed that the number of people with no qualifications was very similar to the national average.

Schools: In 2009, the Council will complete its programme to rebuild all of our eight secondary schools. Two new primary schools have recently been completed and a third, an additional Roman Catholic primary school for the Stenhousemuir area, is in the final stages of planning. These will go some way towards meeting the current pressures on accommodation which exist in some parts of the Council area. These pressures are due to new housing developments, the expected increase in the number of pupils due to the rising birth rate and to recent and anticipated requirements for reductions in class sizes. Further improvements to the schools portfolio are planned and more may be required.

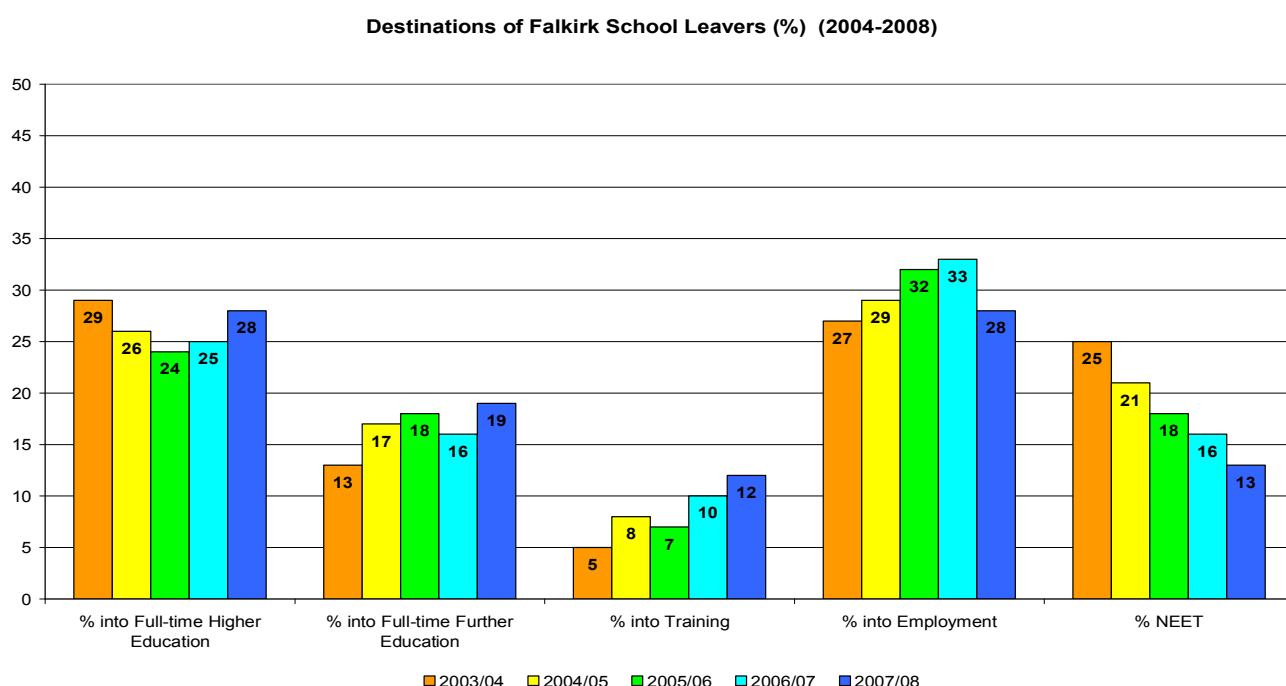
Educational attainment: Overall the attainment in our secondary schools is below the Scottish average for Standard Grades and Highers. This has been the case for several years and raising attainment and achievement remains a key priority for the partnership. The proportion of children attaining 5+ Standard Grades at level 4 or better by the end of S4 in 2007/08 was 71% compared to a Scottish figure of 76% and those achieving 3+ Highers by the end of S5 was 18% compared to an overall Scottish figure of 22%. In recent years schools have been providing new opportunities within the curriculum for young people to develop skills for life and skills for work and to gain a range of qualifications in addition to SQA examinations, such as ASDAN, Duke of Edinburgh awards, Skills for Work which are now becoming part of the SCQF framework.

³http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/transport_planning/local_transport_strategy.pdf

⁴ Datazones are a statistical geography with an average population of 750. There are 197 in the Falkirk Council area.

School Leaver Destinations: A priority for the Community Planning Partnership has been to increase the number of young people leaving school and moving into positive and sustainable destinations and reduce the numbers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). NEET levels have been reducing steadily over recent years. Some years ago the Council had the third highest NEET levels in the country but this has fallen from 25% of school leavers in 2004 to just 13% in 2008, better than the Scottish average of 14%.

Fewer school leavers go on to Further and Higher Education in Falkirk than the Scottish average. In 2008, 47% went on to Further and Higher Education compared to 56% in Scotland as a whole. However, 28% of school leavers went straight into employment compared to 25% nationally. We do know that the economic downturn may mean that there are fewer jobs available for our young people. Over the last few months youth unemployment has increased. We must ensure that school leaver destinations are sustained over the long term.



Source: National Statistics Publication

Further & Higher Education: Figures from the Scottish Funding Council show that while enrolments in Further Education have generally been increasing with a 12% increase overall in Scotland between 1998 and 2007, the number of enrolments of Falkirk Council area residents fell by 13% to 10,500.

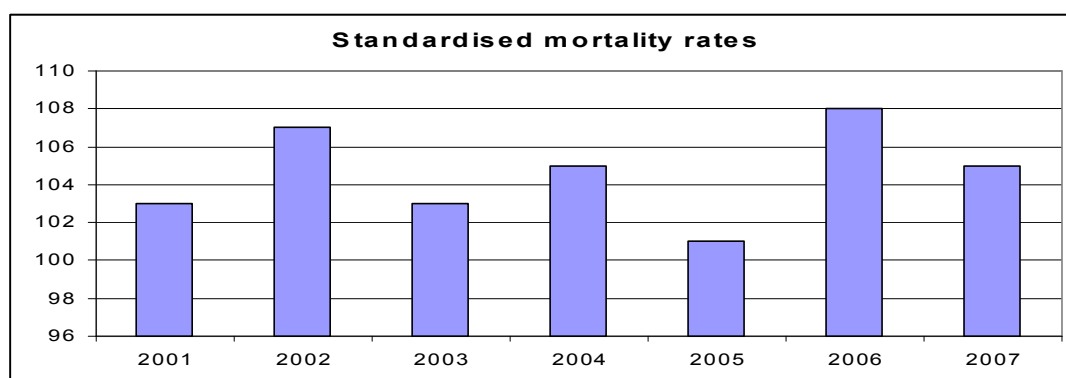
Forth Valley College provides places for over 10,000 students in Further Education and took over three quarters of all Falkirk Further Education enrolments

Health

Life expectancy: Life expectancy at birth in our area for 2005-2007 was very similar to the Scottish average at 74.9 years for men and 79.5 years for women. However, at age 65, life expectancy was below the Scottish figures at 15.9 years for men (compared to 16.1 years in Scotland as a whole) and 18.1 years for women (18.8 years is the Scottish average).

While life expectancy has increased over the last ten years, from 72.8 years for men in 1995-1997 and from 78.3 years for women, the Falkirk ranking has fallen compared to other local authority areas. In 1995-97, Falkirk ranked 18th for men and 20th for women out of the 32 councils in Scotland, but by 2005-07, this had fallen to 21st for men and 22nd for women. We understand that a growing older population will place increased pressure on our services – in particular health and social care services.

Standardised Mortality Rates: While the mortality rates from all the major causes of death have been decreasing for some time, and this trend is expected to continue, death rates in the Falkirk area remain above the Scottish average. There is no apparent trend to be identified, but Falkirk Standardised Mortality Rate (SMR) has been above 100 since 2001.



Source: Forth Valley Health Board, Director of Public Health Annual Reports

Standardised mortality for each of the main causes of death is also above the Scottish average. For the period 2003-2007, the SMR for cancer was 103 and for coronary heart disease it was 110. These figures were also above the average for Forth Valley and the other two Council areas in Forth Valley.

It is estimated 28.0% of adults smoke, compared to 27.3% in Scotland (16+). There have been 162 alcohol related deaths in the last five years, giving a death rate of 20.1 which is significantly better than (below) the Scotland average of 27.4. The proportion of the population hospitalised for drug related conditions is also better than average, with 125 patients discharged from hospital over the last three years.

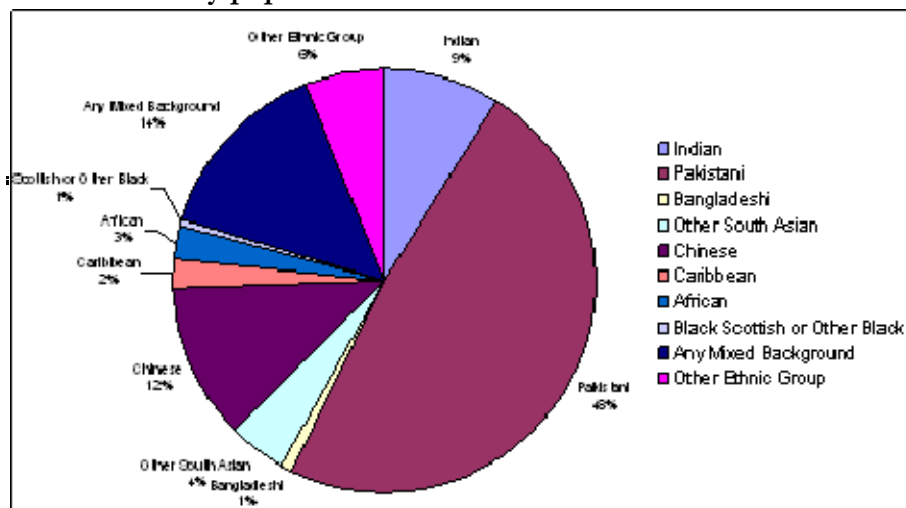
In addition to the issues noted above we have a lower than average number of women who breastfeeding. This is in addition to particular areas where the uptake in cervical smears is below average.

In 2009 the new Forth Valley hospital is due to open at Larbert. This will present a number of challenges in terms of access and employment. It will serve the whole of the Forth Valley area.

Diversity

Ethnicity: The 2001 Census showed that only 1% of the population of Falkirk was from an ethnic minority, just under 1500 people⁵. This however, represents a significant increase from less than 1,000 (0.6%) in 1991. The largest ethnic community in Falkirk is the Pakistani population which makes up 48% of the total. This followed by the mixed, Chinese and Indian populations (see graph below).

Ethnic minority population of Falkirk – 2001 Census



Migrant workers: In the last few years there has been a considerable amount of interest in the number of migrant workers coming into the country, particularly from the new EU accession countries. The Department of Work and Pensions has information on the number of National Insurance numbers issued to overseas nationals. This provides an estimate of the number of migrant workers that initially register in an area. There is no record of whether they stay in the area or even if they stay in the country.

This evidence shows that there has been a substantial increase in the number of migrant workers registering from 350,000 in Great Britain in 2002/03 to over 660,000 in 2005/06 – an increase of almost 90%. The figures also show that the number of migrant workers from the EU accession states coming to Scotland increased from 140 in 2002/03 to 20,970 in 2005/06 which accounts for a very large proportion of the overall increase.

The table below shows the number of migrant workers who have registered at a Job Centre Plus office in the Falkirk area in the last few years together with comparative information for other geographical areas. Over 900 migrant workers have registered in the Falkirk area in the last four years.

⁵http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/research_information/PDFs/census_information/No4.pdf

Resident migrant registrations

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Total
Falkirk	150	140	180	460	930
Forth Valley	400	420	530	1,310	2,660
Scotland	14,520	15,500	22,070	40,710	92,800
Great Britain	349,240	370,750	439,730	662,390	1,822,110

Source: Department of Work and Pensions

This table shows very clearly the increase in the number of migrant workers registering in 2004/05 and 2005/06 compared to the two previous years - for which the figures were very similar. In the Falkirk area, over three times as many migrant workers registered in 2005/06 as in 2002/03, with a similar increase across the whole Forth Valley area and in Scotland as a whole. The increase across Great Britain was substantially less in percentage terms.

The table below shows the proportion of the working age population in Falkirk who were migrant workers for the last four years.

Migrant workers in Falkirk as a percentage of the working age population

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Migrant workers in Falkirk as a % of the working age population	0.17%	0.15%	0.20%	0.49%

Source: Department of Work and Pensions

This shows that the proportion of the working age population who are migrant workers registered that year is a very small percentage of the total, but has increased, as might be expected, as the numbers have increased. The proportion in Falkirk remains well below the Scottish average of 1.3% in 2005/06 and is much lower than the 3.8% of Edinburgh's working age population who were migrant workers. Falkirk ranked 23rd out of 32 councils in 2005/06 in terms of the proportion of its working age population who were migrant workers registered that year.

Religion: For the first time the 2001 Census asked questions about religious affiliation both current religion and religion of upbringing.

This showed that almost half the population of our area said that they were Church of Scotland with 12% Roman Catholic. 5% belonged to other Christian groups, such as Methodists or Baptists and only 1% belonged to other religions. Half of these were Muslims. On the other hand, 29% of the population said they had no religious affiliations.

The question on religion of upbringing allows comparisons with current religion. The following table shows the differences between the religions which people currently say they belong to and that in which they were brought up. This shows a decrease in Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and Other Christian affiliations but a large increase in the numbers of people with no religion. There is also an increase in other religious groups, albeit from a very low base.

Current religion and religion of upbringing

Religion	Current	Of upbringing	Difference	
			No	%
Church of Scotland	70,042	77,470	- 7,428	- 9.6%
Roman Catholic	17,549	18,741	- 1,192	- 6.4%
Other Christian	7,134	8,054	- 920	- 11.4%
Other	1,586	1,199	+ 387	+ 32.3%
None	41,751	28,422	+ 13,329	+ 46.9%

Disability: The demographics of the Falkirk Council area highlight that 6.4 % of our residents are disabled. This is the same as the Scottish average. Broken down by gender, 6.4% of Falkirk's and Scotland's male population claim Incapacity Benefit of Severe Disablement Allowance. For females, the figures are 6.5% for Falkirk and 6.3% for Scotland.

Gender: The 2007 mid year estimates of the population show that there is a gender split of 51.5% female and 48.5% male. The gender split of working aged residents is 51.2% female and 48.8% male. This is comparable to the areas workforce which currently sits at 52% female and 48% male. Although no current figures are available, it seems likely that the numbers will have increased further in the last seven years.

Environment

84% of residents rate Falkirk as a good place to live. This increases each time we conduct our biannual Council tax survey. The area is home to several important ecological sites: seven nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest; three European designated sites comprising of 2 Special Protection Areas for birds and a Special Area of Conservation for flora and fauna; and a RAMSAR site, an international wintering ground for many bird species. There are also many locally important areas requiring protection from development so that they can continue to be enjoyed by all our residents. The area also sits at the heart of the Central Scotland Forest project.

According to the [SEPA flood map](#), significant parts of our area could be subject to flooding along the Forth estuary and along some of our river valleys. To help protect the area, a routine inspection and clearing regime has been put in place at sensitive watercourses to help mitigate the risk of flooding. A major flood prevention scheme commenced in Bo'ness in 2008 and a programme of investigations is underway to assess and quantify the risks at other locations across the Council area.

The amount of vacant and derelict land has been decreasing, from 282ha in 2002 to only 138.5ha in 2008 as land has been regenerated and put to new uses. However, a significant proportion of the remaining land has been in this condition for a considerable period of time.

Our record on waste recycling is good. In 2007/08 36% of waste was recycled or composted compared to Scottish average of 31.7% and the proportion has been increasing year on year from 19% in 2004/05.

The Council, in our capacity as an Energy Conservation Authority, is required to meet target reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions across all housing tenures of around 30% over 10 - 15 years. In the period to March 2007, the Council reported a reduction in CO2 emissions of 24.1% which is an 8% improvement over a 2 year period demonstrating the investment the Council has made in improving the energy efficiency of its stock.

Heritage and Tourism

The iconic Falkirk Wheel, which was built as part of the Millennium project to reopen the Forth and Clyde and Union canals, now attracts over 500,000 visitors each year.

In a partnership project with British Waterways and the Central Scotland Forest Trust, the Council secured £25m of Big Lottery funding in 2008 for the approximately £43m Helix project which will transform the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth, creating a new landscape with iconic public art works, a new canal link and boat moorings, contemporary park, community allotments and improved path networks connecting communities.

These modern attractions add to the historic attractions of the area. The Antonine Wall achieved World Heritage status in 2008 and will require to be protected and promoted. Other heritage attractions such as Callendar House, Blackness Castle, the Pineapple, the Hippodrome and many others of local rather than national significance remain in need of heritage protection and promotion as tourist attractions. The Category A listed Hippodrome in Bo'ness received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a wider Townscape Heritage Initiative. The Hippodrome was Scotland's first purpose built cinema and following a major refurbishment programme opened again in April 2009.

Our location in the heart of Scotland makes its position ideal for day trips and this has been the focus of tourism promotion to date. The Council is pro-active in promoting the area as an events venue and delivers Big in Falkirk – Scotland's National Street Arts Festival which attracts thousands of visitors each year. This year Big in Falkirk celebrates its 10th anniversary and will form the cornerstone of the area's Homecoming celebrations.

In October 2008, we successfully hosted the annual National Mod, the major Gaelic festival in Scotland, bringing many visitors from across the country, and internationally, to the area.

The area also has significant and growing hotel capacity for both business and leisure markets. There are currently a total of some 750 bedrooms in medium/large hotels (20+ rooms).

Culture and Leisure

Taking part in culture and leisure activities helps to promote good health and the Council has a wide variety of facilities including the National Athletics Stadium at Grangemouth with both indoor and outdoor facilities. The Stadium has been included in the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games (LOCOG) Guide for facilities for Olympic athletes training and preparation camps.

The Council has recently opened a new library in Polmont and a replacement one in Stenhousemuir as part of the town centre regeneration. Increasingly, use is being made of online access to information held in the libraries and free wireless internet access is available in all libraries. Libraries take an active part in community learning, working with children and young people and their families, as well as older people, in areas such as reader development, literacy, digital and family learning.

Cultural performance activities take place in Falkirk Town Hall and, increasingly, within communities. There is an active arts development programme, particularly for young people, including opportunities for participation in music, dance, drama, film and media activities. A

successful Youth Film event was held in June 2008 and one of the films showcased as this event was selected competitively to be shown at the National Media Museum, Bradford, as part of the Co-operative Young Film-makers 2008.

Leisure activities are also targeted at improving life experiences of young people. There is a wide range of sport and leisure development activities taking place during school holiday periods, evening and weekends e.g. Youth Only Zone at Grangemouth Sports Complex. These activities not only encourage people to become more active but play an important role in supporting some young people away from anti social behaviour activities. We also work in partnership to encourage people to be more active more often through such schemes as our GP exercise referral scheme.

Community Safety

Our area has a lower crime rate than other parts of Scotland with only 642 crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2007/08 compared to a Scottish figure of 749 and the rate fell by 4% compared to the previous year. Almost all types of crime are below the Scotland average, for example, the rate of domestic housebreaking was 28 per 10,000 households compared to 34 per 10,000 households in Scotland as a whole. The clear up rate for crimes is well above the Scottish average, with 57% of all crimes being cleared up, compared to only 48% of all Scottish crimes solved.

Vandalism was one of the most frequently reported crimes but numbers are falling, from 3,118 incidents in 2006/07 to 2,772 in 2007/08. More people in our area are satisfied with what local agencies are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour (45%) than in Scotland as a whole (39%).

Fear of crime is often higher than actual crime. While this can sometimes be a reflection of national issues rather than local problems, we understand the impact it has on individuals and communities. In 2008, 89% of residents in the Falkirk area said that they feel very or fairly safe in their local area during the day although this dropped to 51% at night. Both these figures represent an improvement compared to the survey carried out two years previously.

Along with the rest of Great Britain, road accident and casualty numbers have been decreasing since the latter peaked in 1966. In the Falkirk Council area, an average of 105 road users were seriously injured or killed per year in the period 1994-1998. By the period 2003-2007, however, the average had fallen by 30% to 73 per year.

The rate of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population in our area is consistently below the Scottish average. In 2007/08 the rate in our area was 5.68 compared to over 7.5 in 2006/07. In addition the rate of wilful fires and hoax 999 calls are reducing. We have worked closely with young people in our area to understand the impact of fire raising and have a thriving youth intervention programmes.

Regeneration

Falkirk town is the main administrative and retailing centre for the area. It has a vibrant town centre which has been popular with shoppers for its mix of usual high street retailers and specialist shops.

Throughout our area, some 10,400 people are employed in the wholesale and retail sectors. However, recent closures of retail premises due to the collapse of some national chains such as

Woolworths have left gaps in our high streets which could prove difficult to fill in the current climate. The area is also suffering from increased competition from neighbouring centres such as Livingston and new out of town centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Council has commissioned a new retail survey as part of its revision to the Local Development Plan which will provide up to date information on local shopping patterns to update the survey carried out some ten years ago.

Work has started on the regeneration of the area's district centres. Developer partners have been appointed for all four centres (Bo'ness, Denny, Grangemouth and Stenhousemuir). The regeneration of Stenhousemuir town centre is nearing completion. During 2008 a new library, park facilities and retail provision, including a new Asda store opened. The Bo'ness Townscape Heritage initiative continues to deliver economic regeneration and built heritage conservation to Bo'ness town centre. Regeneration masterplans prepared for Bo'ness foreshore, Denny and Grangemouth are at an earlier stage in the development process, with community consultation completed. Planning applications for each are expected in the near future.

However, with the economic downturn, investment in regeneration has slowed with an extension to the timescales for the delivery of the Falkirk Gateway (an ambitious project of commercial, retail and leisure uses on the east side of Falkirk).

The economy of our area faces significant challenges as the "credit crunch" and resultant economic downturn takes effect. The economic recession during 2009 and beyond could inhibit the regeneration of our local economy and blight prospects for business, investment and jobs. Action has been initiated at national level to assist business and the economy however concerted action is also needed at local level to mitigate the effects of recession.

As a partnership we are keen to act on behalf of local businesses, people and communities, leading the response to minimise the impact of the economic downturn and maintain the momentum of regeneration. We understand the potential impact of the economic downturn and we look to the area's economic strengths, the actions underway currently to bolster the area's economy and the key actions we will be required to deliver, to aid the response to the downturn and ensure our area's continued development.

In terms of housing regeneration, the priority areas identified in the 2004/09 LHS have now largely been addressed albeit there is a need for on going intensive housing management to underpin the improvements made. The next LHS will identify future housing regeneration priorities.

Deprivation

While not suffering from the same concentrations of deprivation as experienced in the cities and some other local authorities, there are still pockets of deprivation in most of the towns in the Council area. Following the 2001 Census, the Partnership carried out its own deprivation analysis which identified eleven Priority Areas. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) published in 2004 confirmed much of this analysis and this was reinforced when it was updated in the SIMD 2006 which identified ten areas of deprivation – datazones in the worst 15% in Scotland - which almost exactly matched our own analysis.

We are now working through the Fairer Scotland Fund in the following ten areas⁶:

- Bo' ness
- Camelon
- Dawson
- Denny
- Grangemouth
- Hallglen
- Maddiston
- Westquarter
- Callendar Park Flats, Falkirk
- Middlefield, Falkirk

Each of these areas has its own characteristics and vary in size from a population of just 600 to almost 3,000. Various projects and initiatives are underway in these areas. In the SIMD 2006 almost 13,000 people lived in an area ranked in the worst 15% in Scotland – 8.8% of the total population of our area.

We expect to review these areas when the new SIMD is published in the autumn of 2009. However it is recognised that many of those who suffer from deprivation do not live in the most deprived areas.

There are a significant number of people in our area living on working age benefits. 5,420 people of working age (aged 16-59) were on Income Support in May 2008 and 7,560 on Incapacity Benefit. This represents 6.0% and 8.4% of the working age population respectively and compares with the Scottish proportions of 6.9% and 8.4%.

The current state of the economy, with increased costs of fuel etc has an impact on people within our communities and in particular people in our poorer communities. We are monitoring the situation to ensure we have the right balance of services when people most need them. This is particularly important when people require advice for debt and money problems.

- Joint Statistics for the Council's Community Advice Service and the 3 CAB's which cover the Falkirk Council area highlight that in the third quarter October 08– December 08, there was a total of £12.2 million of debt over 374 new cases compared to £6.74 million of debt and 262 cases for the same period in 2007. It is anticipated that there will be a significant demand on these Services in 2009.
- The Council's Homelessness Service has indicated that there has been an increase in demand for Debt Advice by people being either made homeless or are at risk of being made homeless due to arrears
- Council Tax collection rates are only slightly down on the same period last year. However there are some early indications that that the economic down turn will have an impact on Council Tax collection rates.
- Rent arrears are generally in line with the same period in 2007. Again early indications are that the economic downturn will have an adverse effect on rent arrears.

⁶ For further information on these areas see:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_regeneration/priority_areas_for_regeneration.aspx

Our area and the economic downturn

The UK economy is undergoing a significant and deep recession. The UK Government anticipates an economic decline of 1.25% during 2009. The impact of this decline is already being felt by our businesses and communities. While the long term impact of this recession cannot yet be properly forecast we know:

- Unemployment, which early in 2008 fell to below the Scottish average, its lowest level for 25 years, has increased in the past year and is now 4.1%, with 3,902 people unemployed (Feb 2009).
- Investment in regeneration projects has slowed. The timescales for delivery of key projects in Bo'ness and Falkirk Gateway have had to be extended due to reduced demand and capacity for investment.
- Several local companies have announced redundancies or plan to reduce staff levels. Many local companies experience difficulties in accessing funds to maintain cash flow or progress new investment. Additional problems result from increased energy costs or supply chains fragmenting.
- Other evidence of economic stress has been witnessed in reduced trading activity in town centres and increased claims for hardship relief. A substantial drop in house purchases has been witnessed and enquiries for business properties have reduced.
- It is anticipated that 2009 will show increases in unemployment, further decline in business confidence and activity and lower levels of investment.

Despite this, our economy has substantial strengths. Partners locally demonstrate resilience and a resolve to face the economic challenge in the year ahead:

- Our economy is strong and diverse, with sectoral strengths in petrochemicals, engineering, food and drink and logistics.
- Falkirk's economy includes major companies such as Alexander Dennis Ltd, BP, Ineos, Forth Ports, Asda and Kemfine. Many companies compete successfully in markets where the recession's impact will be less significant and where opportunities for business growth can be exploited.
- Public sector investment programmes in new schools, housing, health, and roads are likely to 'cushion' some of the impacts of recession, particularly in construction.
- The area has capacity to respond to investment opportunities that arise and can exploit the prospects for economic growth to return. We are well-located, have a growing population, a strong commercial and industrial base and presents many excellent development opportunities.
- Recent business surveys have demonstrated that, despite the economic challenge, local companies remain fairly positive about levels of sales, investment and jobs in the coming year.
- A solid partnership exists between the public and private sectors in our area to ensure our response is proactive and effective.

The Response to the Economic Downturn

The economic downturn demands a response by many partners, in the public and private sectors. We recognise the leadership role the partnership and in particular the Council has and utilising this to harness local capacity to address the economic challenge is vital. There is a need to:

- Exploit opportunities for investment and, despite the financial pressures, maintain expenditure locally, particularly in the hard-pressed construction sector, to upgrade local infrastructure and maintain the momentum of regeneration projects.
- Manage the impact on local companies, assisting them to access business support in the form of business advice, grant and loan funding and networking opportunities.
- Ensure that local organisations target their efforts to reduce the impact of unemployment, guiding people to available jobs and other assistance, while minimising the impact for those hardest to reach.

Falkirk Council is a significant player in the provision of business property within the local economy. Our portfolio of industrial, office and retail space comprises over 800 properties and generates a rental income of around £4.5 million. As such there are potentially things we could do for specific businesses that are our tenants. While this approach would no doubt be welcomed by those tenants, we would have to have due regard to the financial history and viability of the business concerned. The implications for our own budgets, which is being stretched during the recession, will also be a factor. Such action would also only help a small number of businesses.

It is considered that a more comprehensive and targeted approach to the impact of the downturn is needed. The economic recession will impact many communities, individuals and businesses within the Council area and this demands a joint response by all partners. This response must build upon the existing commitments that have been initiated to develop our economy via 'My Future's in Falkirk'. It must progress a set of key actions in the following areas to address the economic challenge.

Business Support:

Through the actions of the Business Gateway, Falkirk Council and Scottish Enterprise, a range of support services are available for business start-up and growth. Strong links have been established between the business community in Falkirk and the support network via the Falkirk Business Panel. Action is currently underway to review our approach to business support services with the aim of establishing a new "one-stop" service for business in our area. However there is plainly an urgent need to bolster support to businesses at this time. It is therefore proposed to extend local business support services including those delivered through the Business gateway and in the Joint Working Agreement currently operated with FEAT.

In addition to existing business support programmes, the Council will invest £100,000 to:

- a) Promote a package of local business support assistance delivered via the Business Gateway and the Joint Working Agreement with FEAT to aid companies adversely affected by the recessions and, by engaging with the Falkirk Business Panel, conduct networking opportunities to help address the issues involved;
- b) Assist local retailers, by asserting the value of shopping locally, promoting town centres, and progressing town centre regeneration;
- c) Review the Council's responsiveness to business in its advice services, speed of decision-making, delegation and exercise of regulatory powers; and
- d) Initiating a programme to promote local tourism, including upgrades to tourist signage, local events etc.

Transport, Infrastructure & Investment

Our area is well-located in Scotland. However there are significant constraints to access for its key economic assets including the Grangemouth Freight Hub, the Petrochemical complex and business locations. The funding of infrastructure works has also proven to be a significant constraint to regeneration investment. Work is currently underway to promote improved transport links and maintain investment that reflects the significance of Falkirk to the national economy. Meanwhile it is important to maintain investment levels in the local economy. Investments by the public sector in new schools, affordable housing etc. will help to maintain the buoyancy of the local construction sector and downstream industries.

In addition the Council will:

- (i) Pursue the case for accelerated capital investment under the recently announced Scottish Government capital programme fund to upgrade infrastructure links in the Falkirk Council area; and
- (ii) Promote investment in new affordable housing and stimulate new development through construction of housing for rent and, in partnership with local RSLs and other housing agencies, deliver new homes for rent or low cost ownership.

Business Locations

The provision of sites and premises for business is a key priority for the Partnership and projects are underway to ensure competitive business locations are available for investment and business growth. Successful schemes have been completed at Alcan, Wholeflats and Bo'ness. However for some schemes, infrastructure, Section 75 requirements and other market constraints have delayed investment. As a result, a responsive and targeted approach is required to ensure that a range of business locations is available to respond when the economy regenerates.

Additionally the Council will:

- (i) Seek to accelerate £600,000 of its planned investment in business property through the capital programme;
- (ii) Adopt a flexible response to maintain investment in regeneration schemes, extending timescales for delivery and reviewing upfront infrastructure commitments; and
- (iii) Extend the flexibility of the Council's approach to planning — reviewing its approach to Section 75 agreements attaching to planning consents. In addition, we will also be re-evaluating the impact of the impending recession as a material consideration in determining planning applications to attract investment and maintain jobs.

Assisting the workforce

It is important to ensure that we maintain a skilled and flexible workforce and that the impact of the recession on local people in terms of unemployment, financial exclusion and homelessness is minimised. Considerable effort has been directed in recent years to promote opportunities for young people to access the labour market. This effort will be maintained, however additional actions by the Council will be taken to:

- (i) Review access to jobs locally and redundancy support services to ensure a continuing co-ordinated response to unemployment;

- (ii) Assisting local companies to access training advice and support, particularly to engage young people in work based training and/or apprenticeship programmes;
- (iii) Engage money advice and social services to assist in directing enquiries for increased support and assistance to meet local need.

Taking the Plan Forward

Importantly, this Action Plan will not divert us from our long-term vision of a robust, diverse and thriving local economy. The current strategy is being reviewed and a revised version will be brought forward next year, outlining the longer term ambitions for the area.

The actions proposed for the economic downturn are targeted, short term and involve all Council Services and partners. It is anticipated that, in addition to current commitments, the additional actions proposed in this action plan will involve a commitment of £700,000. These actions have the intended effect of managing the impact of the recession across our area, whilst enabling the area's economy to respond for the longer term, exploiting opportunity and building on the area's undoubted strengths.

FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

National Outcome One - We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) The Antonine Wall was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July this year, following being chosen as the UK's nomination in February 2008. Following the announcement, the area received a great deal of press attention, given that some of the longest and best preserved stretches of the Wall can be found in our area. Work is now ongoing to ensure the area takes advantage of the World Heritage Site status. This is in addition to the Falkirk Wheel now being Scotland's 8th most popular visitor attraction.
- (ii) The Helix was awarded £25 million from the Big Lottery's Living Landmarks programme. In addition, the Council has also committed significant amounts of funding to this project, which has recently seen the appointment of design teams who will be responsible for further developing this exciting initiative.
- (iii) While we have seen a decrease in the town centre ranking of Falkirk, principally due to new out of town retail parks being considered in these stats and significant development activity in other town centres. Our position as a market town remains strong. Falkirk Town centre was awarded Business Improvement District status in May 2008. This will ensure the town can continue to develop and grow.
- (iv) The Council took the decision to reduce car parking charges in Falkirk Town centre. This has ensured our town centre will be a more attractive destination for shoppers and commuters alike.
- (v) The plans for regenerating our other town centres continue to develop. At Stenhousemuir Town Centre we opened the first shop units open and progressed the library and further shops, public realm and public art programmes. Consultations were completed to finalise the master plans for the development of Denny and Grangemouth Town centres.
- (vi) The Council launched the delivery phase of the 'Forth Dimension' a major heritage tourism project in conjunction with Clackmannanshire Council and the Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery. This project seeks to enhance the Forth Valley Museums status in the tourism economy by exploiting the potential of the areas advantageous geographical position and the strength of its heritage and existing museum collections.
- (vii) During 2007/08 the number of business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days reached 88.7% compared to 65.9% the previous year.
- (viii) We progressed business property projects, including the regeneration of the former Alan site and creation of Bo'ness Business Centre, commencing work on new offices at Wholeflats and completing disposal of sites for development at Callendar Park and Central Park business sites.
- (ix) The underlying trend of visitor figures at Callendar House continued to rise with an increase of 14% in local visitors across the entire year.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy (CP)	Net number and rate of new businesses formed in local authority area on an annual basis	+ 70 180 per 100,000 population	+ 185 259 per 100,000 population	At least Scottish average 2007 – 283 per 100,000 population	At least Scottish average
Ensured our profile reflects our area as a destination of choice (CP)	Total Gross Added Value of businesses in the area	£2,112m -2004	£2,203m – 2005 – latest available	Increase	Increase
	Total business stock	3,889	3,951	Increase	Increase
Increased business investment, innovation and competitiveness and	No of occupied business properties as a % of the total	98.6%	97.3%	Maintain above 95%	Maintain above 95%

the diversification of our economy (SCP)	Total business stock in priority industries e.g. chemicals, construction, financial services etc	1162	1204	Increase	Increase
Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the area to attract new investment (SCP)	RSA awards accepted / paid	4	3	Increase	Increase
	Average no and value	£1m	£620,000		
Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the areas as a culture and leisure destination (SCP)	Business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days	65.9%	88.7%	95%	95%
	Increasing the total visitor expenditure to the area (per calendar year)	£76 m	Data not yet published	Increase	Increase
	Increasing the number of bed nights taken up by tourism related visitors (per calendar year)	1.27m	Data not yet published	Increase	Increase
Improved the image and quality of the physical environment including town centres (SCP)	Falkirk Town Centre national ranking per CACI	10 th in Scotland	15 th in Scotland	Improve	Improve
	Total area of Vacant and Derelict land	52ha		Reduce	Reduce
	Total	90ha			
		142ha	138.5ha		
	Carriageway condition - % of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	54% Falkirk ranked 25 th in 2006/07	35% Indicator definition was changed. Falkirk ranked 12 th in 2007/08	Below 35%	Maintain
Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)					
<p>Progress in reducing Vacant and Derelict land from 2002 to 2007 is dealt with in the Development Plan Monitoring Report Spring 2008.</p> <p>A Service Review of Roads Services including carriageway condition maintenance is in progress.</p> <p>Falkirk Action Plan – Economic Downturn - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/news/PDFs/economic_downturn.pdf</p>					

National Outcome Two - We will realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.					
<p>Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :</p> <p>(i) In 2007/08 86.8% of young people left school for a positive destination from a total of 1,722 and means the % of leavers entering a positive destination has reached a five year high. Over the last five years the % of young people entering a positive destination after leaving school has increased by 12.4%. While the number of young people entering further and higher education has increased from last year it is still below the Scottish average by 9%. Improving the chances of young people has been one of our partnerships key priorities over the last number of years.</p> <p>(ii) The Community Benefits in Procurement programme has derived 24 apprenticeship and skill-seeker placements as part of the new secondary school replacement programme. A further 25 placements are planned for 2008/09, as part of other contracts and also partner agreements with Link Housing for new housing. An additional 35 placements are projected in the following years.</p> <p>(iii) A total of 644 people were engaged in the Council's employment and training programmes in 2007/08.</p> <p>(iv) The Council secured the transfer of responsibility for the management of the Forth Valley Business Gateway contract. The Council worked to ensure the transfer of responsibilities from Scottish Enterprise took place timeously. Falkirk Council also has taken the lead for the Forth Valley area in the business gateway. The number of Volume Start ups within the Forth Valley area in the first three months of operation performed ahead of target and above the Scottish average.</p> <p>(v) The Council and our partners have also sought to stimulate local employment. In 2007/08 the Council supported 278 new business start ups through the Business Gateway. The Council also increased the uptake of work based training to 560 in 2007/08, compared to 432 the previous year. The Council also increased the number of modern apprentices and skill seekers it managed by 13% in the same period. With Council support a total of 729 jobs have been created or secured in 2007/08.</p> <p>(vi) We have expanded the range of funding, exhibiting selling and networking opportunities for local artists and crafts people.</p> <p>(vii) The Partnership has prioritised £3.4 of the Fairer Scotland Fund to ensure that people in our most disadvantaged areas can access employment and training opportunities. A particular focus of this has been on young people leaving school for a positive destination.</p>					
Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
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)	No of claimants 15,150 101.2 per 1,000 population 161.9 per 1,000 working age population	No of claimants 14,890 98.8 per 1,000 population 154.9 per 1,000 working age population	Reduce	Reduce
Increase the number of people in jobs particularly the young and long term unemployed (SCP)	Employment Rate	78.6%	78.5%	Increase	Increase
Increase lifetime earning potential for all our citizens (SCP)	Number of community benefit in procurement programmes with number of jobs and beneficiaries	0	24	60	Increase
	The proportion of school leavers in a positive destination In worst 15% SMID (FSF)	84% n/a	86.8% 75.7%	Increase	Increase

	% of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (FSF)	19%	16%	Reduce	Reduce
	Reducing the number of unemployed people relative to the Scottish average	Falkirk 2.1% Scotland 2.2% Sept 07	Falkirk 2.6% Scotland 2.5% Sept 08	Reduce	At or lower than the Scottish average.
	Increasing satisfaction of business panel with events	93%	TBC	Maintain	Maintain
	Increasing the number of business start up support from the Council through national business gateway	300	278	300	Maintain
	Increasing the uptake of work based training provision provided by the Council	432	560	600	Maintain
	Increasing the numbers of new starts on national training programmes	201 150	227 600	300 600	Maintain
	Increasing the number of jobs created or secured by business development community planning activities	684	729	Increase	Increase
	% of working age people receiving job related training in the 13 weeks prior to survey	23.3%	19%	Increase	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Falkirk Action Plan – Economic Downturn - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/news/PDFs/economic_downturn.pdf</p> <p>More Choices, More Chances – Reports to Falkirk Council</p> <p>http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B4CFB454-6553-4959-B03A-9F13F12FD5CD/0/MABrochure300707.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/community_schools/community_schools.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/employment_and_training/training_opportunities/training_opportunities.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Three - We are better educated, more skilled and more successful renowned for our research and innovation.

- (i) The Business Panel continues to be optimistic about the future of the Council area. From the latest survey 92% of businesses think the Falkirk Council area is a good place to be located and that they will continue to consolidate and expand over the coming year.
- (ii) The Council opened new primary schools in Kinnaird and Maddiston thus ensuring our youngest pupils have the highest quality learning environment. This is in addition to the planned replacement of our remaining secondary schools. This programme will mean all secondary schools will have been rebuilt within the last 10 years.
- (iii) In 2007/08 schools reported that young people were engaged in 287 entrepreneurial activities, 17 of which were Fair Trade activities. This represents an increase of 16% on the previous year's figures. Schools continue to link with local businesses to promote Enterprise in Education with a total of 427 partnerships established. Carrongrange School was only one of 10 in Scotland to be recognised as socially enterprising school at an awards ceremony earlier in summer 2008. It was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the most enterprising special schools category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.
- (iv) The Council and our partners became an early implementer of 16+ learning choices model launched by the Government in Feb 2008. This will ensure all young people leaving school will be offered arrangements appropriate to their needs e.g. training, employment, further education or indeed continuing at school by December 2010. This is one of the most ambitious schemes of this nature in Scotland. In addition the Council has developed new progression pathways for those young people who need pre apprentice provision. To date this new opportunity has supported 406 young people of which 93% moved into a positive outcome.
- (v) A new business unit opened in Bo'ness to offer modern accommodation for small businesses. In addition further units are under construction at Wholeflats in Grangemouth.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our area will be recognised as having a culture of aspiration and ambition (CP) Support lifelong learning in the community (SCP)	The % of school leavers moving into				
	Higher education	25%	28%	28%	28%
	Further education	16%	19%	20%	20%
	Training	10%	12%	7%	7%
	Employment	33%	28%	31%	31%
	Diversity in sectoral employment: - numbers and percentage.				
	Wholesale and retail;	11,000 – 18.9%	10,400 – 17.6%	Monitor	Monitor
	Manufacturing;	9,100 – 15.6%	9,300 – 15.7%		
	Health and Social Work;	9,000 – 15.4%	9,100 – 15.4%		
	Public Administration;	5,500 – 9.4%	5,600 9.4%		
	Real estate, renting business activities	5,200 - 8.9%	5,900 – 10%		
	Other industries	18,600 – 31.8%	18,900 – 3%		
	% of school leavers offered a guaranteed a positive destination	-	-	50% 2008 75% 2009 100% 2010	100%
	% of working age population with SVQ3 or above	47.1%	47.6%	Improve	Improve

Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)

Adult Learning Strategies and Plans - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/community_education/adults/adult_learning.aspx

National Outcome Four - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens					
<p>Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :</p> <p>(i) A local strategy for delivering Curriculum for Excellence has been developed and significant progress has been made in implementing it.</p> <p>(ii) In 2009, the Council will complete its programme to rebuild all of our eight secondary schools. Two new primary schools have recently been completed and a third, an additional Roman Catholic primary school for the Stenhousemuir area, is in the final stages of planning.</p> <p>(iii) Our partnership became an early implementer of the new 16+ learning choices model launched by the Government in February 2008. This will ensure all young people leaving school will be offered arrangements appropriate to their needs e.g. training, employment, further education or indeed continuing at school by December 2010. This is one of the most ambitious schemes of this nature in Scotland. In addition the Council has developed new progression pathways for those young people who need pre apprentice provision. To date this new opportunity has supported 406 young people of which 93% moved into a positive outcome. We also employ 255 modern apprentices within the Council at any one time. This means we are well on course to meet our commitment of 5% i.e. 300 of our workforce being modern apprentices by autumn 2009.</p> <p>(iv) Overall, our schools have performed steadily during 2007/08. Against most of the categories assessed and reported on by HMIE, our schools have been assessed at 90% or above as being good or very good. The S4 cohort has performed consistently in terms of attainment between 2006/07 and 2007/08. As a result of the percentage of young people leaving school without progressing into employment, further or higher education or training has fallen from 16% in 2006/07 to 13% in 2007/08.</p> <p>(v) In 2007/08 schools reported that young people were engaged in 287 entrepreneurial activities, 17 of which were Fair Trade activities. This represents an increase of 16% on the previous year's figures. Schools continue to link with local businesses to promote Enterprise in Education with a total of 427 partnerships established. Carrongrange School was only one of 10 in Scotland to be recognised as Socially Enterprising School at an awards ceremony earlier in summer 2008. It was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the 'most Enterprising Special School' category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.</p> <p>(vi) The Council opened a replacement library in Stenhousemuir and recently opened a further new library in Polmont. These new facilities give people within our communities the opportunity to access not only books, but on line facilities. The number of times the public accessed computer terminals in libraries was up slightly last year.</p> <p>(vii) In 2007/08 our adult literacy and numeracy team worked with 262 learners to improve their reading, writing, number and English language skills. A number of learners gained accreditation in Communication and Numeracy, and several achieved ESOL SQA units necessary to qualify for British Citizenship.</p> <p>(viii) As part of a Forth Valley wide partnership, our libraries introduced a reader in residence at Polmont Young Offenders Institute.</p> <p>(ix) We developed the innovative and sustainable junior tour guide scheme with P7 adults from Comely Park Primary School – training and enabling them to deliver tours of Callendar House to other visiting school children. The project was designed to encourage and enable young people to learn new skills, develop self confidence and a self belief aiding their transition to secondary school.</p>					
Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our workforce will be highly skilled (CP)	Proportion of schools in HMIE reports published during the previous 3 years achieving 'good' or 'very good' or excellent for:				
Promote early learning experiences for all young children to enable them to have the best possible start (SCP)	a) Structure of the curriculum b) The teaching process c) Leadership d) Expectations & promoting achievement	a) 94% b) 89% c) 100% d) 89%	a) 94% b) 89% c) 94% d) 100%	Reporting measures changed by HMIE and will be reflected in the 2010 /11 SOA	Reporting measures changed by HMIE and will be reflected in the 2010 /11 SOA
Provide appropriate and relevant learning experiences and child care for children and their families (SCP)	e) Equality & fairness f) Partnership with parents & the community	e) 100% f) 94%	e) 100% f) 94%		
Raise levels of attainment and					

<p>achievement in education (SCP)</p> <p>Provide high quality teaching in schools and early years establishments</p> <p>Provide flexible curriculum that meets the needs of all young people.</p>	<p>The % of pupils in P3, P4, P6 & P7 attaining or exceeding the appropriate levels for their stage in</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>Writing</p> <p>Mathematics</p>	<p>85%</p> <p>81%</p> <p>88%</p>	<p>85%</p> <p>81%</p> <p>87%</p>	<p>85%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>5-14 measures under review.</p>
	<p>Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S4 -</p> <p>% of the S4 roll gaining level 3 or better in English and mathematics;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or better;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better</p>	<p>91%</p> <p>89%</p> <p>73%</p> <p>30%</p>	<p>91%</p> <p>89%</p> <p>72%</p> <p>33%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>93%</p> <p>77%</p> <p>36%</p>	<p>Improve</p>
	<p>Cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools for S5 –</p> <p>% of the original S4 roll gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</p> <p>% of the original S4 roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better;</p> <p>% or the original S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</p>	<p>34%</p> <p>17%</p> <p>6%</p>	<p>37%</p> <p>19%</p> <p>7%</p>	<p>39%</p> <p>22%</p> <p>10%</p>	<p>Improve</p>
	<p>The % of young people who leave school without employment, further or higher education or training</p>	<p>16%</p>	<p>13%</p>	<p>Reduce</p>	<p>Reduce</p>
	<p>% of pupil attendance at school</p> <p>Primary</p> <p>Secondary</p>	<p>95.6%</p> <p>89.9%</p>	<p>95.4%</p> <p>90.8%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>92%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>92%</p>
	<p>Number of young people in secondary schools involved in Pupil Councils.</p>	<p>251</p>	<p>375</p>	<p>450</p>	<p>450</p>

Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)

Learning to Achieve sets out our commitment to improving the educational experience for young people in our schools.

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents/leaflets/Learning%20to%20Achieve%20-%20Full.pdf

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents.aspx - A number of policies and strategies underpin this outcome.

National Outcome Five - Our children will have the best possible start in life and are ready to succeed.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) During the last session, Larbert High School and Bo'ness Academy took part in the 'Young Enterprise Programme'. The teams competed at the Forth Valley final and the Larbert High School team went on to represent the area at the Scottish final in June.
- (ii) Carronrange became 1 of only 10 schools in Scotland to be recognised as a Socially Enterprising School at a national awards ceremony in Edinburgh. Four S6 pupils received the Schools Award for Social Enterprise on behalf of their school from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Carronrange School was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the 'Most Enterprising Special School' category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.
- (iii) We developed play areas at Douglas Park Bo'ness and Gala Park Denny along with play parks at Burnside Place, Carron and Greenhill.
- (iv) School meal uptake remains consistent. The development of new secondary schools and improved dining facilities, together with the continued development of menu choices, are anticipated to increase uptake over the next 24-36 months. These figures are based on national census results and compare favourably with national trends. We also have one of the lowest charges for school meals in Scotland and the highest uptake for free school meals.
- (v) Much of our work is taken forward through the local Early Years Strategy that underpins the national Early Years Framework.
- (vi) As part of 'My Future's in Falkirk', we have developed a Making the Connections programme for young people. Surveys of young people indicate an increasingly positive attitude to our area.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
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) number per 1,000 children aged 0-16	166 Child Tax Credit - 539	158 Child Tax Credit - 553	Monitor	Monitor
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)	Provision of a suitable mix of affordable, accessible and high quality of early learning and child care (0-4)				
	(i) Pre-school education places;	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(ii) toddlers places;	92	92	127	Maintain mix of public and private provision
	(iii) baby places	24	24	36	
	(iv) wraparound care	164	220	232	
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 at least one subject at SCQF level 3 or higher	48%	71%	Better than the Scottish Average 58.8%	Better than the Scottish Average

	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve both English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or higher	26%	44%	Better than the Scottish Average 37.9%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Proportion of low birth weight per 1,000 live singleton births	51.8	51.2	Reduce	Reduce
	Pregnancies among under 20 year olds per 1,000 population	61.2	61.6	Reduce	Reduce
	School meals taken as % of school roll Primary Secondary	60% 50%	59% 50%	65% 55%	Maintain
	% of schools with breakfast clubs	35%	35%	35%	Increase
	Increase the proportion of newborn babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	18.8%	19.2%	Increase	Increase
	% of eligible children who take up free school meals- registered and present Primary Secondary	93% 50%	99% 87%	99% 90%	99% 90%
	The no and proportion of looked after and accommodated children in community placements rather than residential care	84%	86%	Better than the Scottish Average 81%	Better than the Scottish Average
	The proportion of young people who are looked after and accommodated who have a plan	100%	100%	Better than the Scottish Average 89%	Better than the Scottish Average
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our approach to early years.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/childcare_and_preschool/childcare_and_preschool.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/Curriculum%20Guidelines.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/For%20Falkirk's%20Bairns%20-%20Integrated%20Childr.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/Looked%20After%20Children.pdf</p>					

National Outcome Six - We will live longer, healthier lives.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) The partnership approved a new Health Improvement Plan in August 2008. This plan sets out clear targets and actions for improving the health of individuals and our communities over the life of the plan.
- (ii) All our primary, secondary and special needs schools and nursery centres have now become health promoting, with 64 establishments achieving level 2 accreditation and 7 level one. 98% of our educational establishments are now health promoting. This helps encourage young people to pursue a healthier lifestyle. During 2007/08, the number of young people participating in Council health promoting activities more than doubled to 5,072 compared to 2,315 in 2006/07. The number of young people attending our leisure centres also increased by over 8,000 during the same period.
- (iii) The Council approved a Core Paths Plan in spring 2008. This plan develops the work contained within the Outdoor Access Strategy that aims to promote the countryside to both residents and visitors. This last year has seen the implementation of the Braes and Bo'ness / Blackness paths network.
- (iv) The Council launched an Active Campaign in the summer of 2008. This promoted a range of activities from tea dances to organised sporting activities. This included opening the school swimming pools in Larbert and Braes High School to the public. A new Teen Gym initiative was started at all 3 circuit clubs to provide access for young people.
- (v) 24 active peer educators were recruited and trained in Grangemouth, Denny, Falkirk and Maddiston. These peer educators then delivered 47 training sessions since last year and have made contact with 823 young people.
- (vi) Over 200 young people were involved in the Commonhealth Games, incorporating physical activities and alcohol awareness, with a number of events from cycle trips to football matches. These activities were linked to the Straighttalk Peer Education Project.
- (vii) A new circuit health and fitness club opened at the Mariner Centre which has been very successful with over 20,000 users in less than a year.
- (viii) A Book Prescription Service was developed in partnership with the NHS. Libraries across central Scotland undertook to stock books required by GPs to encourage self-help in appropriate circumstances. A MacMillan Cancer drop-in support centre opened in Falkirk Library where nursing staff and volunteers work in partnership with library staff to offer information, advice and support to cancer sufferers in a non-medical environment.
- (ix) Social Work Services achieved the Scottish Government target of zero delayed discharge cases by April 2008. The Social Work Service has significantly improved the recording of carer's assessments since last year by a huge increase recorded since then.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices in order that they can live longer (CP)	Deaths per 100,000 population from coronary heart disease and all cancers	2006	2007	Monitor	Monitor
	CHD - No of Deaths	357	361		
	Crude Rate	238.5	239.5		
Promoting healthy living within our communities (SCP)	All Cancers – No of Deaths	446	419	Reduce	Reduce
	Crude Rate	298	278		
Reduce health inequalities (SCP)	People aged 65 and over admitted for any reason two or more times in a year as an emergency to acute specialties per 1,000 population	41.6	47.98		

<p>Improve emotional health, psychological and social well being. (SCP)</p> <p>Reduce the level of alcohol, drugs and substance misuse (SCP)</p>	Reduce the increase of daily dose antidepressant prescription	33.2	35.2	Reduce	Reduce
	Reduce psychiatric readmissions within one year for those who have had a psychiatric hospital admission over the 7 days	n/a	95	Reduce by 10%	Reduce
	Reduce the rate of alcohol related acute hospital admissions (in patient or day cases) with alcohol as the main diagnosis	181	192	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of suicides	2006 16	2007 18	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of delayed discharges > 6 weeks	394	164	Reduce	Reduce
	Delayed Discharge from hospital greater than 6 weeks per 1,000 population admitted to hospital	1.1	0.2	Nationally set target of 0	0
	Life expectancy at birth Life expectancy at age 65	2004-2006 At birth M – 74.5 F – 79.4 At age 65 M – 15.5 F – 17.9	2005-2007 At birth M – 74.9 F – 79.5 At age 65 M – 15.9 F – 18.1	Increase	Increase
	High BMI in Primary 1 children – number of reviews and % of children receiving a review who are overweight	1,426 20.9%	1,467 16.8%	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of alcohol related diseases	2006 29	2007 37	Reduce	Reduce
	% of schools designated as ‘Health Promoting schools’	4%	98%	100%	100%
	Participation in organised culture and leisure activities	28,105	35,558	37,000	Increase

	Leisure Centre admissions for adults	483,125	458,428	460,000	Increase
	Leisure Centre admissions for young people	388,792	396,834	400,000	Increase
	Leisure Centre admissions for Leisure cards	54,108	59,061	60,000	Increase
	The number of people participating in healthy lifestyle physical activity programmes	13,537	19,669	20,000	Increase
	The number of participants in sports development classes	7,637	10,766	11,000	Increase
	The number of young people participating in health promoting initiatives Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	2,315 300	5,072	5,000 300	Maintain number engaged and increase quality of service provided
	No and rate per 1,000 population of carer assessments carried out	266 2.3 per 1,000	1,236 10.6 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average	Better than the Scottish Average
	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)	63.5% 90.0%	72.2% 80.0%	Better than the Scottish Average for 2007/08 65+: 53.9% 18-64: 56.4%	Better than the Scottish Average
	% of older people aged 65+ with intensive care needs receiving services at home	33%	33.3%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - total hours as a rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	579.4	593.6	Maintain level of service	Maintain

	Home care % home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care	67.2%	71%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care in evenings/overnight	28.6%	26.6%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care at weekends	69%	59.9%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Rate per 100,000 pop of all emergency admissions for patients of all ages	8687	9439	Reduce	Reduce
	Reduce smoking among adults – no of successful quits in one month – self reported	n/a	777	Increase	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our approach to health, care and well being.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents/leaflets/Guide%20to%20Primary%20Athletics.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/sport_and_activities/physical_activity_strategy.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/sport_and_activities/lets_make_falkirk_more_active/lets_make_falkirk_more_active.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/school_information/active_schools/active_schools.aspx</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Healthcare_Strategy_files/NHSFV_Review_of_Integrated_HC_Strategy_2007-12.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Performance_files/Annual_report_2007-2008_FINAL.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Publications_MiscStrategicPlans_files/CORPORATE_PLAN_interim_final_310308.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/community_care/community_care.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Seven - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) A number of projects have been progressed through the Fairer Scotland Fund to be targeted at our individuals and communities of greatest need. These projects included measures to ensure access to debt and money advice services, further support to move people into employment and training and also measures to improve the environment of our areas of greatest need.
- (ii) The Fairer Scotland Fund has also supported particular projects aimed at people not traditionally engaged in our employability services. This includes a focus on homeless young people, people from an ethnic minority background and also young people with a disability.
- (iii) In order to support some of our most vulnerable people within our communities, the Council developed two very innovative home support schemes earlier this year. The first, in conjunction with Grangemouth Enterprises and the Falkirk Homeless Project (Quickstart), the Council entered into a Public Social Partnership that provides furniture to homeless people and families that maximises the benefits to the wider community in terms of waste management and employment / training opportunities. Secondly, the Council recently appointed a Handyman to provide a small repairs service to all tenures. This service will benefit people aged 60 or over, or any person registered disabled who do not have an able bodied person living with them.
- (iv) The Council introduced the use of a housing support needs matrix as part of its homelessness assessment process. This assists in identifying vulnerable people who would benefit from support to sustain a tenancy.
- (v) The Council published an updated Equalities Scheme this year. This set out the priorities for the coming years and included focusing on looked after children, young males, physical assessments of buildings, as well as building relationships and community engagement. In conjunction with this, the Council, along with our community planning partners, published guides for migrant workers in our local area, highlighting issues such as housing, health, safety and employment. This complemented the Council's recently approved guidance on communicating with minority ethnic communities and people with a sensory impairment.
- (vi) In September this year the Council provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee on Child Poverty. We were one of only two Councils asked to give verbal evidence on our approach to tackling poverty and in particular child poverty, following our written submission.
- (vii) The Council working in partnership with the area's three Citizen's Advice Bureaux have helped 1,266 people who have gone into debt in 2007/08 by assisting them in renegotiating £32.3m of debt. Although the number of benefit enquiries has dropped during the period, benefit gains have increased by £1.7m between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services (CP)	Median earnings in £'s for residents living in the local authority area who are employed – full time weekly gross pay	Residents £429.60	Residents £458.00	Increase	Increase
Increase the number of individuals participating in the local labour market (FSF)	Median earnings in £'s for workforce based in the local authority	Workplace £418.40	Workplace £428		
	No of claimants in receipt of employment related benefits	15070	14780	Reduce	Reduce
Increase household income (FSF)	Reduce the earnings differential between male and female residents	£482.9m £406.20 f	£467.80m £434.40f	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of people experiencing multiple deprivation i.e. people living in the worst 15% of areas in Scotland	13,225 (8.8%)	13,248 (8.8%)	Reduce	Reduce

	% of households assessed as homeless who are in priority need	71%	78%	Increase	100% by 2012
	The % of homeless households provided with permanent accommodation in Council stock who maintained their tenancy for at least 12 months	91%	93%	Increase	Increase
	% of households where respondent or partner has a bank or building society account	SHS 2005/06 91%	Not available – bi-annual update	Increase	Increase
	Number of active members of local credit unions	n/a	1,480	Increase	Increase
	The number of new learners participating in adult literacy programmes Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	178 650	439 700	300 700	Maintain
	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	8.9% 565.6	7.9% 640.7	Maintain Increase	Maintain Increase
	Number of new IT learners from priority area and with special needs Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	49.7% 777 650	23.7% 500	30% 500	Increase
	Number of time the free public access terminals are used in libraries	84,360	95,899	96,000	Increase
	The number of individuals obtaining Welfare benefits advice Debt advice – new cases	17,150 681	16,166 698	Target not appropriate	n/a

	Number of benefit enquiries and benefit gains (FSF) Falkirk Council Citizen's Advice Bureaux	23,647 £7.7m	22,669 £9.4m	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Number of new debt cases and total debt negotiated (FSF) Falkirk Council Citizen's Advice Bureaux	1,411 £26.7m	1,266 £32.3m	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Average time (days) to process new housing benefit claims	29.8 days	26.8 days	Reduce	Reduce
	Average time taken in calendar days to process all new claims and change events in housing and council tax benefit from the date of first notification.	n/a	TBC	TBC	Awaiting data from DWP.
	Number of working age benefit claimants relative to Falkirk Council average in Priority areas – areas in worst 15% SIMD 2006	2,700 2.03:1	2,650 2.04:1	Reduce	Reduce
	The number of benefit claimants in priority areas participating in work based training Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	102 183 in Falkirk LEA	163 150	150	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that set out our approach to housing and poverty.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/your_housing_options/your_housing_options.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/your_housing_options/council_housing/council_housing.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_regeneration/fairer_scotland_fund/fairer_scotland_fund.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/community_care/community_advice_service/community_advice_service.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Eight - We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year, the Council and our partners established two locality based children's teams that ensure we have a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and young people. The Council, in partnership with key agencies, has further progressed the integration of Children's Services. This has been assisted with the appointment of two locality managers for each of the respective pilots in Denny and St. Mungo's. A number of staff from different partner agencies are now co-located in Denny. Nineteen multi-agency training sessions have also been provided at which a total of 313 members of staff attended.
- (ii) The Partnership has been a pilot area for a national initiative to improve outcomes for children affected by domestic abuse. This pilot identifies children affected by domestic abuse and ensures that appropriate services are put in place at the earliest opportunity.
- (iii) Services and advice for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder were launched. These provided practical support and advice for young people and their families including ensuring staff have the essential skills required.
- (iv) During 2007/08 the number of carer assessments undertaken experienced a 3-fold increase by 970 assessments compared to 2006/07. We also increased the percentage of home care clients aged over 65 who received personal care by 5.5% in the same period.
- (v) The Council continues to review and develop our child protection arrangements. We have, in addition to training our own staff in this critical area, expanded our training to other community and voluntary organisations. These arrangements and other measures to strengthen our child protection measures are being taken forward through the approved Child Protection Committee business plan.
- (vi) Following a successful funding bid, the Council has entered into an agreement with Arberlour Child Care Trust to develop a service for young female care leavers. This service will provide enhanced and intensive support for young women leaving care moving into independent living.
- (vii) We have also plans to expand our provision of residential care with the opening of two additional residential places in Tremanna child care unit. This will ensure our provision for our most vulnerable children is of the highest standards.
- (viii) We have developed over the last year, training and development opportunities for our valued foster carers. This has resulted in over 50% of our Foster Carers achieving SVQ awards.
- (ix) We are seeking over the coming months to develop a robust strategy that will address issues of poverty within our area. In particular we will seek to address child poverty - its causes and effects.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Vulnerable children will be protected (CP)	Number and % of dental registrations (3-5 years)	3,366 68.3%	3,869 78.5%	Monitor	Monitor
People will have equitable access to local health, support and care (CP)	Proportion of social background reports submitted to the Children's Panel within 20 days	42%	46.7%	Better than the Scottish Average 38%	Better than the Scottish Average
All our children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected and enabled to enjoy their lives(SCP)	Rate per 1,000 of child protection referrals / investigations carried out during the year	15.2	15.1	Target not appropriate	n/a

	Number and % of first contacts following supervision requirement within 15 working days	70 78%	133 82%	Better than Scottish average 82.1%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Number and rate per 1000 of looked after children at home at 31 st March	129 3.30	218 5.54	Target not appropriate (Scottish average: 4.81)	n/a
	Number and rate per 1000 of looked after and accommodated children at 31 st March	225 5.76	268 6.81	Scottish average 6.45	Scottish Average
	Number of Children receiving Playscheme Respite sessions provided by the children with disabilities team	171	200	Maintain level of provision.	Maintain
	Reducing the number and percentage of persistent young offenders	64 10.9%	40 6.8%	Better than the Scottish average 2007-08: 8.7%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Number of Children's Panel Members appointed in a year.	27	34	Maintain	Maintain
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our services to children and young people who are vulnerable including our homelessness strategy:</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/child_protection.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/integrated_childrens_services.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/pdfs/getting_it_right.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=2251</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=2593</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/homelessness/homelessness.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Nine - We will live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Citizens' confidence in their personal safety in their communities has increased. In 2007/08 89% of citizens were confident of their personal safety during the day and 51% during the night. This compares with 84% and 47% respectively in 2006/07.
- (ii) We are seeing the benefits of our investment in tackling anti-social behaviour in recent years. The average time to respond to anti-social domestic noise complaints fell from 157 hours in 2006/07 to 19 hours in 2007/08 and is less than one hour during 2008/09. The reported levels of anti-social behaviour also fell in the same period from 3474 to 3320.
- (iii) In summer this year the Council started a £5.2m programme of flood prevention, including approximately £4m programme for Bo'ness.
- (iv) The Council established a project to develop closer relationships between parents and schools. This complements a project launched in schools 'Restorative Approaches' piloted in the Braes and Larbert High Schools which recognises the school as a community and individuals within the school have a responsibility to each other.
- (v) Further investment in Camelon Children's Centre is planned. This will ensure the centre can cater for the youngest and most vulnerable children in our communities.
- (vi) The detection of environmental legislation in respect of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping offences has risen from 409 in 06/07 to 551 in 07/08.
- (vii) A highly popular taxi marshalling service that was introduced over the Christmas and New Year periods was continued following a successful evaluation.
- (viii) We developed a series of collaborative arts projects focussed on supporting young people to develop safer lifestyles including working with the Maddiston Young Women's Group to develop a peer education film and working with excluded young people in Stenhousemuir to set up a temporary gallery space.
- (ix) The Sport & Leisure and Community Education Services launched a Youth Only Zone at Grangemouth Sports Complex in partnership with local police to provide a safe environment for young people on a Saturday night.
- (x) The recording of Adult at Risk of Harm investigations has increased as a result of the standardisation of recording practice following the implementation of the new Adult Support and Protection policy and procedures across the Forth Valley area.
- (xi) Central Scotland Police has conducted a detailed strategic assessment in order to establish the threats facing our communities. Examination of these threats has allowed priorities to be set in accordance with the level of risk each threat poses. The current priorities for Central Scotland Police, which obviously impact on community safety, are Public Protection (including child protection, domestic abuse, sex offenders and sex crime), disorder and anti social behaviour (including vandalism and violence), drugs (community level problematic drug abuse and dealing), road deaths and injuries, serious organised crime (including cross border drug dealing, human trafficking and fraud), as well as counter terrorism).

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens will be protected (CP)	% of adult residents stating that they feel 'very safe' or fairly safe' when at home alone at night	SHS 2005/06 97%	Survey carried out every 2 years	Increase	Increase
Improve crime reduction and community safety (SCP)	Confidence in individual safety in local areas	2006	2008		
Reduce fear of crime (SCP)	During the day	84%	89%	Maintain increase	Maintain increase
Reduce the incidence of death, injury	At night	47%	51%		

<p>and economic loss by fire and respond effectively to a broad range of fire and other emergencies (CSFRS)</p> <p>Support the delivery of safer communities (CSP)</p> <p>Preserve and restore public order; (CSP)</p> <p>Investigate crime effectively (CSP)</p> <p>Contribute to the reduction of crime (CSP)</p> <p>Continue to increase public re-assurance (CSP)</p>	<p>Volume and rate of recorded crimes and offences per 10,000 population</p> <p>Crimes and offences are categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1 – Crimes of violence • Group 2 – crimes of indecency • Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty • Group 4 – Vandalism, fire-raising and malicious conduct • Group 5 – other crimes which includes all drugs offences • Group 6 – offences (miscellaneous) Group 7 – offences (road traffic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.9 • 16.8 • 280.7 • 226.3 • 140.3 • 370.6 • 649.5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.4 • 18.5 • 278.5 • 201.9 • 135.4 • 384.7 • 727.6 	<p>Reduce Groups 1 -4</p> <p>Groups 5 – 7 maintain</p>	<p>Reduce Groups 1 -4</p> <p>Groups 5 – 7 maintain</p>
	Overall prevalence of problem drug misuse – No of problem drug users in the area	n/a	856	Reduce	Reduce
	The proportion of social enquiry reports submitted to court by due date	99.9%	99.9%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 97.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	Probation – the proportion of new probationers seen by a supervising officer within one week	87.5%	93.2%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 69.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	Community service – the average hours per week taken to complete community service orders	3.3	3.2	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 3.3	Better than the Scottish average
	Food hygiene – the % of premises with a minimum inspection frequency of 12 months or less, that were inspected on time	99.3%	97.1%	96%	Maintain
	The number of casualties killed or seriously injured on our roads	84 – moving 5-year annual average 2002-2006	73 – moving 5 year annual average 2003-2007	Fewer than 67 – moving 5 year annual average 2006-2010.	No target set beyond the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009
	The number of persons, including children, killed or seriously injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.058 KSI per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.045 KSI per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure

	The number of children killed or seriously injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.009 KSI per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.012 KSI per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure
	The number of persons, slightly injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.238 persons per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.215 persons per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure
	% communicable disease investigations started within time	98.4%	98%	95%	Maintain
	Inspection of trading premises – the % in high and medium risk inspections that were inspected on time	97.9%	96.8%	95%	Maintain
	Consumer complaints completed within 14 days of receipt	71.5%	51.8%	50%	Target revised to meet, realistically, Falkirk's conciliation approach to consumer complaints
	Cost of repairs on schools due to vandalism	£216k	£183k	Decrease	Decrease
	Number and rate per 1,000 of adults at risk of harm investigations	13 1 per 1,000	123 5.2 per 1,000	Target not appropriate	n/a
	The number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	7.48 (Scottish average 10.7)	5.68	Reduce	To reduce at least as quickly as the Scottish average is falling
	The number of accidental fire fatalities per 10,000 population	0.2	0 (Scottish average increased by 62% from last year)	Lower than the Scottish average	Lower than the Scottish average
	The number of incidents resulting in casualties per 10,000 population	0.93	0.73 (Scottish average increased by 6% from last year)	Reduce	Lower than the Scottish average

	The number of wilful fire raising incidents per 10,000 population	77.56	65.06	Reduce	Reduce to 50%
	The number of hoax emergency calls to the Fire and Rescue service per 10,000 population	17.16	9.69	Reduce	Achieve a year on year reduction

Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)

Falkirk Council's policy on road safety is in the [Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009](#) and the [Road Safety Review and Plan 2006](#).

The Food Safety Service Plan was approved by Falkirk Council and is audited by the Food Standards Agency

Central Scotland Police – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 and performance plans –

http://www.centuralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php

Social Work Criminal Justice Plans- http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/criminal_justice_services/criminal_justice_service.aspx

Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service - <http://www.centuralscotlandfire.gov.uk/in-the-community/>

Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Strategy -

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/antisocial_behaviour/antisocial_behaviour.aspx

Partnership Community Safety Strategy

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_safety/PDFs/community_safety_strategy.pdf

Homelessness Strategy

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/homelessness/homelessness.aspx

National Outcome Ten – We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) The Council successfully secured Scotland's largest Big Lottery Fund award of £25million to establish the Helix to improve the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth. Critical to the success was the level of community engagement and support for the project and demonstration of civic pride.
- (ii) Our housing repairs service continued to improve with an increase in repairs completed on targets in both emergency repairs and other repairs. In addition, customer satisfaction levels were also high with 91% satisfaction over the last 18 months.
- (iii) 7 specifically designed homes for people with a disability were completed by the Council this year, with a further new 114 Council houses and 210 RSL homes planned over the coming years.
- (iv) We have developed a Home Energy Strategy that will help support our efforts to reduce fuel poverty and raise awareness of energy efficiency in our housing.
- (v) The Council is implementing a strategy to assist homeless people. This is with a view to supporting and reducing the number of homeless people in our area. We are also introducing a new Housing Allocations Policy. This is set against an increase in demand for social housing. For instance, 1771 sought relocation from their current council house due to changed circumstances.
- (vi) Research into Affordable Housing was carried out in 2007 to inform the revised Affordable Housing Policy within the Local Plan. This indicated that lone parents represent the most significant type of household in current housing need. At a Falkirk Council level, 27% of applicants in current need are lone parents, most of which are requesting a larger property comprising 3 or more bedrooms. Newhaven (2007) Affordable Housing Needs. 3 larger properties have been built in 08/09.
- (vii) The Affordable Housing Needs Research indicated that Falkirk Council area has an annual average shortfall of 145 affordable housing units over the 10 year period 2006/7-20016/17. The RSL new build programme has been factored into this calculation in the first 3 years of the aforementioned time period. Source Newhaven (2007) Affordable Housing.
- (viii) Affordable Housing provided by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) is funded through the affordable housing investment programme provided by the Scottish Government Housing and Regeneration Division and private finance. The Council is required by HARD to submit a SHIP which sets out the development programme over the next 5 years. HARD set and manage the affordable housing investment programme for the Falkirk Council who demonstrates through the SHIP how many units could be produced if funds were available. HARD set completions and approval targets on an annual basis.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area (CP)	The % of residents stating their neighbourhood as a 'very good' or fairly good' place to live.	2006 81%	2008 84%	Improve	Improve
	In worst 15% SMID (FSF)	73%	68%		
	Total larger (4+ bedrooms) affordable homes completed	0	0	Targets to be developed each year	To be confirmed
Increase pride and satisfaction with their local community (FSF)	The number and variety of affordable homes				
Ensure the provision of a range of affordable housing options which meet the needs of local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total rented RSL and Council new build units completed; 	65	8	169 (subject to AHIP allocations each year and obtaining consents)	Increase

<p>including those with specific needs (LHS)</p> <p>Improved and maintained the Council's core housing stock (LHS)</p>	• total low cost home ownership new home build units completed	8	0	41	
	Total tender approvals completed for new build affordable homes	51	105	Increase	Increase
	% of Council tenancies allocated to homeless people	37%	53%	Increase	Increase
	% of RSL tenancies allocated to homeless people	-	45%		
	% of Council tenancies allocated to other groups in housing need	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
	% of RSL tenancies allocated to other groups in housing need				
	Homeless applications allocated Council housing, % allocated within 12 months of assessment	98%	92%	Increase	Increase
	% of cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of previous cases being completed	4.1%	3.8%	Reduce	Reduce
	% of council house sales settled within 26 weeks	86.1%	90.1%	Increase	Increase
	Privacy – percentage of residential care places that are in single rooms Older people (65+) Other Adults	88% 93.3%	92.3% 94.3%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08 65+: 91.7% 18-64: 92.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	The proportion of people in single rooms with ensuite provision in care homes older people (65+) other adults (18 -64)	72% 33%	72% 37%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08 65+: 74% 18-64: 51%	Better than the Scottish average
	The number and rate per 1,000 adult population of Mecs community alarms provided	703 6 per 1,000	683 5.9 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average	Better than the Scottish average
	The number and rate per 1,000 population of new adaptations provided during the reporting year	499 4 per 1,000	536 4.6 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average National data not yet available for 2007/08	Better than the Scottish average

	% of householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	85.1%	82.9% 12 th in Scotland	90% or first quartile of Scottish Councils	Top quartile in Scotland
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Planning: Progress within the Council Services to support the Falkirk e-Planning project is running on track with the national project. This project will provide an improved level of service through online submission of planning applications and appeals, an online information system for tracking applications and viewing associated documents and an interactive local plan.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/performance_zone/service_performance/corporate_neighbourhood/draft_housing_service_plan_2008_2011.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/homelessness_strategy.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/housing_partnership_activity.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Eleven – We will have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) In 2006/07 we worked with community groups to organise 16 community clean ups. This increased in 2007/08 to 20. In addition we worked closely with schools on various activities to promote their responsibility for their local communities. This included litter picks, orienteering, competitions etc. We will increase these activities by 25% over the next year.
- (ii) 'Community Concerns Us' campaign was launched in spring this year. This campaign highlighted how people could report on anti-social behaviour within their communities.
- (iii) Further support has been given to develop youth initiatives such as football and rugby. This has meant there has been an increase in the number of young people participating in physical activity over the last year.
- (iv) The Council was the first to introduce 'cool to the touch' containers as part of the meals on wheels service. These containers are 98% biodegradable and ensure that the 42,000 meals delivered every year to the 328 users stay warm when delivered, while being cool when removed from ovens.
- (v) The Council delivered a 10 week 'Virtual Baby' programme to 40 young people as well as taster sessions to 300 pupils in schools and community based settings. This comprehensive programme gave young people an insight into the knowledge and skills required to make informed decisions about parenting.
- (vi) We have developed an educational resource called 'House about me?' which is used in S3 and S4 to raise awareness of the issues that young people would face in setting up home independently and to highlight the realities of becoming homeless.
- (vii) Domestic Anti-social Noise complaints: During the first half of 2008-09 the average response time has been 0.33 hours and over 2008-09 and Qtr4 of 2007-08 all visits were within the target time of 2 hours.
- (viii) While the number of clients obtaining self directed support has decreased the actual amount of expenditure on self directed payments has increased by £76,500 in 2007/08.
- (ix) CVS Falkirk and District have, through the Fairer Scotland Fund, developed volunteering as a way back into employment. This approach has obvious benefits for local community and voluntary organisations.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well being (CP) Changing attitudes and modifying behaviour (SCP) Divert young people away from criminal activity and antisocial behaviour (SCP)	The number and rate per 1,000 clients obtaining self directed support	43 0.4 per 1,000	39 0.3 per 1,000	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Anti social noise complaints – average time to respond (in hours)	157	19	Average response time less than 2 hours. All response visits to be within 2 hours.	Average response times less than 1 hour. All response visits to be made within 2 hours.
	No of community litter clean ups organised	16	20	25	Increase
	Number of young people involved in a range of youth intervention initiatives	40	120	Increase	Minimum of 150 young people involved each year

	Levels of reported anti-social behaviour	3,474	3,320	Reduce	Reduce
	% of tenancies sustained for at least 12 months	91%	93%	Increase	Increase
	ASB – % acknowledgement of new instruction issued within 1 day	100%	100%	Increase	Increase
	ASB - % lodged in Court within 4 days of final instruction / information	100%	100%	Increase	Increase
	% of homeless applicants fleeing domestic abuse	20%	22%	Monitor	Monitor
	Rates of domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population	117	126	Monitor	Monitor
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>link to domestic abuse strategy, multi agency minutes etc: http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/human_resources/equal_opportunities.aspx - http://www.rahmas.org.uk/ http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/homepages/domestic_abuse/index.php</p> <p>Engaging with Communities - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/community_education/engaging_with_community.pdf</p> <p>Community Litter Strategy: http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/estates_management/litterzone/litterzone.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Twelve - We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it enhance it for future generations.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year we allocated £600,000 that will ensure our major sporting and cultural centres are maintained to the standards our communities require. This resulted in investment being made to Callendar House, Grangemouth Sports Complex, upgrading our Leisure facilities, as well as improving local football facilities.
- (ii) The Council approved a Parks Development Plan. This Plan set out ambitious targets for improving parks across the District. Alongside this, £200,000 has been allocated this year to improve our local parks and play areas.
- (iii) We have recently approved a draft Open Space Strategy that has an overarching objective of securing the long term improvement to the quality of open spaces in the Council area so that they can provide a sustainable and diverse resource for the benefit of communities they serve.
- (iv) In September this year we launched a new litter strategy. This strategy built on the successes of the last plan. In addition earlier this year, we launched a community support pack for communities and groups who want to take action on local environmental projects such as neighbourhood clean up projects. This was complemented by a small grants scheme that would be made available to groups and organisations to plant trees, shrubs etc in their local communities.
- (v) The Council supported the development of a project called ‘Communities along the Carron’ which was successful in being awarded European Funding. This project seeks to connect local communities to the River Carron and develop a vision for using the river as a community resource. The aim is to reconnect communities along the river by gathering information on water quality, ecology and habitats, heritage, access and resources including shops, businesses and local attractions.
- (vi) We have improved performance on a number of key indicators to improve our built environment and open spaces. This includes increasing the percentage of planning applications processed within target time. The percentage of special uplifts completed within 5 days has also risen from 78% in 2006/07 to 92.8% in 2007/08. We have also improved on the removal of abandoned cars within 14 days from 85.2% in 2006/07 to 89.4% in 2007/08.
- (vii) The introduction of a range of measures has seen an ongoing improvement in the responsiveness of the Special Uplift Service during 2007/08, which is now in place to assist in maintaining continued performance standards.
- (viii) The cleanliness score was lower in 2007/08 due to 1 out of the 6 surveys taken providing a significantly lower than average score due to land ownership problems.
- (ix) Phase one of Stenhousemuir town centre has been completed and rephrasing of Bo’ness foreshore has been agreed.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	‘Progress’ target/s to 2010-11	‘End’ target/s & timescale/s
We will improve the built environment (CP)	% of non householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	40.7%	49.5%	60%	60%
Our open spaces will be attractive accessible and safe (CP)	% of all planning applications dealt with within 2 months	64.5%	67.1% 10 th in Scotland	80% or first quartile of Scottish Councils	80%
Improving the quality of the built and natural environment for local neighbourhoods (SCP)	Traffic light failure repairs completed within 48 hours	90.6%	94.5%	95%	95%
	Street light failure repairs completed within 7 days	96.2%	97.1%	93%	93%
	% programmed watercourse assessments carried out	95%	97%	90%	90%

	Assessment survey scores of cleanliness in public places	72	70	73	Maintain
	Abandoned vehicles removed within 14 days of notification	85.2%	89.4%	80%	85%
	Special uplifts completed within 5 days	78%	92.8%	95%	95%
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Environmental Plans and Strategies -</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/estates_management/litterzone/litterzone.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/environmental_protection/environmental_protection.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/law_admin/customer_and_development_services/freedom_of_information/environmental_information.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/open_spaces_strategy/open_space_strategy.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/planning_and_environment.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Thirteen - We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Our Social Work Services were subject to a number of major inspections this year. This included an inspection of all social work services. To ensure it is understanding and meeting the needs of its customers more fully, the Service has introduced a range of customer feedback mechanisms. These include more consistent arrangements for dealing with complaints, further training and supervision of reception staff and also a revised set of service information leaflets.
- (ii) The Stenhousemuir Children and families Social Work team received a top Social Work Care award which recognised their best practice in tackling alcohol and vandalism related crime, as well as offering reactive services to our most vulnerable families.
- (iii) Racial abuse and harassment is monitored across Forth Valley by partners who have signed up to the RAHMAS strategy. This ensures a consistent approach can be adopted in relation of support for victims and the development of initiatives to deal with perpetrators and to change attitudes and behaviours. An example of the work done is the race awareness programme using Persona dolls which are being rolled out across our nurseries and primary schools.
- (iv) The partnership also published a range of booklets for migrant workers and their families moving into the Council area. These were launched at the Community Planning Partnership Conference in October 2008.
- (v) The MEC service was further developed and modernised. This now provides up to date hardware and software for people living at home, including people with complex needs and head injuries.
- (vi) During the course of 2007/08, the Council has improved the number of buildings which are suitable and accessible to disabled people from 56% in March 2007 to 63.4% in March 2008 and then to 65.7% by October 2008.
- (vii) We worked with local people to produce Local Community Plans in Grangemouth and Denny & District in 2007/8 and in 2008/09 produced draft Local Community Plans for the Braes and Larbert/Stenhousemuir areas.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs. (CP)	No of civil marriages	307	316	Monitor	Monitor
Develop our approach to local community planning in all our communities (SCP)	No of civil partnerships	6	9	Monitor	Monitor
	No of baby naming ceremonies	6	11	Monitor	Monitor
	No of renewal of wedding vows ceremonies	11	7	Monitor	Monitor
	No of people attending citizenship ceremonies	56	54	Monitor	Monitor

	Public Access % of council buildings that are suitable and accessible to disabled people	56.0%	63.4%	78% by 2010	100%
	Public Access % of schools that are fully or mostly accessible to disabled people	86%	86%	90%	After 90% target is achieved further progress will depend on school replacement programme
	No of old people's welfare organisations operating across the Council area	40	40	Maintain	Maintain
	No of racist incidents and racially motivated crimes	279	229	175	Reduce
	Percentage of racially motivated crimes	78.5%	n/a	71%	Reduce
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Public Access (Council Buildings): October 2008- 65.7% accessible (88 out of 134 buildings). During 2008, 5 buildings were improved and existing accessible buildings received improved and/or additional equipment. The target/budget will be monitored & any funding shortfall advised. (extract from Equalities Scheme progress report)</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>Update on Equality Scheme Annual Report etc -http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/human_resources/equal_opportunities.aspx Racial Attacks and Harassment Multi Agency Strategy - http://www.rahams.org.uk Forth Valley College – International Students Advice and Guidance - http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/International Forth Valley College – Reporting racial attacks and harassment. - http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/students/Equalities/Racist+Incident+Reporting.htm</p>					

National Outcome Fourteen - We will reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year it was announced that Falkirk Council was one of only six Councils that had been successful in bidding for Smarter Choices, Smarter Places funding. The Government's grant of £926,000 will be met with Council and partners funding of £453,000 to develop sustainable transport options for the Larbert / Stenhousemuir area – 'Take the Right Route.
- (ii) The Council continues to roll out the 3-bin system across the area to assist in our efforts to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Thanks to our communities, steady improvement has been maintained on our recycling rates during the year. In 2007/08 the tonnage of waste collected per 1,000 population fell by 82.4 tonnes compared to the previous year. We also reduced the total tonnage of bio degradable waste being sent to landfill by over 6,500 tonnes in the same period.
- (iii) In line with our Biodiversity Strategy progress has been made in a number of areas. These include the production of an Integrated Network Study Programme for the Falkirk Council area, the publication of Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning guidance, the development of a bird feeding project in the Council's care homes and the completion of a conservation project which saw the enhancement of three pond clusters.
- (iv) The Council launched a Carbon reduction campaign in autumn 2008. This is aimed at reducing the Councils own carbon footprint by 20% in five years. This is in addition to nearly 97% of the Councils vehicles now running on low emissions fuel – an increase of 9% in the last year. The revised specification of new Council vehicles procured via the annual replacement programme, has enabled an increased proportion of the Council's fleet now operating with reduced-emission technology. This trend will continue with 100% of the Fleet having reduced emission technology by 2010
- (v) Over April to September 2008 43.8% of Municipal Solid Waste was recycled or composted, above our target for 2010. 56.2% of MSW went to landfill.
- (vi) In November 2007 two additional monitoring stations were added to the network in Falkirk Town Centre and Hags due to elevated levels of NO2.
- (vii) Grangemouth Air Quality Management Area: Action plan for AQMA submitted to Scottish Govt in July 2007. AQMA Working Group meetings held October 2007 and November 2008 involving: Scottish Govt., SEPA, Ineos and Falkirk Council. Next working group due May 2009 and approximately every 6 months thereafter. Four Falkirk Council sites became part of the Scottish air quality network in July 2007. This improves the quality of the data and provides real-time data to the public. Moray (Grangemouth) site will also become part of the Scottish Air Quality network. Falkirk Council's own air quality website is under development.
- (viii) Progress with environmental indicators was reported in the Development Plan monitoring report.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
We will be greener (CP)	Tonnage of municipal waste collected per 1000 population	760.9 tonnes	678.5 tonnes	Reduce	Reduce
Promote a safety and efficient multi modal transport system that minimises on the local environment (SCP)	The maximum total tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste allowed to be sent to land fill	45,142	38,633	50,470 - 08/09 48,144 - 09/10	Reduce
Demonstrate commitment and direct contribution to the attainment and promotion of sustainable development	Proportion of municipal waste collected by the Authority: recycled or composted	35% 24.8% 10.1%	36% 24.3% 11.7%	Increase % of MSW recycled or composted 30% 2008 40% 2010	50% 2013 75% 2025 - aspirational

(SCP) Improving our approach to waste management (SCP) A reduction in the numbers of people living in fuel poverty (LHS)	Proportion of adults travelling actively to work or education	2005/06 Walk – 11% Cycle – 2% Scotland Walk – 11.8% Cycle 1.6%	No update available Survey due during 2009	Increase	Increase
	Percentage of children travelling actively to school (walking or cycling)	63.4% Primary 74.3% Secondary	No update available School survey due May 2009	Increase	Increase
	% of our vehicle fleet with reduced emission technology	80%	88%	100%	100%
	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality directives	Sulphur dioxide (UK) objective exceeded at 2 monitoring sites in Grangemouth.	Sulphur dioxide (UK) objective exceeded at 2 monitoring sites in Grangemouth	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality objectives at all 9 monitoring sites within the Council area	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality objectives at all 9 monitoring sites within the Council area
	% of educational establishments achieving Eco Schools awards: Bronze awards; Silver awards; Green Flags	73% 47% 12%	75% 52% 21%	80% 60% 30%	80% 60% 30%
	Reported incidents of illegal tipping Refuse Accumulations	134 476	Awaiting update	Assuming all incidents are reported – reduce number	Assuming all incidents are reported – reduce number
	Total number of dwellings brought up to SHQS by criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerable standard • Free from serious disrepair • Energy efficiency • Modern facilities and services • Healthy, safe and secure Total	0 541 2131 1514 1012 1491	0 308 1976 1221 208 1324	Increase	Increase
Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible) Air Quality - www.scottishairquality.co.uk Plans and targets for Refuse Disposal (Municipal waste): are set in the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan . Falkirk Council's policy on travel to work and school is in the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 Sustainable Development Strategy -					

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/sustainable_development_and_environmenta/sustainable_falkirk_strategy.aspx
Biodiversity Strategy - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/biodiversity/falkirk_area_biodiversity_action_plan.aspx
http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/biodiversity/getting_involved.aspx

National Outcome Fifteen - Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

(i) In addition to ensuring our services are focused on achieving local outcomes, we understand that we must seek to continually improve the way we do business. This commitment underpins the core values of the Partnership. To achieve this, we have recently reviewed our Best Value Improvement Plan. This follows the progress made in taking forward the areas for improvement outlined in the Audit Scotland Report on our Audit of Best Value and Community Planning.

(ii) An updated Best Value Improvement Plan noted progress on the following areas:

- A. Implementing new performance management software that will ensure consistent reporting of information to Members and the public;
- B. Approving a Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2007-2010;
- C. Developing further our approach to procurement including preparing an updated procurement plan;
- D. Developing clear criteria for undertaking Strategic Best Value Reviews and completing the Diagnostic Project;
- E. Approving an HR and Workforce Planning Strategy;
- F. Further taking forward our accreditation on IIP with Finance Service being awarded IIP status in summer this year;
- G. Achieving the Healthy Working Lives Award earlier this year; and
- H. Implementing customer service standards.

On going improvement programmes, particularly the replacement of 4 secondary schools will result in the increase in the number of operational buildings of appropriate condition for current use. This is complemented by the opening of the new Acute Hospital for the area in 2011. A new Police HQ for the Falkirk Command area was opened a few years ago and complements a relatively new Fire Station for the main Falkirk Council area.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
We are committed to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service • Performance • Partnership (CP) 	Sickness absence - % of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees	5.4%	6.0%	4%	4%
	% of who people who contacted the Council that were satisfied with the service they received		72.7%	Increase	Increase
	% of operational buildings of appropriate condition for current use.	89.4%	89.9%	Increase	Increase
	% of people who feel informed about the Council		75%	Increase	Increase
	% of SPIs in upper quartile	33%	34%	Maintain	Maintain

	Response repairs the % of housing repairs completed within the target times	77%	83%	Increase	Increase
	Tenancy changes – the % of rent loss due to voids	1.6%	1.5%	Reduce	Reduce
	% of homeless assessments completed within 28 days	39%	46%	Increase	Increase
	The % of not low demand dwellings that were relet within 4 weeks	15%	11%	Increase	Increase
	% of tenants satisfied with the Council as a landlord		93%	Increase	Increase
	% of Council tax collected in the year	96.2%	96.4%	Maintain	Maintain
	Time taken to respond to emergency calls Central Scotland Police Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service - % handled in less than 1 minute	84% 61.8%	84% 65.1%	Maintain 66.7%	Maintain A 70% target achieved
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service – Performance and business plan http://www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk/about-us/organisation/performance.html</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>Falkirk Council’s Corporate Plan - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/performance_zone/corporate_plan/corporate_plan.aspx</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise – Business Plan – http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/se-operating-plans-current</p> <p>NHS Forth Valley – Corporate Plan - http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/home/Pubs/pubs_corporatePlan.html</p>					

What we need to deliver our vision and outcomes.

The partnership has made a commitment to delivering on the vision for our area. However in order for our aspirations to be fully realised we have certain issues that require to be addressed.

National Outcome	Priority	Policy/Resource
National Outcome One	Request that Government reinforce policy (and where possible funding support) for the regeneration of local town centres.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome One	The World Heritage Site status secured for the Antonine Wall will place greater pressure on the need to develop an appropriate supporting infrastructure, e.g. signage, interpretative and access opportunities. The successful bid was assisted by a partnership through Historic Scotland and the 5 local authorities along the line of the Wall. There is a need to secure funding to continue to ensure a coordinated approach to developments and further discussion with the Scottish Government would be welcomed.	Resource
National Outcome One	The HELIX project is a phased initiative and continued dialogue about SG funding opportunities to further develop community and environmental benefits in the longer term would be welcomed.	Resource
National Outcome One	Request that the Scottish Government look to accelerate the provision for Councils to enact Compulsory Purchase Powers, particularly to assist in delivery of major regeneration schemes.	Policy
National Outcome One	Funding required to provide support for the Grangemouth Freight Hub and Avon Gorge – a nationally significant project.	Resource
National Outcome Two	Maintain the request for transfer of Business Gateway (national level) funding and local regeneration budgets.	Resource
National Outcome Two	Need to develop the Workforce Plus Action Plan and Youth Training Guarantee – particularly in light of the new economic circumstances facing the area.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Two	Skills Development Scotland is still “bedding-in” and while we welcome the efforts made by SDS already to link with our partnership, we understand this effort should be further encouraged and continued.	Policy
National Outcome Three	From OECD report Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland implement recommendations 8, 9, 14, 17 and 18.	Policy
National Outcome Four	From OECD report Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland implement recommendations 1, 11, 12 and 13.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Finalise Curriculum for Excellence.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Implement the national Early Years Strategy.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Provide sufficient capital and revenue funding to support P1 – P3 class size reduction, to reflect the continuing rising birth rates in Falkirk.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Request that recognition is given to the opportunity offered by the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014 to the whole of Scotland and that financial support is offered to Councils in order that potential benefits can be maximised in delivering a lasting legacy.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Request that greater recognition is given to the role that Physical Activity initiatives can play in community regeneration programmes.	Policy
National Outcome Six	The strategic direction and framework for eCare is still an issue for us. The development of eCART for NHS FV has been delayed and we still have inadequate funding to progress eCare in Forth Valley.	Policy and Resource

National Outcome Six	The funding of Free Personal Care remains a big issue for local authorities	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Government to review targets for delayed discharge in that they do not take account of choice or need.	Policy
National Outcome Seven	The request for the Sc. Govt to provide a definition of vulnerable adults into employment is still required and this should be pursued by the SG and the Improvement Service to avoid 32 local authorities having to develop 32 similar but different versions.	Policy
National Outcome Eight	Improving mental health services for children, young people and their families. There has been no policy development on this since the 2005 report and no indication of funding to be provided to advance this agenda.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Eight	The request for the review of the funding for looked after and accommodated children following the Arthur Midwinter Review is still applicable as the numbers of these cases continue to increase.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Eight	A strategy for Unpaid carers is needed that addresses supporting carers, including young carers and associated funding is required.	Policy
National Outcome Nine	Confirmation required of the funding that will be provided for the 2009-19 Adult Support and Protection.	Resource
National Outcome Nine	The resource implications of community sentencing/penalties require to be addressed nationally. This relates to a range of criminal justice activities within the Council from the supervision and management of community service orders, probation orders and work with the Courts, but also to the multi agency management of sex offenders and violent offenders where there can be significant implications (including financial) for local services especially relating to housing services and child protection services.	Resource
National Outcome Ten	Funding made available for RSLs to build low cost homes should be made available to local authorities.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Ten	Regulation surrounding HRA and how it can be spent should be reviewed.	Policy
National Outcome Fifteen	The call for a more joined up work by the Scottish Government is still applicable.	Policy
National Outcome Fifteen	The Crerar Review promised a reduction in the burden of reporting. Again, this is still an issue. We are still being asked to collect and provide huge datasets and a range of new performance measures by different parts of the Scottish Government.	Policy

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.

We 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.

Customer and Citizen Focus, Consultation and Engagement

Citizens always come first in our area. We are a responsive 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 2008.
- 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 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 individual agencies and organisations, as well as the Community Planning Partnership in a number of ways.

Each organisation and agency has ensured that our local outcomes are embedded into the Single Outcome Agreement framework. This means that the Council, Boards etc will monitor progress against this annually through our existing performance management framework. Each signatory to this Single Outcome Agreement has formally signed up to all the local outcomes and measures. We recognise however that we all have a different part to play in ensuring the achievement of those outcomes.

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 Plans of each agency as well as our policies, strategies and service plans set a clear agenda for the partnership. 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 local outcomes 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 divisional, unit and individual work plans so that every employee is clear how the work they do contributes to the goals and values of the Council and the local outcomes contained within this agreement. Service Plans are produced each year and services report to the Best Values 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. We have reviewed our approach to service planning given the development of the SOA and have further aligned our plans to our local outcomes.

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. This will embed our Single Outcome Agreement within the governance and public reporting structures of all 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 a Leadership Group and a Management Group that are underpinned by 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 our Single Outcome Agreement.

The chair of each implementation group reports directly to the Management Group on progress made in achievement of our outcomes. 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. We are currently seeking to ensure that we link our performance management systems to ensure information on performance is reported timeously and to all appropriate forums.

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.

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. Our work in communities to support Local Community Plans ensures the interests and

views of our citizens are taken account of and develop community capacity to participate in the process is developed.

Our last community planning conference in October 2008 focused on the contribution and progress partners had made in achieving the vision for the area and local outcomes. This also highlighted the contribution made by local communities to these priorities. While the underpinning theme of the conference was the Single Outcome Agreement, it is important that we do not report on progress against process but actually positive changes we have supported in communities as a result of our efforts.

Ongoing Development of the Single Outcome Agreement

Our refreshed Single Outcome Agreement has been reviewed by our Community Planning Partners.

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 the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and partner equivalents, as well as to the Leadership Group of the Community Planning partnership. In addition each key partner has formally approved the outcomes and measures contained in this SOA.

Our partnership processes will identify areas where the implementation of a national policy initiative may 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. The Outcome Agreement helpfully tracks changes over time and thus provides us with a vehicle by which to scrutinise our performance and thus progress towards our 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 an annual review, 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 – Falkirk online.

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 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, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, SESTRAN 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.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: EXECUTION OF DEEDS
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 29 April 2009
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.

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Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 9 April 2009

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie (Tel: 01324 506110)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

ASSIGNATION of BURDEN of RESTORATION GUARANTEES by

Clydesdale Bank plc to AIB Group (UK) PLC with the consent of Falkirk Council (as Planning Authority) and James McCaig

Section 50 Guarantees relating to various open cast mining sites near Falkirk

COLLATERAL WARRANTY UNDERTAKING

Faber Maunsell Limited in favour of Falkirk Council

Traffic Consultant's Appointment Medical Centre Development, Stenhousemuir

COMULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

The Falkirk Council (A905) North of Bowtrees) Compulsory Purchase Order 2008 - General Vesting Declaration

DEED of RESTRICTION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of

Taylor Wimpey Developments Limited

Land at Overton, Falkirk

DISPOSITION by FALKIRK COUNCIL in favour of

B C Wright

20 Haining Road, Whitecross

J M K Hardie and R D Hardie

11 Kerse Road, Grangemouth

The trustees of the Macdonald Estates Group PLC pension scheme with consent of Macdonald Estates PLC

Horizon Housing Association Limited

Land at Stenhousemuir Medical Centre

J Cunningham

0.248 hectares of land at McTaggart Avenue, Denny

M B Tennant

117 Thornbridge Road, Falkirk

J E Reid

1 Jeffrey Terrace, Polmont

P Docherty and A M Docherty

23 Cairneymount Avenue, Maddiston

Fisher Estates (Scotland) Ltd

51 Wall Street, Falkirk

H M Simpson

Land at Bo'mains Industrial Estate, Bo'ness

MR McLeod and M Penman

1 Wilderness, Airth

E Elliott and J Elliott

63 Anderson Crescent, Shieldhill

R Catleugh and K J Wilkinson

6 Drumclair Avenue, Slamannan

A C Fullarton

Land at Gauze Road, Bo'ness

J McMillan

74 Muirfield Road, Stenhousemuir

91 Alloa Road, Stenhousemuir

LEASE between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

D Nicol, t/a Stitches

15 York Arcade, Grangemouth

K Hancock, t/a Karen's Café

72 La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth

Alexis Brown

115 La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth

MINUTE of AGREEMENT between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

(First) Falkirk Council (Second) Aspin Estates Limited

(Third) HCC International Insurance Company Plc

52-76 Grahams Road, Falkirk

Archibald Russell of Denny Ltd

Reilly Gardens Development Maintenance, High Bonnybridge

Link Group Limited and John Rowley

Site Mayfield Drive, Longcroft

MINUTE of RENUNCIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

Duradamon Limited

Unit 7, Murnin Road, Bonnybridge

MINUTE OF VARIATION between FALKIRK COUNCIL and

D Livingston

26A Abbotsinch Road, Grangemouth

Penman Estates Limited

24 Abbotsinch Road, Grangemouth

Paul's Quality Butchers Limited

6 York Place, Grangemouth

The Executors of the late WDHC Forbes and Others

Subjects at Lionthorn Road, Falkirk

PROVISION OF DRY RECYCLATE SEGREGATION AND RESALE SERVICE (C/N: DEV/23/08)

Oran Limited

1 Spitfire Way, Grangemouth