

26. COVID-19: PUBLIC INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS - SUSPENSION OF DUTIES

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Governance Manager to review and extend the temporary suspension of statutory duties to make documents open to the public for physical inspection and copying.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Note the powers given to the council to provide alternative means of access to documents instead of complying with statutory duties to allow physical access for inspection and copying;
2. Note that the temporary suspension of these duties in relation to the documents listed in the appendix was implemented through Standing Order 31 on 11 May 2020 and reported to Council Executive on 26 May 2020;
3. Note that part of that implementation included an undertaking to review the position at the first Council Executive after 30 September 2020;
4. Extend the suspension during the prolonged coronavirus emergency period of the duties listed in the appendix to make hard copies of documents available in council offices for public inspection and copying;
5. Note that the suspension would only apply during the coronavirus emergency period, presently till 31 March 2021 or any date substituted by the Scottish Ministers, and full compliance would resume when the emergency ends; and
6. Agree that the use of these powers be reviewed at the first Council Executive meeting after 1 April 2021 if the emergency period persisted after that date.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.