

**LEGAL AND REGULATORY SUPP**

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)****REVIEW OF THE CONTINUED ROLE OF THE BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE**

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**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council is currently responding to the global Covid-19 pandemic and is focused on resilience activity and maintaining critical frontline services. In order to provide capacity and focus in dealing with this response, and adhere to advice and guidance from the UK and Scottish Governments, it has delegated emergency powers and established a Leadership Group (comprising the Council Leader, Depute Leader, and Leader of the SNP Group - as the largest Opposition group) to ensure appropriate focus and oversight of decisions.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to:-

- 3.1 Agree that all Area Committees and Strategic Committees (with the exception of the Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee) scheduled for August/September will resume on a virtual basis, with a restricted number of agenda items.
- 3.2 Agree that the BCC will, in the meantime, continue its role, exercising all delegated functions from the Council and currently responding

4.1.3 The circumstances surrounding coronavirus are ever changing, with advice and guidance from the Scottish and UK Governments and Public Health Scotland being updated daily. The situation is being continually reviewed by Officers in order to inform the options available in terms of returning to a normal committee schedule.

#### Current Guidance

4.1.4 This report has been prepared having regard to the Scottish Government Covid-19 Routemap, which was published on 21 May 2020. This document sets out

		<p>Frequent handwashing and hygiene measures for all</p> <p>Cough etiquette is maintained</p> <p>Further relaxation of public gatherings</p> <p>mass gatherings could resume in line with public health advice</p> <p>Remote and flexible working remains encouraged</p> <p>All workplaces open with improved hygiene, in line with public health advice</p>
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4.1.5 Taking account of this latest guidance it is recommended that it is possible to move away from the original lockdown position, however there are still a number of restrictions in place which significantly impacts on the ability to resume a normal committee structure. Officers are of the view that it will not be feasible to resume full physical, as opposed to virtual, council meetings until phase 4 of the Scottish Government roadmap, which is not likely to occur until later than September this year. On this basis, the following arrangements have been put in place/are proposed for the months ahead:-

- i. July – recess – no formal meetings
- ii. August /September – it is recommended that all Area Committees and Strategic Committees (with the exception of

to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority, cease to be a member of the authority.

- 4.2.2 Concerns have been expressed that the decisions taken at the special Council in March 2020 in response to Covid-19 may have the unintended consequence of putting a number of Members within scope of Section 35 of the Act. To remove this possibility it is recommended that the Council agrees to approve the non-attendance of any Member at any meeting of the authority for the period up to and including the Council meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 A review of the temporary arrangements for conducting Council business during the Covid-19 pandemic, and other associated matters, has been undertaken by Officers. Members