

EX5. Motion referred to the Executive under Standing Order 31 from the meeting of Falkirk Council on 6 March 2019

On 6 March 2019, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, Council referred the following motion, proposed by Councillor Black, to the Executive:-

Funeral Poverty is on the rise, with more families struggling to pay for their loved ones funeral.

Nationally increasing numbers of people are having a Paupers Funeral, which Councils have to organise.

Stirling Council has recently made changes to their bereavements services plan, whereby they now offer a reduced burial, which offers the relatives a chance to say goodbye. This was done in collaboration with local undertakers who were willing to support this.

Council recognises that funeral poverty is on the increase.

Council will actively seek opportunities to offer a funeral service that enables grieving relatives to say goodbye whilst keeping costs to a minimum.

Council will engage with the local bereavement sector to see where collaborative working can take place to support families who are struggling to afford their loved ones funeral costs.

Council asks the Director of Development Services to bring forward a report to an Executive meeting within 3 months.

Councillor Coombes, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved the terms of the motion.

As an amendment, Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved the terms of the motion subject to substitution of the final paragraph to read as follows:-

Council asks the Director of Development Services to bring forward a report to an Executive meeting once the new Funeral Expense Assistance (FEA) scheme has been implemented and established.

Following discussion, Councillor Coombes as the mover of the motion, with the consent of Councillor Reid, as her seconder, and the Convener, agreed to alter the text of her motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted that funeral poverty was on the increase;**
- (2) requested that the Council actively sought opportunities to offer a funeral service that enabled grieving relatives to say goodbye whilst keeping costs to a minimum;**
- (3) requested that the Council engage with the local bereavement sector to see where collaborative working could take place to support families who were struggling to afford their loved ones funeral costs, and**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Development Services bring forward a report to an Executive meeting once the new Funeral Expense Assistance (FEA) scheme had been implemented and established.**