

Should the Council's CEO be seen giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by RM64 - 01 Apr 2020 11:29

Only the Chief Executive knows what is going on.

Only the Chief Executive can give a true update of the current situation.

Why not in person using current available video technology?

Previously posted -

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Briefing Notes No. 145 - 23rd. March 2020

Democracy officially cancelled in East Renfrewshire

This morning elected members of East Renfrewshire Council voted to hand control of council decisions over to unelected officers.

Let us be clear: councillors have handed control of decisions to those very same officers councillors are there to control.

In consequence, we now have no representation.

Councillors discussed but refused to impose any time-limit and as this matter is not time limited nor subject to review, it could run until the next council elections, whenever they are held.

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That is basically all we know.

You now cannot rely on your Councillor to influence or make any decisions regarding Council Services.

Only the Chief Executive knows what is going on.

Only the Chief Executive can give a true update of the current situation.

Leaders have to be seen, boost morale and instil confidence during these worrying times.

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be "seen" giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by RM64 - 12 May 2020 11:02

Our Ref: LM/AT

Your Ref:

Contact: Lorraine McMillan

Tel: 0141 577 3009

Email:

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Date: 11 May 2020

Sent by Email:

Chief Executive's Office

East Renfrewshire Council HQ

Eastwood Park

Rouken Glen Road

Giffnock, G46 6UG

Emergency Decision-Making Arrangements - Keeping Staff and Residents Updated

Thank you for your emails over the last few weeks. I will divide my response into 3 sections:

1. Thank you for your kind words about Council staff. Many of my team have been working extremely long hours over the last few weeks and have appreciated the support of our residents and the many people who have volunteered to support our most vulnerable residents.

2. You have commented on the way that the Council has provided information over the last few weeks.

Can I assure you that we have done everything possible to communicate with our residents using all forms of social media and the press where appropriate.

If there has been a change in a specific service, we have communicated directly with those using the service. You have suggested that I personally use the media of a video or webcast.

It is something I was already considering and have now issued a short video.

Councillor O'Kane and Councillor Buchanan have also issued short videos.

However, our most important communication is to ensure that service users are aware of what is happening to the specific service they are receiving.

3. You have asked for specific information and I will treat that as an FOI request:

a. Coronavirus confirmed cases

- this is information held by the NHS and I understand that it is released at NHS GGC level.

b. Coronavirus confirmed deaths

- this information is issued by NRS every Wednesday and is available on their website, broken down in Local Authority areas.

c. Number of Council workers

i. Number working from home

ii. Number on self -isolation

iii. Number on sick leave

We have 4654 staff. On the 27/4/20 - 409 were affected by coronavirus in some way and were not in a position to work at home.

414 were affected by coronavirus in some way but are able to work from home.

In addition, we have asked all staff who can work from home to do so and many are able to do that.

Some staff will work from home part time, only coming into their place of work when absolutely necessary.

d. Number of vulnerable children at high risk and Number of children of essential workers attending schools.

467

e. Number of teachers attending schools to look after vulnerable children and children of essential workers.

For the week beginning the 27/4/20 the number varied between 62 and 70

f. Services continuing to be provided -

i. Services NOT continuing to be provided

ii. Details of problem areas.

We have provided detailed information on the services affected on the Coronavirus section of our website.

This information is regularly updated

g. Availability of protective masks/clothing etc for all council frontline staff and all council staff who continue to provide council services in public places.

“ Sufficient PPE is available for all Council staff to operate in line with relevant Government Guidance.

This is an area we keep under review

Whilst it is your legal right to ask for and receive information under Freedom of Information legislation, it would be greatly appreciated if you would consider minimising the number of requests you make over the next few months or even delaying requests.

Such requests take staff away from serving the most vulnerable members of our community at this

difficult time.

Through our communications team we are already doing everything we can to provide the information that the general public and our residents are most interested in.

When Council meetings resume again in the near future, formal reporting on our response to Coronavirus will be included and I hope that you will find this useful.

East Renfrewshire Council offers the opportunity to apply to the Council for a review of how we have dealt with your enquiry.

If you wish to proceed to review, please apply in writing within 40 working days to:

The Chief Officer Legal & Procurement

Council Headquarters

Rouken Glen Road

Giffnock G46 6UG,

marking your letter 'Freedom of Information, request for review', and stating the exact nature of the matter you wish to be reviewed.

The review will be carried out within 20 working days of receipt of your appeal.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the review, you have the right to then appeal to the Scottish Information who has extensive powers to investigate such matters.

His address is:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle

St. Andrews

Fife KY16 9DS

Yours sincerely

Lorraine McMillan

Chief Executive

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be "seen" giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by RM64 - 12 May 2020 11:08

----- Original Message -----

To:

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Cc: "Buchanan, Tony (Cllr)" ; "Miller, Stewart (Cllr)" ; "O'Kane, Paul (Cllr)";

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be "seen" giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by Tom - 17 May 2020 17:38

"Whilst it is your legal right to ask for and receive information under Freedom of Information legislation, it would be greatly appreciated if you would consider minimising the number of requests you

make over the next few months or even delaying requests.

Such requests take staff away from serving the most vulnerable members of our community at this difficult time.

Through our communications team we are already doing everything we can to provide the information that the general public and our residents are most interested in."

Lorraine McMillan Chief Executive Officer

Salary Â£116,239

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be 'seen' giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by Tom - 17 May 2020 17:46

"Whilst it is your legal right to ask for and receive information under Freedom of Information legislation, it would be greatly appreciated if you would consider minimising the number of requests you make over the next few months or even delaying requests."

From the Scottish Information Commissioner.

"Asking for information during the Covid-19 pandemic

Freedom of information is an important tool for ensuring that Scottish public authorities are accountable for the work that they do and the decisions they make.

The FOI principles of openness and transparency are key in helping to retain and strengthen public trust. The 'right to information' provided by FOI therefore remains critically important during the Covid-19 pandemic."

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be seen giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by Tom - 17 May 2020 17:57

"Such requests take staff away from serving the most vulnerable members of our community at this difficult time."

Hmmmm, so the Culture and Leisure staff who currently have no role are now working on the front line, namely the Director and his Secretary?

The Director of the Environment and his Personal Assistant are now on the front line?

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Re: Should the Council's CEO be seen giving Live regular updates to Staff and Residents using current available Webcast/Video facilities ?

Posted by Tom - 17 May 2020 18:02

"Through our communications team we are already doing everything we can to provide the information that the general public and our residents are most interested in."

In my opinion absolute spin Ms McMillan. 🤔

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