

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13, the following motion has been received:-

1.2 From Cllrs Mrs T L Carter, A H Eves, N J Hookway, M Hoy, Mrs D Hoy, G Ioannou, Mrs C M Mason, J E Newport, M G Wilkinson and S A Wilson:-

'We are all aware that these are unprecedented times that are causing unimagined difficulties both financial and emotional to our residents. The pandemic has affected some harder than others with many paying the ultimate price, death. Whilst we cannot help those people we can, and should, assist the families that they leave behind. These families are often faced, not only with the sadness of being unable to say goodbye to their loved ones in the manner that they would wish, but are also have to deal with their grief, emotional loss and the financial stress of unexpected expenditure at a time when most incomes are reducing.

This Council is administering the efforts instigated by government and the efforts of all involved is to be applauded. Yet we have not instigated any of our own initiatives as of this point in time.

This motion asks that our officers provide detailed a proposal including costings of a scheme to give a direct grant to all our residents who lose a loved one to the coronavirus, as documented on the death certificates or otherwise evidenced.

The UK death rate is at present 255 per million population. Assuming Rochford District has 86,000 residents this would equate to about 22 deaths so we are not talking about a large number of residents although it is unfortunately possible that this rate will increase. This may increase by about 40% when community deaths are known.

Indeed, as a Council we have seen our own Vice-Chairman succumb to this dreadful illness and our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. I believe that providing a substantial grant of £1,000.00 per family towards funeral expenses or other costs at this difficult time should be implemented.

This relatively small amount from Rochford District Council's budget will have a huge impact on the families concerned and should also demonstrate that residents really are at the heart of our community.

This motion asks for this to be considered as a matter of urgency and approved either now or at the next Council Meeting at the latest so that we can assist those so dreadfully affected.

I trust that Members of the administration will also support this motion in the spirit of cross-party co-operation.

Should the Council so agree I am willing to propose that this is implemented with immediate effect.

Note source: [worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/uk](https://worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/uk). Highest Europe rate of death per million pop 455 (Spain) which may result in 39 grants. Assumed steady death rate across population. (Possibly/hopefully less in our District.) The costs of funerals for residents under the age of 18 are met by Government funding and the majority of funeral directors offer their services free of charge.



Shaun Scrutton

Managing Director

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**Background Papers:-**

None

For further information please contact Michelle Power (Democratic Services Officer) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.