

GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEE DECISION SHEET

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2022

	Item Title	Committee Decision	Services Required to take action	Officer to Action
1	<u>Determination of urgent business</u>	No urgent business		
2	<u>Determination of exempt business</u>	No exempt business		
3	<u>Members are requested to declare any interests or connections</u>	None		
4	<p><u>Wording of written request in terms of Standing Order 8.2.2</u></p> <p>That this Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the decision taken in the Supreme Court of America to overturn the Landmark ruling of Roe V Wade is a step backwards for human rights. 2. Agree that this decision in the American Courts does not affect the rights of women in Great Britain it is nevertheless a decision not worthy of the United States of America. 3. Agrees with Dr Edward Morris, president of the UK's Royal 	<p><u>The Council resolved:-</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to agree that the decision taken by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organisation to overturn the landmark ruling of Roe v Wade, which has now removed access to safe abortion for millions of women in the United States of America, is a step backwards for human rights; (ii) to note that the decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organisation will not have legal implications beyond the United States of America, but believe that this will embolden those around the world who seek to restrict access to safe abortions; (iii) to agree with Dr Edward Morris, present of the UK's Royal College of Obstetricians and 		

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	<p>College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who said: "Limiting access to abortions won't reduce the number of abortions happening, it will just make abortions less safe."</p> <p>4. Notes American-based anti-choice group <i>40 Days for Life</i> have held a 'prayer vigil' at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary hospital earlier this year.</p> <p>1. Therefore, agrees that Council should liaise with the Scottish Government in order to bring forward a byelaw to introduce buffer zones as a short-term measure to prevent fear, harassment or intimidation for any women using clinics that provide abortion services until such time as the Scottish Government legislate on the matter.</p> <p>With a report coming back to the next Council on progress.</p>	<p>Gynaecologists, who said "Limiting access to abortions won't reduce the number of abortions happening, it will just make abortions less safe";</p> <p>(iv) to note with concern that protests, by groups and individuals who seek to restrict access to safe abortions, have already taken place at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary this year, and to further note that some of these have been organised under the guise of being 'prayer vigils';</p> <p>(v) to understand that protests outside abortion clinics can cause those seeking access to services to feel distressed, alarmed, intimidated and/or harassed;</p> <p>(vi) to agree that nobody seeking to access abortion services in Aberdeen should be subject to harassment and intimidation;</p> <p>(vii) to believe that a restriction on protests, within close proximity to abortion clinics, that seek to influence the behaviour of abortion service users and providers, often described as a 'buffer zone', would be a necessary and proportionate measure;</p> <p>(viii) to believe that a 'buffer zone' should be established at any appropriate healthcare sites that provide abortion services in Aberdeen;</p> <p>(ix) to note the email sent by Councillor Radley, Convener of the Operational Delivery Committee, to Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister; and</p> <p>(x) to instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to liaise with the Scottish Government and COSLA to explore options to establish protest-free buffer zones including but not</p>		

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		limited to potentially implementing a local byelaw, and to report back to the next meeting of Full Council.		

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Martyn Orchard, tel 01224 523097 or morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk