

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

23/00025

For publication Yes

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter: New Contracts for the Provision of Post-Mortem Facilities for the Mid Kent & Medway, Northwest Kent, and East Kent Coroner Areas

Decision: As Cabinet Member Community & Regulatory Services I agree to:

- A) Issue new contracts, via direct awards, for the provision of Post-Mortem Facilities in Mid-Kent and Medway, Northwest Kent, and East Kent, to commence from 1 April 2023 for a period of 12 months with the option of extending for a further 4 years.
- B) delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the contracts; and
- C) delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Communities to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into required legal agreements and agreed contract extensions, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision: The current contracts for PM facilities and staff expire on 31 March 2023. There is a need for these contracts to be renewed from 1st April 2023 to ensure continuity of this critical service.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision is being discussed by Members of the Growth and Economic Development Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 14 March

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do nothing - This is a statutory service, and unless contracts are put in place the system of coronial death investigation and certification in the Mid Kent & Medway, North West Kent, North East Kent, Central and South East Kent coroner areas will fail. The Council will also be at risk of receiving an inconsistent provision and quality of service, a lack of control over costs, and subsequent reputational ramifications.

Go out to tender Competitive Tender Process - There are no private sector organisations within this marketplace locally, and previous experience of mortuary use outside of Kent has not delivered a suitable service. A competitive tender process will not yield a competitive process.

Use a framework or other viable contract mechanism - There are no known frameworks or other viable mechanisms for the provision of mortuary facilities in England and Wales.

One NHS Trust delivers all PMs - No single facility can accommodate the number/level of PMs.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

date