

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for
Community & Regulatory Services**

DECISION NO:

24/00012

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision Contingency contract to provide temporary emergency facilities in the event of a mass fatality incident.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services, I agree to delegate authority to the Director of Growth & Communities to take any necessary actions to enter into a contract for the provision of emergency facilities, including mortuary facilities, in the event of a mass fatality incident

Reason(s) for decision:

The existing contingency contract is scheduled to expire shortly. A new contract is a key element of planning for an emergency which results in a mass fatalities incident. In the event that such a contract is called upon it is likely that the costs will exceed £1m.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision is scheduled to be discussed by Members of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 05 March 2024

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Do nothing. This would leave KCC exposed of not meeting its duties to provide the facilities necessary to accommodate the coroners in carrying out their work and also to significant reputational risk in the event that there is nowhere to accommodate the deceased with dignity and respect out of public view.
- Rely on national government, local mutual aid agreements or military support. National government no longer maintains capability in this area. Mutual aid agreements are already part of the emergency plan for this type of event, but they are limited in scope and are unlikely to be able to provide the physical accommodation for the deceased which would be required. Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) may be sought in such an incident but it cannot be guaranteed and, again, is unlikely to be able to provide physical accommodation. MACA requires that all civil options have been exhausted before it can be undertaken.

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

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signed

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date