

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – URGENT RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BETAKEN BY:**

**Roger Gough**

**Leader of the Council**

**DECISION NO:**

22/0006

**For Publication****Key decision: YES**

*The decision will:*

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000)*

**As Leader of the Council, I agree to:**

Approve the procurement and setup arrangements for a Temporary Place of Rest should it be needed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This approval includes agreement;

- I. to approve up to £1 million from the Emergency Covid reserve to support the procurement and management of the temporary site to provide additional capacity for Kent and Medway at one location, should it be needed, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such solutions shall include, but not be limited solely to, site preparation, installation of temporary structure and equipment, management of the site, security and access control, facility management, ICT and technical systems support, mortuary storage management, transportation and traffic management services to and from the location, demobilisation and site clearance including any decontamination; management and staffing; and
- II. to delegate authority under the Scheme of Officer Delegations to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Corporate Director for Finance and the Monitoring Officer, to take relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts and other legal agreements required to ensure the effective operation and delivery of the increased mortuary capacity, as necessary to implement this decision; and
- III. to delegate authority under the Scheme of Officer Delegations to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, the Corporate Director for Finance, the monitoring officer and the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport to direct the use of KCC land and to enable the provision and operation of the mortuary capacity, and take other appropriate actions in relation to Property Management and Infrastructure activity, necessary to implement this decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

KCC has a statutory responsibility under the Civil Contingency Act 2004 to take the lead on behalf of the Kent Resilience Forum in responding to humanitarian impacts that result from an emergency. As part of the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of the new Omicron Variant, latest modelling, the rising absenteeism of frontline hospital staff and other routine winter pressures, the multi-agency partners of the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) of which KCC has a lead role, have

decided to initiate preparations to set up the Aylesford Temporary Place of Rest in case it is needed in 2022 to support the county's existing mortuary space.

**Financial Implications:**

The initial estimate is that funding up to £1m will be required to set up and operate a Temporary Place of Rest. The Emergency Covid reserve will be used to fund the costs incurred.

**Reason for Urgency:**

Because setting up the site takes time, a proactive move is being taken to plan ahead, to allow for getting the necessary statutory and logistical plans in place at minimum cost, to ensure that the county remains prepared for any potential winter pressures on death management and services across the county in the new year.

**Member and other consultation:**

No Cabinet Committee consultation possible due to urgency process.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, in addition to agreeing that the decision could not be reasonably deferred provided the following comments:

The Group Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee providing the following comments:

The Chair and Group Spokespeople of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee provided the following comments:

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

None: KCC has an obligation under the Civil Contingency Act 2004 to take the lead in responding to humanitarian impacts that result from an emergency that straddles more than one District within the county.

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

None



6 January 2022

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signed

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date