

MINUTES OF MEETING Cabinet Member Signing HELD ON Thursday, 13th April, 2023, 3.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Peray Ahmet - Leader of the Council

ALSO ATTENDING: Fiona Alderman, Ayshe Simsek, Giles Adey

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

9. CORONERS BODY REMOVAL CONTRACTS

The Leader considered the report which sought approval to award a contract for the provision of body removal transportation services to Jacksons Hub Ltd for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for 1 year.

The Leader was provided information on why the contract approval was needed and noted that when a death is referred to the coroner, he/she is required to establish the cause. It was necessary to transport the deceased from the place of death (community, hospital or care facility) to one of the two designated post mortem facilities for the area; Haringey mortuary and Brent mortuary to help establish the cause of death.

It was noted that, at the point when the referral is made, the body becomes evidence for the purposes of the coroner's investigation. It was therefore critical that the deceased was transported in a controlled way that preserved the evidence. Once the post mortem had been completed, the coroner would release the body to the family funeral director for collection so that the funeral arrangements could proceed. The costs of the collection were met by the family not the Council.

The Leader considered the exempt information on: the tendering process, typical costs of transportation, and assessment of the contract bids for this sensitive service.

The Leader RESOLVED to approve

1. The award of a contract for the provision of body removal transportation services on behalf HM Senior Coroner for a period of 3 years to Jacksons Hub Ltd at

a contract value of £1,004,250 (including price increases), with an option to extend for up to 1 year at a total maximum contract value of £1,339,000.

2. The inclusion of a contingency sum of up to the value set out in the Part B report (exempt). This takes account that the nature of the service and the number of death referrals to the coroner (and the number requiring transportation) is not constant and is usually subject to some fluctuation.

Reasons for decision

The Council's current contracts expire on the 5th April 2023 and a procurement process has been undertaken to ensure new contracts can be placed that meets the council's and the coroners current requirements.

Alternative Options Considered.

Do Nothing

This is not a viable option as the current contract for the body removal transportation services expires on 5th April 2023.

Renew existing contract

This was not an option, the reason is set out in the Part B (exempt) report.

Undertake a full compliant tender process

A compliant tender process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 was undertaken.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded for the consideration of agenda item 5 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 3 and 5, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

11. EXEMPT - CORONERS BODY REMOVAL CONTRACTS

The exempt information was noted.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date