

Emergency Committee

Monday 23 March 2020 at 15:00 at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

- Present:** Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillor Millard.
- Officers:** David Stevens (Chief Executive);
Surjit Tour (Director of Law and Governance and
Monitoring Officer).
- Members observing remotely:** Councillors Crompton, Y Davies, Hadley, Moore and
Shaen.

4/20 **Additional Items of Business**

There was no additional items of business arising which was considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

5/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at the meeting.

6/20 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the authority holding that information).

7/20 **Priority arrangements and procurement in response to Covid-19
Outbreak**

Approval was sought to urgent procurement arrangements to enable a regional response to meet additional accommodate facilities to complement existing capacity across the West Midlands region which was considered to be insufficient associated with COVID 19 – coronavirus.



A co-ordinated West Midlands regional approach involving Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Solihull, Walsall, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton councils was considered to be the most financially resilient and efficient approach to addressing the many challenges that local communities were facing and Sandwell Council had been designated by the councils from within the West Midlands region to lead on negotiations and arrangements.

Birmingham Airport and Kenyon International had been identified as being able to respond to this identified need expeditiously. The temporary storage and accommodation facility, which would be located at Birmingham Airport, would be scalable in capacity. Capacity levels were in line with Public Health England professional guidance in relation to local government preparedness.

Whilst the Committee discussed alternative options, these were not currently available and were subject to further guidance from Government. Sandwell, along with other authorities, needed to be in a position to be able to act and needed to make the arrangements now in the event that collective approval was obtained.

Agreed that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and subject to collective approval by and agreed proportionate funding from each of the authorities within the West Midlands region:-

- (1) an exemption be made to the Council's procurement and contract procedure rules for additional storage and accommodation facilities with Birmingham Airport and Kenyon International;
- (2) the Council commits 9.4% of the total overall costs from its contingency budgets as Sandwell's agreed contribution toward the contractual and lease arrangements;
- (3) in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, the Chief Executive and Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into all requisite agreements and arrangements necessary to establish and operate the additional storage and accommodation facilities.

Meeting ended at 15:17