

# Minutes of Emergency Committee

**Thursday 28 January 2021 at 13:40**

- Present:** Councillor Crompton (Chair);  
Councillors Millard, Shaeen and Singh.
- Officers:** David Stevens (Chief Executive), Surjit Tour (Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer), Elaine Newsome (Service Manager – Democracy), Mark Satchwell (Service Manager – Registration) and Trisha Newton (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

10/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ali, Moore and Padda.

11/21 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at the meeting.

12/21 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.



13/21

## 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.

14/21

## Extension of arrangements at the temporary mortuary at Birmingham Airport

Further to Minute No. 7/20, in order to ensure the Council continued to have in place sufficient arrangements so that it could respond flexibly to sustained increases in the mortality rate and the impact this had locally on the storage of deceased persons due to COVID-19, approval was sought to extend arrangements for the temporary mortuary at Birmingham Airport. The current arrangements would end on 31 March 2021.

A co-ordinated West Midlands regional approach involving Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Solihull, Walsall, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton Councils, continued to be the most financially resilient and efficient approach to managing the risks associated with mortuary capacity during the current period of excess deaths.

The expenditure associated with this work would initially be met from Sandwell Council's emergency contingency fund, however, it was anticipated that grants issued to local authorities by central government in response to COVID 19 would enable the Council to recover most of the costs associated with the Temporary Mortuary at Birmingham Airport.

Those Councils involved had agreed in principle that there was a need to extend, or where applicable, enter into new arrangements to retain the facility until 31 August 2021.



## Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to authorise the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to extend or enter into all requisite agreements (including leases/licences) and any arrangements necessary to operate the additional storage and accommodation facilities at the temporary mortuary at Birmingham Airport until 31 August 2021;
- (2) that in connection with (1) above, the Council commits 13.9% of the total overall costs from its contingency budgets as Sandwell's agreed contribution toward the contractual and lease arrangements;
- (3) that any necessary exemptions be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to in (1) above to proceed.

Meeting ended at 13:55

To view the meeting, click <https://youtu.be/4iq05yqqWQ8>

Contact: [democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)

