

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Sarah Gordon, Corporate Procurement and Project Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	23 November 2021

TRANSPORTATION OF DEAD BODIES ON BEHALF OF H.M. CORONER BLACKPOOL AND FYLDE JURISDICTION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To confirm the outcome of the recent tender exercise undertaken for the transportation of dead bodies on behalf of H M Coroner, Blackpool and Fylde jurisdiction.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of HAFS (Lancs) Limited to undertake delivery of this service.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A formal tendering exercise was undertaken during October and November in order to select a supplier to undertake provision of this service for the period of 2 years, with the option to extend for a further 1 plus 1 year.

The Council conducted an open, above threshold tender via our electronic tendering portal, The Chest.

8 companies expressed an interest with bids being received from 2 companies:

HAFS (Lancs) Limited, Thornton-Cleveleys
Funeral Services Limited (t/a Co-op Funeralcare), Manchester

HAFS (Lancs) Limited provided the most economically advantageous tender when taking into account quality, cost and social value and it is therefore, our intention to enter into a formal agreement with them.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 When a death occurs which is reportable to the HM Coroner, there is a requirement to arrange for the deceased to be moved from the place of death to an appropriate mortuary facility, or other such location as authorised by the HM Coroner. If the death occurred in a hospital where the mortuary is located then this is straightforward. However, deaths also occur in the community or at other outside locations.

5.2 This is a recurrent procurement requirement in order to ensure the Coroner has appropriate provision in place for the transportation of dead bodies across Blackpool and Fylde for deaths in the community.

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 **List of Appendices:** n/a

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The process was undertaken in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into a contract with HAFS (Lancs) Ltd.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The cost of the services will be met within existing budget.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Should the contract not be awarded, there will be no provision in place to ensure that bodies are being transported to the mortuary from within the Blackpool and Fylde community.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The preferred supplier has signed the Council's Supplier Charter.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 n/a

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the appointment of HAFS (Lancs) Ltd.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 HAFS (Lancs) Ltd has provided the most economically advantageous tender when taking into account price, quality and social value.