

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA561498223

Submitted: 17 November 2023 17:11 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Procurement of Body Removal and Body Storage

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy / decision: Procurement process to purchase body removal and body storage across six areas of greater Essex to ensure that the coroner's service can meet its statutory obligations. This provides timely collection and safe and dignified storage for deceased residents of Essex, ensuring that the HM Coroner can undertake their statutory duties to investigated deaths where the cause is unknown.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: To promote health and wellbeing but also to provide care for those that need support. Although perhaps an unusual part of providing support, caring for those who have passed away appropriately is part of providing this full support to a resident. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to provide the correct environment for storage after the death as this affords the individual dignity and therefore this paper supports this aim.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Cllr Mark Durham (The Arts, Heritage and Culture)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: Change to an existing policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: Link the removal and storage of bodies to the NHS mortuaries, minimising travel and providing additional capacity to mitigate the risks of demand exceeding storage capacity.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?: Infrastructure

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health: Levelling up health

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: None

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: None

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: None

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: None

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Storage of deceased, impact limited to relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: None identified

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: None

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Storage of deceased, impact limited to relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: None

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Sex workers

Nature of impact: None

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: None

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: None

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Storage of deceased, impact limited to

relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: None

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in urban areas

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Storage of deceased, impact limited to relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Storage of deceased, impact limited to relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: None identified

Crime & Disorder

Crime and disorder

Nature of impact: None

The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

Nature of impact: None

Re-offending

Nature of impact: None

Serious violence

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:

Storage of deceased, impact limited to relatives of deceased under Coroner investigations

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

None identified

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: Yes

The use of existing buildings will always have a climate impact because it requires energy consumption. Please outline how you will mitigate against this impact: Using existing body storage facilities across greater Essex to store deceased. Whilst in storage will have limited when storing bodies facilities need power to meet legal requirements.

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): Yes

Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?: Transport of bodies from place of death to the defined NHS mortuary or secondary storage site.

If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?: No

What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?: Currently reliant on third party commercial vehicles, no plans in place to enforce the use of electric vehicles within these contracts.

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: Yes

Please confirm for purchase over £100k that you have a carbon reduction plan as part of your procurement: No

Please list which climate TOMS (Themes, outcomes & measures) you have included in your procurement and the weighting these have been given: Checking with procurement

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: None

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Positive

Waste: None

Extent of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Transport of the deceased who need to be moved to an appropriate storage facility. Contract breaks greater Essex area into smaller regions than current contract linked to main mortuaries to minimise travel.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: Body removal is a statutory responsibility, located the procurement areas around NHS mortuaries to minimise travel.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 12/11/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Simon Krone

Email address of person completing the ECIA: simon.krone@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Your service area: Customer Services

Your team: Coroners

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: janine.last@essex.gov.uk