

BEREAVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE QUANTITY SURVEYOR CONSULTANCY BRIEFING PAPER (PART I)



Introduction

Plymouth's existing cremators which are located at Efford and Weston Mill are beyond their life expectancy. New cremators require added abatement technology to meet the Governments emissions requirements, these will not fit in the existing buildings. An extension is not possible in either location due to proximity of graves to the buildings. In addition Weston Mill only has 15 years of burial space available and Efford has even less. Both facilities are over 100 years old and do not provide the people of Plymouth with the type of facility that meets modern requirements.

Therefore, a new crematorium facility is under construction at Merafield Road, Plymouth located within the City boundary adjacent to the Drake Memorial Park which will transfer to the Council in 2050. Work has been ongoing for the last 6 years to design the new facility, purchase the land, procure the cremator provider, consult with the public and gain planning approval for this new scheme. A budget of over £29.4m has been approved in the Capital Programme for the project and we are now on site. A contract was signed in 2022 which appointed Kier Construction to work with the council to deliver the new facility. The new crematorium is expected to be fully complete in spring 2024.

Background

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (AECOM) have provided Quantity Surveying support to the crematorium design and development since the beginning of the project as part of the appointed multi-disciplinary design team. Although the other disciplines have either been transferred to the principle contractor or are no longer required the role of Quantity Surveyor to act on behalf of Plymouth City Council remains critical to the success of this high profile project for the City. The Main Contractor and Design Team are all appointed under NEC Contracts that if not administered correctly could have significant financial implications, this is a £29.4m scheme with a main contract sum of £21m.

With the construction underway there is no time to tender and allow enough time for a new Quantity Surveyor to get up to speed on such a large scheme. Without this support the scheme would stall, PCC would incur delays as a result of not providing information/action in a timely manner in accordance with the NEC contract and the delivery date would likely move from April 2024. Any movement of the date increases the risk of the existing cremators at Weston Mill and Efford failing (they are now well past the end of life) and in a worst case scenario us having to send bodies to other crematoriums outside of the City which would have a significant reputational impact on the Council as well as cost.

Because of the size and complexity of the scheme, it has been established that no one within PCC has the capacity to support this scheme. AECOM have a local consultancy who have progressed the scheme well and have an established knowledge of the project over its lifetime. They have the relevant training and skills to oversee the scheme. The rates provided have been reviewed by a PCC Quantity Surveyor and offer value for money. The proposed hours are fair and in line with our thoughts on delivery for a scheme of this nature.

Procurement Process

The original appointment of AECOM was carried out through a competitive tender via The Supplying the South West Portal in December 2017. TC/I7014 Bereavement Infrastructure, AECOM have already proven that they have the skills and expertise to manage the financial monitoring of the project. Their experience on the scheme puts them in a position where they can seamlessly continue to deliver these services which is key for PCC from a risk perspective when managing an NEC4 contract.

This variation to the original contract is being made in accordance with Regulation 72-(1)(e) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

This is a minor variation to the original contract covering the additional costs of prolongation through Covid and continuation of fees to the completion of the project which total £255,000

Decision Summary

Approve the Quantity Surveyor services contract variation for the Bereavement Infrastructure project in favour of AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd for the delivery of the new Plymouth Crematorium.