

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Advance works – Challenge Fund
Date of decision:	26 July 2017
Decision maker:	Assistant Director Environment and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision in the decision taken by the key decision taken by the cabinet member Transport and Roads in regard to the Balfour Beatty Living Places Public Realm Annual Plan 2017/18 on 30 March 2017. That decision included for the following:</p> <p>‘ (b) the assistant director environment and place be authorised to agree, through the contract governance arrangements, final adjustments to the programme and budget allocation to each of the annex areas (including, but not limited to, the investment, in accord with the approach set out in this report, of all funds received from the National Productivity Investment Fund, the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund in 2017/18 and the capital programme) and any in year adjustments to the plan.’</p> <p>This officer decision is taken in accord with the authority delegated above regarding an in year adjustment to the Public Realm Annual Plan to include for investment related to the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund in 2017/18 and the capital programme.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None.
Decision made:	To reallocate £1.675 million from the council’s existing capital programme in advance works related to the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund in 2017/18 through the 2017/18 Public Realm Annual Plan.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The council has bid to the Department for Transport’s (DfT) Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund. Bids were submitted in March 2017. The results of the 2017/18 bidding round have been delayed as a consequence of the ‘snap’ general election. The result is anticipated to be announced during August 2017.</p> <p>The council’s bid https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/723/herefordshire_road_investment/2 is for the Major Maintenance of Routes that Connect Herefordshire’s Enterprise Zone. The bid seeks £5 Million of funding from DfT alongside its own contribution of £3 million. That £3 million having been included for in the council’s capital programme, subject to the bid being successful.</p> <p>The works include an amount of preparatory works and surface dressing works and the latter can only be successfully delivered</p>

	<p>during the summer months. It is anticipated, that if the council is successful in its bid DfT will need to see its investment delivered in full during the 2017/18 financial year. As a consequence of the seasonal nature of the surface dressing works there is a need to mobilise and deliver this element in August 2017, else the window of opportunity for the delivery of this element of works during the 2017/18 financial year will be lost. Similarly, if preparatory works are not initiated, the council's ability to deliver all works bid for during 2017/18 may be compromised.</p> <p>The sum required to deliver the surface dressing and preparatory elements of these works, including for risk, is assessed at £1.675 million. If the council's bid were unsuccessful then this sum can be met from the sums currently allocated in the Annual plan, through reallocation, pending the availability of the funds conditioned on the success of the bid.</p> <p>The mobilization of these surface dressing and preparatory works will enable, on the announcement of a successful bid, the council to deliver significant benefits to the local and national economy through returning 38.9 miles of key routes to a good condition throughout.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>As with any bidding process, there is a risk that the council's bid to the 2017/18 Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund will not be successful. If this is the case, then the council will not receive the DfT funding element and will not be able to complete all works and Herefordshire will not realise all the assessed benefits of that investment. In this eventuality the works delivered as a consequence of this decision will not be wasted, all will contribute to an improvement in the condition of routes that connect Herefordshire's Enterprise Zone. In this scenario a further decision will be sought in regard to the use of the £3 million that has been included for in the council's capital programme.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>To wait for the result of the 2017/18 bidding round, this is anticipated during August 2017. This option is rejected as the window of opportunity for the delivery of the surface dressing element of works during the 2017/18 financial year will be lost and our failure to initiate preparatory works may compromise the council's ability to deliver all works bid for during 2017/18, in the event that our bid is successful.</p>

Details of any declarations of interest made:	None.

Signed..... Date: