

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award contract to the Wye and Usk Foundation for the River Wye and Lugg NFM Project
Date of decision:	17 October 2018
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate scheme of delegation: updated 14/09/18 Directorate: Economy and Place, section 42. This is an exercise of the delivery of a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p> <p>The authorisation limit is within the financial procedure rules and is sufficient for the decision.</p> <p>The authorisation is in line with the Cabinet Member Decision Report dated 15 March 2018.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The Wye and Usk Foundation will be delivering/ helping to deliver the following work packages in 6 of the 7 priority sub-catchments catchment (all except Brimfield):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP 3A: Catchment scale soil testing and management • WP 4: NFM implementation management • WP 5: Research into knowledge gaps • WP 6: Community engagement and publicity <p>An exemption to contracts procedure rules standing orders form has been signed for this decision (up to a value of £300,000).</p>
Decision made:	Award a contract to the Wye and Usk Foundation for the provision of services to assist with the delivery of the River Wye and Lugg NFM project, from October 2018 until 31 March 2021 at a total cost of £246,965.
Reasons for decision:	<p>This contract will facilitate the delivery of the River Wye and Lugg NFM Project, which aims to reduce the risk of flooding to downstream communities.</p> <p>The Wye and Usk Foundation will provide Catchment Advisors for who will work closely with farmers and communities to help deliver NFM measures within the catchments. The Catchment Advisors will help bring in additional funding via the Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier scheme. The Wye and Usk Foundation will also bring relevant expertise and catchment knowledge to the project which will help delivery.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council does not currently have an internal resource for the delivery of work packages 3A, 4, 5 and 6. An exemption to contracts procedure rules standing orders form has therefore been signed for this decision (up to a value of £300,000) to contract the Wye and Usk Foundation to provide this service.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Financial</p> <p>The River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management project is one of 24 catchment scale projects funded by a £15m Defra allocation</p>

	<p>for natural flood management projects in England (funding secured until 31 March 2021). It is one of four catchment scale projects in the Environment Agency West Midlands area together with three community scale NFM projects. The project has a value of £626,000.</p> <p>By centrally organising engagement events and publications, cost savings will be achieved. The Wye and Usk Foundation will also bring in added value to the project through additional funding secured through the Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier scheme.</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>Herefordshire Council is a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' and the management of this project would be consistent with its series of responsibilities to coordinate the management of local flood risk.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not entering into this contract with the Wye and Usk Foundation could result in project delays, additional costs and lower levels of engagement.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed Richard Ball
 Director for Economy & Place

Date: 17 October 2018