

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award contract for the River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project, Work Package 5B: Habitat Monitoring – Habitat and biodiversity surveys
Date of decision:	26 June 2019
Decision maker:	Acting Assistant Director for Highways and Transport Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate scheme of delegation: updated 14/02/19 Directorate: Economy and Place, section 71. 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. http://hc-modgov:9070/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5054</p>
Ward:	Project is Countywide and habitat assessments will be in Golden Valley South Ward
Consultation:	<p>To conduct habitat and biodiversity surveys at a site of proposed NFM works. Assessments will be conducted before and after NFM measures are installed, to enable the impact of NFM measures to be analysed. This helps meet the DEFRA funding requirement to gather evidence on knowledge gaps. The contract is for the surveys prior to NFM installation only.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate best value, quotes were requested from three suitable suppliers. One quote was received. The value of this quote was within the budget allocated for this area of research (WP5B: Habitat) and therefore the decision was made to award the contract to this provider.</p> <p>The process has not been subject to consultation.</p>
Decision made:	To award the habitat and biodiversity survey work, which forms part of WP5B: Habitat Research, to Herefordshire Wildlife Trust at a value of £1,840. This will support the delivery of the DEFRA funded, River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management project.
Reasons for decision:	<p>This contract will provide the following survey activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River (multi) MoRPh survey • Riverfly survey • Riparian vegetation survey • Crayfish Survey <p>*Where encountered additional species data will be recorded e.g. otters, water voles, invertebrates, fish, terrestrial mammals, birds and non-native invasive species.</p> <p>This information will be summarised within a report, excel files and shapefiles.</p> <p>In accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules for</p>

	contracts with a value less than £5,000, 'best value must be demonstrated'. To do this, quotes were requested from three suitable suppliers. One quote was received. The value of this quote was within the budget allocated for this area of research (WP5B: Habitat) and therefore the decision was made to award the contract to this provider.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management project is one of 26 catchment scale projects funded by a £15m Defra allocation 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>Best value has been sought when tendering for this work.</p> <p><u>Legal</u></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 conducting the habitat monitoring would prevent the project from meeting DEFRA's funding requirement to gather evidence on knowledge gaps.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Job Title: Acting Assistant Director Highways & Transport