

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Temporary arrangements for the River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project during period of COVID-19 emergency measures
Date of decision:	28 May 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	In line with section 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies of the constitution
Ward:	Countywide (All wards)
Consultation:	Herefordshire Council legal services Herefordshire Council Section 151 officer Cabinet Member Infrastructure & Transport Environment Agency
Decision made:	That Herefordshire Council should continue as per its agreed NFM programme schedule; continuing to claim monies from Defra, make payments as agreed to our delivery partners/contractors and extend the Contract of Services with the Wye and Usk Foundation though programme changes have occurred as a result of COVID 19 restrictions.
Reasons for decision:	<p>There will be programme delays to the NFM project as a result of COVID 19 restrictions. Following consultation with the Environment Agency it is recommended that contract payments to key delivery partners (funded by the EA grant for this scheme) will continue as normal to ensure these suppliers can recommence the delivery of the NFM projects as restrictions allow.</p> <p>Specifically, the national NFM Programme Board have confirmed that the council should:</p> <p>proceed in making a final claim to the EA of £97,000, claiming part of the payment this quarter and making a subsequent claim later in the year, pending upon delivery outcomes.</p> <p>continue to pay invoices relating to services for our NFM project, including invoices from Severn Rivers Trust for their work on this project.</p> <p>proceed in extending the Contract of Services with the Wye and Usk Foundation, the detail of which will form part of a separate Record of Officer decision</p> <p>This will provide support to our key delivery partners and contractors during the current COVID-19 emergency and will help enable them to recommence normal operations following removal of COVID-19 restrictions. This will in turn facilitate the successful delivery of our NFM project</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Finance: There are no financial risks to Herefordshire Council as the project is externally grant funded. The national NFM Programme Board have confirmed that we should continue to support our delivery partners financially during the COVID-19 emergency period. This is consistent with the Procurement Policy Note - Supplier relief due to COVID-19 Action Note PPN 02/20 March 2020 (included at appendix 1). They have requested that we regularly report to them regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on delivery of our project.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	None
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place

Date: 28 May 2020