

## Record of Officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>To approve expenditure of the next stage of Hereford Towns Fund - St Owen Street Cycle Contraflow</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	11 December 2020
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director of Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>On 26 November 2020 Cabinet approved recommendations</p> <p>Link to the decision:  <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605</a></p> <p>That:</p> <p>(a) The £750,000 funding from government for the Towns Fund accelerated projects be accepted by the council;</p> <p>(b) The spending of the £750,000 funding from government on the Towns Fund accelerated projects as detailed within this report is approved</p> <p>(c) The Director of Economy and Place be authorised to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation (b) including, but not limited to, the procurement and commissioning of new projects, and, following consultation with the S151 officer, the movement of budgets between projects to ensure the full expenditure of funding.</p> <p>The projects identified by Cabinet as accelerated projects and approved for funding included:</p> <p>St Owen St Cycle Contraflow</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Central
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>This decision has been taken in consultation with the council's Section 151 officer and in light of the Cabinet decision accept the £750,000 Towns Fund grant funding from government:</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605</a></p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To approve expenditure of up to £300,000 for the St Owen St Cycle Contraflow project and delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to authorise spend and manage the budget.</p> <p>This expenditure is included within the £750,000 funding from government for the Towns Fund accelerated projects as recommended in the Cabinet report of 26 November 2020.</p> <p>The work will be commissioned via the existing Public Realm Services Contract. This route has been selected following an evaluation of delivery routes with commercial services to identify the delivery route which could achieve the works required within the timeframe required as part of the allocation of the grant funding.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>In July 2020 government announced that under the Towns Fund programme they were offering Hereford a grant of £750,000 to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. This grant will be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance.</p> <p>The St Owen Street scheme proposes the introduction of an informal on carriageway contraflow cycle lane along the length of St Owen Street, Hereford, a number of uncontrolled crossings with footway build outs, together with a new signal controlled crossing at the Bath Street end of St Owen Street.</p>

	<p>There has been a stated desire for a contraflow cycle scheme on St Owen Street for many years. A number of previous designs have been developed and taken to public consultation as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements. Feedback from these consultations, together with design reviews and safety audits have contributed to the development of the design over this period with a statutory consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) undertaken in 2019.</p> <p>Since the TRO consultation and the submission of the bid, national policy on cycling infrastructure design (LTN 1/20) has been updated and a new policy document published outlining its vision for walking and cycling (Gear Change). These will require a review of the existing scheme design to ensure compliance with the principles of the new guidance.</p> <p>The design development for the scheme, including the TRO consultation, had been developed previously by Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) under the Public Realm Services Contract. Given the requirement for an update of the design prior to delivery and the need to complete the work by the end of the financial year a review of the delivery route has been undertaken with commercial services. This identified that the delivery route that best mitigates the risk of not meeting the required spend deadline would be through the Public Realm Services Contract.</p> <p>The identified lead officer will be responsible for delivery within the criteria set by government. A Towns Fund programme board has been set up to oversee project delivery.</p> <p>The expenditure will be included within the medium term financial strategy and capital programme.</p> <p>The business case details the revenue impact of the project which will be managed within current revenue budgets. There is no additional funding requirements, with all projects managed within existing teams for delivery.</p> <p>Letting contracts or agreement of any external spend or grant awards proposed as part of project delivery will each require further records of decision.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>A risk assessment is included in the business case.</p> <p>Equalities impact assessments will be carried out, when appropriate, as part of the delivery of the project.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>The council could decide not to approve expenditure on the St Owen Street accelerated project. The council would not be exposed to potential financial risk of the project but would miss out on securing the government investment to assist in economic regeneration, with associated reputational consequences. This option is not recommended because of the loss of grant income that will deliver a project within the city that help to deliver the council's county plan 2020 - 2024.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed

Date: 11 December 2020

Richard Ball  
Director for Economy & Place