Record of Officer Decision

Decision title:	**To approve expenditure of the next stage of Hereford Towns Fund - Maylord Shopping Centre Improvements.**
Date of decision:	**21 December 2020**
Decision maker:	**Director for Economy and Place**
Authority for delegated decision:	On 26 November 2020 Cabinet approved recommendations That: (a) The £750,000 funding from government for the Towns Fund accelerated projects be accepted by the council; (b) The spending of the £750,000 funding from government on the Towns Fund accelerated projects as detailed within this report is approved (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. The projects identified by Cabinet as accelerated projects and approved for funding included: Project 4: Maylord Shopping Centre Improvements
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	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: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605
Decision made:	To approve expenditure of up to £100,000 for the Maylord Shopping Centre Improvements project and delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to authorise spend and manage the budget. 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. The work will be commissioned by Montagu Evans the Maylord Shopping Centre managing agents.
Reasons for decision:	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. The Maylord Shopping Centre – Provision of Business Space and Public Facilities/ Townscape Improvements project was identified as capable of delivering in line with the requirements for accelerated projects. The business case identifying the budget requirements for the project has

	been developed and considered by the Director for Economy and Place in consultation with the council's Section 151 Officer.
	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.
	The expenditure will be included within the medium term financial strategy and capital programme.
	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.
	The letting of further contracts or agreements of any external spend proposed as part of project delivery will each require further records of decision.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	A risk assessment is included in the business case. Equalities impact assessments will be carried out, when appropriate, as part of the delivery of the project.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The council could decide not to approve expenditure on this 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.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed………………………………………………………………………… Date: 21 December 2020