

Record of Officer decision

Decision title:	Green Space Enhancements – Residential Trees and Trees on Public Open Space, Towns Fund
Date of decision:	23 February 2021
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 21 December 2020 the Director of Economy & Place approved recommendations to:</p> <p>To approve expenditure of up to £100,000 for the Green Space enhancements 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 project will be commissioned in two parts. The City Centre Landmark Trees element will be delivered through the Council's current public realm contract and the Residential Trees and Trees on Public Open Space project will be procured together through a formal tender process with support from the Commercial Service team.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7462</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50035605</p>
Ward:	Kings Acre, Whitecross, Bobblestock, Holmer, Widemarsh, College, Aylestone Hill, Central, Eign Hill, Greyfriars, Tupsley, Dinedor Hill, Saxon Gate, Newton Farm, Belmont Rural, Red Hill, Hinton and Hunderton, Stoney Street, Credenhill, Queenswood, Wormside
Consultation:	<p>This decision has been taken in consultation with the council's Section 151 officer, Director for Environment & Place, Head of Economic Regeneration, Head of Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste and in light of the Cabinet decision accept the £750,000 Towns Fund grant funding from government:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50035605</p>
Decision made:	To appoint FP Matthews to undertake the Residential Trees and Trees on Public Open Space project to offer a total of 520 trees to eligible applicants at a total cost of £20,678
Reasons for decision:	<p>The scheme will offer Hereford City based residents and organisations the offer of a free trees to be planted on their premises, within the City boundary.</p> <p>Hereford City residents will be eligible for one tree per household and City based organisations will be eligible for up to five trees.</p> <p>Applications for additional trees will be considered by exception as priority will be given to maximise the number of scheme beneficiaries and to increase tree canopy for public benefit.</p> <p>The combined delivery of the Residential Tree and Trees on Public Open Space elements of the Green Space Enhancement project enables better value for money through single application process for both residents and also reduces the scheme administration.</p>

	<p>The scheme and tree species available will be promoted through a dedicated webpage on the Council's website which will include an online application form with FP Matthews.</p> <p>These tree species are being stored by and will be posted directly to applicants by FP Matthews in order to mitigate the transmission risk of Covid-19.</p> <p>Advice and guidance on suitability, planting and tree care will be provided to applicants by FP Matthews.</p> <p>The procurement process was undertaken in line with the Council's contract procedure rules with support from the Commercial Services Team.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	All costs outlined in this report will be covered by the £100,000 allocated for this project from the Town Fund as approved by cabinet.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not to commission this work – This would result in the lost opportunity to improve tree coverage, enhance local biodiversity and assist in the wider economic regeneration in Hereford City.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Date: 23 February 2021

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place