


Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To approve an increased grant award of the Hereford Towns Fund for Maylord Shopping Centre improvements
Date of decision:	18 March 2021
Decision maker:	Chief Finance Officer and S151 officer
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 26 November 2020 Cabinet approved recommendations 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 Project 4: Maylord Shopping Centre Improvements.</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605</p> <p>A subsequent officer decision dated 21 December 2020 gave approval for expenditure of up to £100,000 for the Maylord Shopping Centre Improvements project and to delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to authorise spend and manage the budget.</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7463</p>
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	<p>The original decision to proceed with the expenditure of £100,000 was 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>This decision to allocate grant funding from other Towns Fund projects in order to increase the allocation to the Maylord Shopping Centre project has been taken after further consultation with the council's Section 151 officer and the council's legal and finance teams.</p>
Decision made:	<p>To approve an increased grant award of up to £140,000 for improvement works at Maylord Shopping Centre, and to place an order with Balfour Beatty Living Places to supply tree planters / benches for placement within the Maylord Shopping Centre.</p> <p>The council have previously agreed a grant award of £100,000 (see 'authority for delegated decision' section above) and so this decision represents an additional grant award of £40,000 for Maylord Shopping Centre.</p> <p>The 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>
Reasons decision:	for 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. The increased grant will be used to support this

	<p>capital expenditure. Improvements to the public realm / street-scape were highlighted in the business case as a potential area of expenditure for Maylord Shopping Centre.</p> <p>A process of identification of trees and planters has been undertaken for the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI) project, which has included consultation with key stakeholders on planters and tree species. BBLP have been commissioned under the HCCI project to undertake this works and procure and install the planters. Following the selection of a planter style, Balfour Beatty Living Places sought three quotations for supply of the planters. The addition of a further four planters for the Maylord Shopping Centre project through the existing BBLP commission enables value for money for this additional expenditure to be achieved through the use of the existing work undertaken to date on HCCI.</p> <p>A supplier has been selected on the basis of their ability to deliver the majority of the planters (including all of those allocated for the Maylord Shopping Centre) by the end of March 2021, their payment terms and on the basis their price was lower than the other compliant quotations.</p> <p>The related officer decision can be viewed here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7682</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Record of officer decision - Purchase PI</p> </div>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</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>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The council could decide not to approve additional grant to 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 will help to deliver the council's County Plan 2020 – 2024.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed:

Andrew Lovegrove
Chief Finance Officer and S151 officer

Date: 18 March 2021