

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Appointment of consultants to develop an Interim Phosphate Delivery Plan following the completion of a procurement process
Date of decision:	14 October 2020
Decision maker:	Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment & Waste Services
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>A cabinet member decision to commission the work and the delegate authority to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme was taken on 10th August 2020.</p> <p>This decision report included approved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £30,000 of the approved capital programme is made available to commission the development of an interim delivery plan. This plan will include a phosphate calculator and a suite of recommended mitigation measures appropriate to the River Lugg in order to enable developers to calculate, mitigate and/or offset the identified phosphate load from development proposals; • The Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme including the required land acquisitions and leases. <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049</p>
Ward:	County wide
Consultation:	Cabinet Member – Infrastructure and Transport, Head of Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste, Service Manager – Built & Natural Environment, Commercial Services.
Decision made:	Following the outcome of the procurement process undertaken in accordance with the council’s contract procedure rules to appoint Ricardo-AEA Ltd to undertake the Interim Phosphate Delivery Plan at a total cost of £27,371.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The development of an interim delivery plan including a phosphate calculator and a suite of recommended mitigation measures appropriate to the River Lugg catchment area has been identified as a key action to reduce phosphate levels in the Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>This will enable developers to calculate the phosphate load of their development proposals and therefore agree measures independently with landowners to mitigate or offset the identified phosphate load, although this has to demonstrate with scientific certainty that it will be phosphate neutral or show betterment and any offsetting has to comply with the Habitat Regulations.</p> <p>This has the potential to be further developed as a trading platform for offsetting identified loads in future developments subject to the criteria referred to.</p>

	The procurement process was undertaken in line with the Council's contract procedure rules with support from the Commercial Services Team.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The total cost of £27,231 will be met through the use of the £2m New Homes Bonus as approved in the cabinet member report.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not to commission this work - This would result in phosphate levels remaining in exceedance of conservation targets within the River Lugg catchment area and a moratorium upon development within the River Lugg catchment area in the north of the county.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Date: 14 October 2020

Name: Marc Willimont
Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment & Waste