

Record of Officer Decision

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| Decision title: | To approve expenditure up to £75,000 for the design and construction of drainage apparatus at Luston waste water treatment works |
| Date of decision: | 4 th March 2022 |
| Decision maker: | Service Director Highways, Environment and Waste |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <p>A cabinet member decision was taken on 10 August 2020 authorising land purchasing and lease negotiations with landowners to progress acquisition, design, construction and management of up to 8 suitable sites:</p> <p>That the approved £2m allocation in the Council's 2020/21 capital programme from the New Homes Bonus is authorised for the land purchase, design, construction and management of the integrated wetlands</p> <p>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. https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049</p> |
| Ward: | Bircher |
| Consultation: | Consultation has been carried out with the council's Section 151 Officer, and the council's Legal and Commercial teams. |
| Decision made: | <p>To approve the expenditure of up to £75,000 for the design and construction of drainage apparatus within the Luston waste water treatment works necessary to convey effluent to the Herefordshire Council wetland facility for treatment to remove phosphates.</p> <p>To enter into an agreement with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water for delivery of said work.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to manage and spend the budget allocated.</p> |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>As set out in the cabinet member decision, the creation of wetland areas will, in addition to improving the water quality of the River Lugg, positively contribute toward the delivery of the environmental and economic priorities within the County Plan 2020-2024; enhancing local biodiversity, enabling sustainable housing growth in the north of the county and reducing carbon emissions through carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The benefits of wetlands is that they will allow the release of prospective housing development currently unable to complete the planning process because of phosphate load. This will be of particular value in terms of the local construction economy and support the delivery of established housing targets.</p> <p>The council is progressing with the creation of a phosphate-reducing wetland scheme at Luston. The drainage infrastructure described is an</p> |

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| | essential part of the system necessary to convey effluent from the waste water treatment works to the wetland site for treatment. |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>The detailed scope of work being commissioned from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water will not become clear until the design element of it is sufficiently progressed to inform construction costs. There is a risk of cost escalation if the design should lead to a more costly scheme than anticipated. An estimated cost based on a previous comparable project has been used however, with a suitable risk contingency added. The projected costs will be closely monitored in partnership with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water as the design develops.</p> <p>The nature of the work and its location within the waste water treatment works is such that only the water authority are permitted to undertake the design and installation. Therefore a competitive tender process has not been possible.</p> |
| Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: | <p>Not to proceed with the appointment. This is not recommended as the wetland scheme would not be able to proceed without the means to convey effluent to it.</p> <p>This would result in the continuing shortfall of water quality in the River Lugg in relation to its conservation target.</p> <p>It would also result in a continuing inability on the part of the council to grant planning permission for development proposals within the River Lugg catchment area where such developments have the potential to increase the phosphate load within the watercourse.</p> <p>As a further consequence, the council will be at risk of failure to deliver its required housing supply for the projected plan period and the local construction economy would continue to suffer a detrimental effect.</p> |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Phil Crossland

Job Title: Interim Service Director – Highways, Environment & Waste