

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Award of Leominster Public Realm contract
Date of decision:	15 March 2024
Decision maker:	Corporate Director - Economy & Environment in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 23 September 2021 the Cabinet Member Environment and Economy delegated authority to the Director for economy and place following consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Cabinet member for environment and economy and the Cabinet member for infrastructure and transport, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approve expenditure required to deliver the Leominster public realm project. b) take all operational decisions necessary to deliver the balance of the Leominster HAZ programme <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link: Decision - Leominster Heritage Action Zone - Herefordshire Council</p>
Ward:	Leominster East
Consultation:	Consultation has been taken with the Section 151 Officer, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy and the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport,
Decision made:	<p>To award a contract to MF Freeman following a successful tendering exercise to deliver the Leominster public realm works.</p> <p>MF Freeman have submitted a quote of £1,618,502.63 to deliver the full scope of works including the priority work options as detailed in the tender package.</p> <p>The total budget for the construction works is £1,625,000.00</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>To enable the delivery of the Leominster public realm works.</p> <p>Value for money has been assured through a detailed Procurement Exercise.</p> <p>The public realm project has the goal of making the high street a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time through the improvement of shared spaces.</p> <p>The improvements to the public realm will include some road resurfacing, improvements to pedestrian areas and works to Corn Square which will take into account accessibility of the conservation area for all users.</p> <p>When combined with the broader Leominster Heritage Action Zone works already completed, the enhanced visual landscape and historic character of</p>

	Leominster is expected to attract more visitors to enjoy the town's historic character and retail offer.
Equality Considerations	The Leominster Public Realm designs have been consulted on widely to include accessibility groups. Engagement with The Royal National College for the Blind, Shopmobility and ECHO (an independent, Herefordshire-based charity and leading provider of day services for people with a disability in Herefordshire) has ensured that the enhanced public realm will be suitable for all users.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	As per good practice, a limited contingency amount has been set aside to manage unpredictable events.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Do nothing. Not delivering the programme would mean that the council would not have to incur up to £1.8m of capital expenditure to match fund the programme activities agreed with Heritage England. This option has been discounted as the council would lose the Heritage Action Zone grant funding and the ability to deliver the activities as detailed in Heritage Action Zone – Leominster decision taken on 23 July 2020.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 15/03/24

Ross Cook
Corporate Director Economy and Environment