

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to appoint Buttress Architects Limited as Lead Consultant to deliver design and consultancy services for flood alleviation required at key city centre sites including Merton Meadow
Date of decision:	
Decision maker:	Service Director, Economy and Growth
Authority for delegated decision:	The Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth on 9 September 2024 made a key decision spend up to £800,000 for the Merton Meadow sites in Hereford. Decision - Merton Meadow Flood Alleviation Scheme - Herefordshire Council
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth
Decision made:	Commission Buttress Architects Limited to deliver design and consultancy services to RIBA 4 in relation to flood alleviation works at Merton Meadow via the Fusion21 Consultancy Framework Lot No 4 (Fusion 21 Project Reference 18101) up to a contract value of £767,252.80. Buttress Architects Limited will manage a set of multi-disciplinary sub-contractors to inform RIBA 0-4 works.
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member decision dated 9 September 2024 sets out Merton Meadow Flood Alleviation Scheme. • Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) grant funding has been awarded by government for the Merton Meadow sites in Hereford. • The project will also unlock significant growth at a key gateway location, creating opportunities for inter-generational inner city living on currently under utilised land. This will enable people to live, work in the city centre, spend time and money in local businesses. • Address flooding issues, affecting these and surrounding properties. • Improve biodiversity. • The project would have the potential unlock up to 210 new dwellings.
Equality Considerations	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <p>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.</p> <p>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p>

	<p>The development will seek to ensure the highest possible standards of accessibility, and to create affordable housing to meet local social needs. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken on each design option to consider the most beneficial outcome.</p> <p>When the design team is appointed, we will convey to them their responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure that equality is factored into their planning at the earliest possible stage.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The grant funding available must result in the delivery of flood alleviation works within the stated grant timetable, otherwise there is a risk of clawback.</p> <p>There is a risk that cost of the works exceeds the grant allocation.</p> <p>There is a risk that the council is unable to undertake the appropriate design, planning and tender works in time to meet the deadline for discharge the first land transfer or development to commence on site by November 2025.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to proceed with the release of the grant to be used for the delivery of the flood alleviation works. This option is not recommended as the council will fail to adhere to the terms of the grant (such as spending the grant by the end of 2025) and thus the grant will be retracted, all monies will need to be returned, and the area will continue to be blighted by flooding and thus no development/regeneration of these key strategic sites will be possible.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date: