

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Merton Meadow Flood Alleviation (FAS) – Delegation of Authority to take operational decisions in respect of the construction contract with Speller Metcalfe (including compensation events) up to the value of £300k of the remaining BLRF funding
Date of decision:	20 th March 2026
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Economy and Growth
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth considered and the approved the draw down of the remaining £1.2 million of Brownfield Land Release (BLRF) Grant monies, and delegated to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment upon grant of planning permission to use the BLRF Grant to procure, appoint, commission the works and any other operational decision required to deliver the Merton Flood Alleviation scheme on the 24th August 2025.</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10793</p>
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	Consultation of this decision has taken place with the Cabinet Member Economy & Growth, and Herefordshire Council finance, legal, and Communications teams.
Decision made:	To delegate all operational decisions concerning the Merton Meadow Flood Alleviation Scheme construction contract with Speller Metcalfe and associated Compensation Events up to the value of £300,000 to the Service Director Economy and Growth.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The redevelopment of Merton Meadows area of the city is a major part of the council intervention to deliver affordable and key worker homes but the area is currently categorised as flood zone.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Economy and Growth took a decision 21st August 2025 to approve a construction budget of £1.5m using Brown Land Release Fund (BLRF) which was secured for the scheme. This decision included a change to funding for the design and associated project management contract originally awarded using capital funding. To ensure sufficient funds remained within the Brownfield land Release fund budget, it was agreed to separate the flood alleviation design and delivery work from the future masterplan work. This together with the drawdown of the remaining £1.2m and £300k contingency totalled £1.5m. This decision can be viewed using the following link: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10793</p>

	<p>Following market engagement via the Procure Partnership Framework, a construction contract was awarded to the value of £1.2m.</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10942</p> <p>During construction it becomes increasingly important for rapid decision making in the event of unforeseen circumstances. By delegating the decision-making authority to the Service Director Economy & Growth, delays can be minimised, and progress can continue unhindered.</p> <p>Compensation Events (CEs) must follow a prescribed process, and responses are expected within given timescales. By delegating authority to the Service Director Economy & Growth, a timely and considered response can be provided irrespective of individual availability.</p>
<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>It is not considered that there is an impact on equality from the making of this decision.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Financial Implications</p> <p>Herefordshire Council secured £2million BLRF from central government to deliver enabling flood alleviation works to facilitate the redevelopment of the Merton Meadows area. £1.5m of this funding was approved to construct the flood alleviation scheme. Should the project not be delivered in accordance with the Grant agreement then there is a risk that funding may be recovered.</p> <p>Project spend is reviewed regularly by the Project Team and monitored at monthly project board meetings. Value engineering opportunities are identified for consideration.</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Project risks are highlighted and monitored at the monthly project board meetings where they are subject to additional scrutiny.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to authorise. This decision would hinder the delivery of the project and likely result in the return of the grant funding.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date: 20/03/2026

Corporate Director for Economy and Growth