

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Wilton Road, Ross on Wye – Award of Contract for Rock Trap and wall installation.
Date of decision:	28 th September 2026
Decision maker:	Major Contracts Programme Director
Authority for delegated decision:	A Cabinet Member decision was taken on 10th March 2026 to confirm the Public Realm Services Annual Plan –2026/27 Recommendation(s): d) the Major Contracts Programme Director is authorised to spend the Department for Transport Highway Maintenance Block (Baseline) and Highway Maintenance Block (Incentive) Local Highways Maintenance Funding Allocations for 2026/27 of £23.697m in accordance with the Highway Asset Management Plan and Highway Maintenance Plan and; (e) the Major Contracts Programme Director be authorised to spend the Highways Infrastructure Investment, Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways, Public Rights of Way, Ash Die Back and Play Area Investment Council capital budget of £13.985m as detailed in Table 1 and; Full details of the decision taken can be seen at the following link: Decision - Public Realm Services Annual Plan –2026/27 - Herefordshire Council
Ward:	Ross on Wye
Consultation:	As part of the development of the annual plan, an engagement event was held for members and Town/Parish Councils on 12th February 2026. To ensure that there is continuous opportunity to discuss the annual plan over the course of the year, quarterly meetings are typically scheduled, and which allow for their knowledge and understanding, as well as confidence in dealing with highway related matters, to be increased. Given the above, it was agreed by Group Leaders that a Political Group Consultation was not required for this report. Ward Members and Parish Councils will be informed of works that are to take place in their area.
Decision made:	To approve the appointment of Owen Pell Ltd to undertake civil engineering works at Wilton Road rock face, including installation of a rock trap and drainage improvements.
Reasons for decision:	The Wilton Road rock face scheme has been developed to mitigate the risk of rock fall from the adjacent rock face and improve the safety and

	resilience of the highway network through construction of a rock trap system involving a precast concrete barrier with a stone-faced finish, drainage improvements and associated highway reinstatement works. As part of a mixed economy model, the council operates its own highways and public realm schemes framework, which offers a pre-competed, compliant way of commissioning works quickly and efficiently with direct award and mini-competition provisions. A framework has been established for use for 2026-2030 and includes the ability to undertake general civil engineering works, resurfacing, surface dressing and other thin surface treatment works, structures schemes, traffic signal improvement and maintenance works, tree surveys and inspections and tree works. In accordance with the Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework (2026-2030), a competitive tender exercise was undertaken through Lot 1 (General Civils Schemes with an estimated Work Order value of less than £500,000). Following evaluation of quality and price submissions, Owen Pell Ltd achieved the highest score of the eligible and compliant tenderers and is recommended for contract award.												
Equality Considerations	This work being carried out is founded on the guidance set out in Well Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice. When considering the highway network hierarchy in Herefordshire the presence of community, medical or educational facilities are considered as part of the usage consideration ensuring that highway corridors to these facilities are afforded more priority.												
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Finance: A total budget of £2,685,000.00 has been allocated for other highway maintenance projects for 2026/27. As a result of this decision £499,856.05 will be allocated from this budget. <table><tr><td>Budget Name</td><td>Total Works Budget</td><td>Contract Works Value</td><td>Cost Code</td></tr><tr><td>Works</td><td>£2,685,000.00</td><td>£499,856.05</td><td>CM7270 CAP2301</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td>£499,856.05</td><td></td></tr></table>	Budget Name	Total Works Budget	Contract Works Value	Cost Code	Works	£2,685,000.00	£499,856.05	CM7270 CAP2301	Total		£499,856.05	
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	Risk Management: The creation of a framework has contributed to minimising risks associated with procurement delay, supply chain resilience whilst demonstrating competition and value for money for the public purse. The identified works should reduce the risk to users on the network as a result of improved conditions. Legal Implications: A procurement process to create a Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework was conducted between January and March 2026 in accordance with the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules. The framework is operated under the NEC4 Framework Contract arrangements with appropriate NEC4 Contracts used for the delivery of individual schemes.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not to award the contract would result in the scheme not being delivered and the existing temporary rock fall protection measures remaining in place.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed: Major Contracts Programme Director Date: 28th September 2026