

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Commissioning the identification, procurement and delivery of the streetscape and green infrastructure elements as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI)
Date of decision:	18 December 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 3 December 2020 the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision to authorise:</p> <p>On 3 December 2020 the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision to authorise the following works to be progressed:</p> <p>(b) The Hereford City Centre Improvements project is progressed to develop and deliver the following initial elements within a budget of £1.65m (as detailed in paragraph 49 of the report):</p> <p>(i) A package of streetscape and green infrastructure elements, including improvement to market and event facilities for the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI) area are identified and delivered as outlined in paragraph 19.</p> <p>(ii) A review of the design for the public realm improvements in the remaining High Town area be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) The outline design for the Cathedral and River Wye quarter areas is undertaken, to include stakeholder engagement and public consultation of the proposals;</p> <p>(iv) Further materials for the High Town area be procured in the event that expenditure on items (i) to (iv) above is forecast to be insufficient to meet the spend criteria of the LEP grant.</p> <p>The decision delegated authority to progress these works as follows:</p> <p>(c) The Director for Economy and Place be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to procure and deliver the elements (i) to (v) above and that a further report be prepared once items iii and iv have been completed to determine the remaining delivery programme for the completion of the overall HCCI project.</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50036070</p>
Ward:	Central
Consultation:	Consultation of this decision has taken place with the council's finance and legal services teams.

Decision made:	<p>To authorise the commissioning of activities to identify, procure and deliver a package of streetscape and green infrastructure elements within the initial phase of the HCCI project, to include:</p> <p>Street furniture including benches and bins Trees and soft landscaping Public art Provisions to maintain public safety including the risk of errant vehicles Cycle storage provision Street Lighting Improvements to the facilities for markets and events Measures to improve air quality</p> <p>These elements are to be delivered within a budget of £1,402,000.</p> <p>The above works are to be commissioned through the Council's public realm contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) as outlined within the 3 December 2020 Cabinet Member decision report which can be viewed using the following link: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50036070</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>In addition to the review of the existing High Town design it has been determined that the provision of streetscape and green infrastructure elements is a valuable part of the overall public realm improvements to be delivered as part of the HCCI.</p> <p>This package of streetscape and green infrastructure elements will be identified and procured within the initial phase of the project and will include:</p> <p>Street furniture including benches and bins Trees and soft landscaping Public art Provisions to maintain public safety including the risk of errant vehicles Cycle storage provision Street Lighting Improvements to the facilities for markets and events Measures to improve air quality</p> <p>The distribution of these streetscape elements will be undertaken in parallel with the design review and where appropriate they will be installed within the public realm at this point. This will provide for an early enhancement to the public realm whilst other elements come forward over a longer period.</p> <p>These works will be funded from the LEP Getting Building Grant.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p><i>Risk</i></p> <p>There is a risk that if the agreement by key stakeholders of the streetscape products to be used is not reached in a short period following this decision then the procurement of the products will be delayed and the spend requirements may not be met.</p>

	<p><i>Financial</i></p> <p>The required spend profile outlined by the LEP require 50% of the £3m grant to be spent in 20/21. If this cannot be met then it may result in a loss of grant funding and the return to a fully HC funded scheme.</p> <p><i>Procurement</i></p> <p>There is a risk that the market does not have the ability to respond and deliver within the required timescales. This may result in a loss of grant funding if the required spend profile outlined by the LEP cannot be met.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to progress with the project. This is not recommended as this will reduce investment in Hereford city centre which is not consistent with the council's corporate policy to support the local economy and growth.</p> <p>To progress with the delivery of the remaining areas of High Town element of the project based on the existing design. This is not recommended as the existing design was developed and consulted on over five years ago. Without further stakeholder engagement there is the potential that the scheme would not align with current needs and aspirations for the area.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	

Signed

Date: 18 December 2020

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place