

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Commission a review of the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI) design for the remaining High Town area
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 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 S151 Officer and Legal
Decision made:	<p>To authorise the commissioning of activities to undertake a review of the design for the public realm improvements in the remaining High Town area within a budget of £100k</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</p>

	<p>December 2020 Cabinet Member decision report which can viewed using the following link: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50036070</p>
<p>Reasons for decision:</p>	<p>Following the completion of the first two phases of the High Town area and prior to the completion of the remaining phases, it is considered appropriate to review the design. This will be on the basis of lessons learnt from the delivery and operation of the first two phases of the High Town and the current aspirations for the development of this area.</p> <p>The scope of the design review will include a review of the material pallet, and layout of hard landscaping as well as the overall streetscape including soft landscaping and street furniture. This will be undertaken within the context of the existing design and of the sections of the project completed to date to ensure that the public realm is coherent in this area.</p> <p>The review will also evaluate the elements of public realm completed to date (Widemarsh Street, High Street and Commercial Street) to consider if further enhancements or amendments to these areas are required to align with the approach to the remaining area or to improve the public realm in these existing areas.</p> <p>This design review will provide the opportunity for further engagement and consultation with businesses, organisations and other stakeholders. This will ensure that the approach to the remaining areas of the High Town area reflects the current aspirations of both the Council and stakeholders.</p> <p>The design review will be undertaken in the initial phase of the HCCI project, and is currently anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2021.</p> <p>These works will be funded from the LEP Getting Building Grant.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</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>Risk</i></p> <p>As part of the design review key stakeholders, businesses and organisations will be consulted. There is a risk that consensus cannot be reached in a timely manner impacting the ability to complete this element within the period allowed.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<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>
<p>Details of any declarations</p>	

of interest made:	
--------------------------	--

Signed

Date: 18 December 2020

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place