

## Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To approve expenditure up to £148,000 for survey works and professional fees necessary to progress the proposed integrated wetland sites.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	17 June 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment & Waste Services
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>A cabinet member decision to commission the work and the delegated authority to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme was taken on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</p> <p>The Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment &amp; Waste was authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme including the required land acquisitions and leases.</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport, Head of Service for Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste, Service Manager for Built & Natural Environment, Commercial Services.
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>The expenditure of up to £60,000 for a range of survey works required at sites proposed for development into integrated wetlands site, to include up to £8,000 contingency.</p> <p>The expenditure of up to £88,000 for professional fees to include specialist consultancy fees, external &amp; internal legal fees and project management fees.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The design and construction of a wetland site requires a number of different surveys and investigations, including (but not limited to) ecological appraisals, ground water risk assessments, topographic surveys and phosphate monitoring. The surveys are essential to determine the suitability of the site and to properly inform the preliminary and detailed design process.</p> <p>Professional services are also required for the next stage of the proposed works in order to progress detailed design and to gain planning approval for the wetland sites.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	There is risk that the information provided by surveys gives rise to further survey or other requirements not previously apparent. A contingency has been allowed to cover unforeseen elements once the survey works commence. Should this contingency be insufficient then a further officer decision will be required.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and</b>	<p>Not to commission this work:</p> <p>This is not recommended as the proposal to develop integrated wetland</p>

<b>rejected:</b>	<p>sites would not be able to progress.</p> <p>This would result in the continuing shortfall of water quality in the River Lugg in relation to its conservation target.</p> <p>It would also result in a continuing inability on the part of the Council to grant planning permission for development proposals within the Lugg catchment area which have the potential to increase the phosphate load within the watercourse.</p> <p>As a further consequence, the Council will be at risk of failure to deliver its required housing supply for the projected plan period.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed

Date: 17 June 2021