

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Award contract for purchase of “City Tree” units as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI).
<b>Date of decision:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Interim Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>On 7 October 2021 the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport took a decision to update the HCCI project elements and associated spend profile from that outlined within the 3 December 2020 Cabinet Member decision and authorised the following works be progressed:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) The following elements of the Hereford City Centre Improvements programme are progressed in place of these originally set out in the cabinet report dated 3 December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. High Town existing enhancements</li> <li>b. High Town area minor works</li> <li>c. Market and event infrastructure</li> <li>d. CCTV enhancements</li> <li>e. Façade improvement grants / business grants</li> <li>f. Cathedral and River Wye Quarter design</li> <li>g. St Owen’s Street cycle contraflow</li> <li>h. Widemarsh Street kerb improvements</li> <li>i. Cathedral &amp; River Wye Quarter planters</li> <li>j. City Link Road planters and Trees</li> <li>k. City Greening</li> <li>l. “City Trees”</li> <li>m. City green cycle shelters</li> <li>n. Public art/Installations</li> <li>o. Hostile Vehicle Mitigation</li> <li>p. Programme project management</li> </ul> <p>The decision delegated authority to progress these works as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b) The Director for Economy and Place be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to progress and deliver the programme elements within the overall programme budget outlined within paragraph 17 of the report on a programme basis across the projects.</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link:  <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Central.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation of this decision has taken place with the council’s finance, procurement and legal services teams.

<p><b>Decision made:</b></p>	<p>To award a contract to purchase three “City Tree” units as part of the HCCI project within a value of £189,294.30, and to receive legal support within an estimate of £7,500 to develop and finalise the contract.</p> <p>This is a direct award and an exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules has been approved by the council’s legal, finance and procurement departments and signed off by the Interim Director for Economy and Place.</p>
<p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p>	<p>Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision 3 December 2020 to approve the progression of the HCCI project. This included a provision of £320k for the purchase of “City Trees”.</p> <p>This provision included £20k which will be commissioned to BBLP to identify potential locations for installation of the “City Trees” to maximise the air-quality benefits offered. This leaves a remaining budget of £300k for the purchase and installation of the “City Trees”. The budget will also cover ground work prelims by a third party. Any remaining underspend from this element will be reallocated to the City Greening project.</p> <p>“City Trees” are a unique and bespoke product that provides a moss filtration system to improve air quality.</p> <p>Research has been undertaken to identify alternative providers but was unsuccessful, and several frameworks have been considered for potential procurement but assessment on a desktop basis given the time constraints on a like for like basis delivery would be difficult to achieve.</p> <p>On this basis an exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules has been completed and signed off by the council’s procurement, legal and finance departments as well as the Interim Director for Economy and Place.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p><i>Financial</i></p> <p>If the required spend profile outlined by the Marches LEP as part of the funding agreement cannot be met then it may result in a loss of grant funding and the return to a fully council funded scheme.</p> <p>Revenue funding will be required for ongoing maintenance of the installed “City Tree” units. Funding is to be sought through the Public Realm Contract Annual Plan for this service.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to progress with the purchase of the “City Tree” units. This is not recommended as the agreed spending profile with the Marches LEP will not be achieved and may result in the payback of grant funding.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Neil Taylor

Job Title: Interim Director for Economy and Place

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