

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Purchase of planters for the Cathedral and River Wye Quarter as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI)
Date of decision:	16 November 2021
Decision maker:	Interim Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<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="padding-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"> a. High Town existing enhancements b. High Town area minor works c. Market and event infrastructure d. CCTV enhancements e. Façade improvement grants / business grants f. Cathedral and River Wye Quarter design g. St Owen’s Street cycle contraflow h. Widemarsh Street kerb improvements i. Cathedral & River Wye Quarter planters j. City Link Road planters and Trees k. City Greening l. “City Trees” m. City green cycle shelters n. Public art/Installations o. Hostile Vehicle Mitigation p. Programme project management <p>The decision delegated authority to progress these works as follows:</p> <p style="padding-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: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255</p>
Ward:	Central
Consultation:	Consultation of this decision has taken place with the council’s finance and legal services teams.
Decision made:	To approve the purchase of tree planters for the Cathedral and River Wye Quarter as part of the HCCI project. These elements are to be purchased and installed within a budget of £255,000.00.

	<p>The 7 October 2021 Cabinet Member decision report approved a budget of £262,500 for this element and confirmed they would be procured and installed through the Council's public realm contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). This decision report can be viewed using the following link: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255</p>
<p>Reasons for decision:</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 streetscape and green infrastructure elements to form part of the outlined public realm improvements.</p> <p>A design process to identify the planters to be purchased was undertaken which included consultation with the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport, Ward Member, Hereford City Council, Hereford Business Improvement District and the Hereford Tree Forum. Feedback from this consultation identified a preferred style of planter and tree species which was agreed with the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport.</p> <p>A Record of Officer Decision taken 26 February 2021 outlined the value for money assessment that BBLP had undertaken to confirm a provider and approved the budget envelope. This decision can be viewed using the following link: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8287</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a further decision 7 October 2021 which approved an update to the HCCI programme elements and associated spend profile. This decision approved the purchase of planters for the Cathedral and River Wye Quarter and identified the need to deliver this programme element within the 2021/22 financial year in order to meet the required Marches LEP spend.</p> <p>The same provider has been selected to procure these further planters based on the value for money assessment undertaken by BBLP previously, to provide consistency with the new planters installed within the central High Town area and due to the provider's ability to deliver these planters before the end of March 2022.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p><i>Risk</i> There is a risk that the supplier may not meet the forecast delivery period and as a result the amount of spend in the period to the end of March 2022 would be significantly reduced.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to proceed with the purchase of the planters. This is not recommended as this will significantly reduce level of spend against the HCCI budget within the period to the end of March 2022 as laid out in the 7 October 2021 Cabinet Member decision and the commitment outlined in the LEP funding agreement.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Neil Taylor

Job Title: Interim Director for Economy and Place