

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Allocating the use of the Climate Reserve – Contract award (signing) to WSP UK Ltd. to produce a Herefordshire Retrofit Strategy and options appraisal.
Date of decision:	26 November 2021
Decision maker:	Interim Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50092501/Allocating%20the%20use%20of%20the%20Climate%20Reserve.pdf
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Political groups were consulted. No comments from ward members received relevant to this piece of work. Full details found in linked report above.
Decision made:	WSP to be awarded contract utilising £50,000 drawn down from the climate reserve specifically to develop a new Building Retrofit Strategy and to undertake an options appraisal for accelerating building retrofit across the county;
Reasons for decision:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Full Council meeting on 14 Feb 2020 a new dedicated climate reserve was established to resource and accelerate action to address the climate emergency. 2. Over one-third of Herefordshire's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are estimated to be from heating homes and other buildings, the development of a new building retrofit strategy and options appraisal to scope potential action plans is needed to decarbonise buildings across Herefordshire if we are to reach the county's zero carbon target by 2030. 3. As the estimated value of the works necessary to do this is likely to exceed £300 million it is essential that Herefordshire seeks innovative new solutions and leverages external funding opportunities to deliver this enormous challenge and economic opportunity. 4. A fully compliant tender exercise in conjunction with the council's commercial services team has taken place, from which WSP UK Ltd were the preferred supplier to undertake the work.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External consultancy is required to develop a Retrofit strategy and options appraisal that will scope action in order to decarbonize county buildings by 2030. Without the proposed allocation to develop Herefordshire's approach in this area, there is a significant risk to delivering Herefordshire's Climate & Ecological Emergency commitments. 2. The project will commence in November 2021 and is planned to finish in May 2022. Project and contract management will be provided by Sustainability & Climate change team and Corporate Services officers.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to draw down and utilise the dedicated Climate Reserve in order to accelerate the delivery, engagement and communication of the Council's climate and ecology commitments (rejected). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This is not recommended as this dedicated reserve has been established to support the ongoing delivery of Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and to

	deliver the climate and nature commitments within the County Plan.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Neil Taylor

Job Title: Interim Director for Economy and Place