

### Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Covid Recovery Plan- Rural Cycle Greenways
<b>Date of decision:</b>	11 January 2022
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Interim Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Decision taken by Cabinet to approve the Covid 19 Recovery Plan on 24th June 2021: That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Place, Director Adults and Communities, Director Children and Families and Director of Public Health be authorised to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation including, but not limited to, the procurement and commissioning of the identified projects (as set out in the detailed action plan)</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=50037702&amp;PlanId=0&amp;Opt=3#A158109">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=50037702&amp;PlanId=0&amp;Opt=3#A158109</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>The COVID Recovery Plan was approved by Cabinet on 24 June 2021 which provides funding of £6m to support economy, community wellbeing and organisational recovery. The plan provided an overview of the schemes for delivery, which included the “Return to Towns and Cities” scheme and all appropriate consultation was undertaken at this time. Subsequent consultation with members identified projects for rural cycleways which required technical feasibility work.</p> <p>The project proposal was approved by the Covid Recovery Plan Programme Board at a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To award the following grants from the Covid-19 Recover Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £34,800 to Golden Valley Action Group CIC to enable them to progress development of a feasibility study on a long distance rural walking and cycling greenway.</li> </ul> <p>and to allocate a total of £3,480 from the Covid Recovery Plan Rural Cycle Greenway funding to the council’s Delegated Grants Team for the management and administration of the grant</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>On 24th June 2021 Cabinet approved £1m of funding to progress a range of travel focussed initiatives to support the Covid-19 Recovery Plan 2021/22.</p> <p><a href="https://hc-modgov.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50090724/Appendix%201%20Covid%2019%20Economic%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf">https://hc-modgov.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50090724/Appendix%201%20Covid%2019%20Economic%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf</a></p> <p>Under the theme of safe and welcoming places the agreed plan includes ‘Return to Towns and City’ which identified various activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feasibility for future cycling connectivity routes.</li> </ul>

	<p>During the development of the Recovery Plan cabinet asked that funds be made available for technical feasibility studies of rural walking and cycling greenways which are being promoted by local community groups.</p> <p>A total of £3,480 has been allocated to the Delegated Grants Team. This is in line with other Covid grants that the team are delivering whereby a fee of 10% of actual grant allocation has been applied. This is to support the additional short term staffing and resources required to support the management and administration of these schemes.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>The Covid-19 Recovery Plan budget allocation must be committed within the 2021/22 financial year. The Council want to ensure that this money can reach those smaller groups who can really make a difference in Herefordshire's communities and to the residents of Herefordshire by reducing car ownership and use and increasing accessibility.</p> <p>Legal advice was sought to ascertain how best to operate the scheme, and this confirmed to progress on a basis of a grant. Subsequently, the delegated grants team advised on a grant form and terms and conditions to enable bidders to submit scheme proposals. The delegated grants scheme have maintained engagement with the scheme to review submissions, and review compliance with the terms and conditions.</p> <p>Monthly monitoring is being undertaken as part of the overall Covid-19 Recovery Plan programme.</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	None
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

I am an officer delegated to make the decision



Signed:

Print Name: Neil Taylor

Job Title: Interim Director for Economy and Environment