

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Authority to approve spend on Hereford City Centre Improvement project
Date of decision:	14 March 2022
Decision maker:	Director for Environment and Economy
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 7 October 2021 the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision to authorise the following works to be progressed:</p> <p>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> <ol 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>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 team and has been discussed with officers at the project board.
Decision made:	To delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager in consultation with the project Delivery Director to authorise spend and manage the budgets as set out in the decision taken on 7 th October 2021.
Reasons for decision:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To enable the Delivery Director to make decisions around daily occurrences relating to contract Early Warning works and compensation events. 2) To significantly reduce the risk of project delay due to the council’s internal procedures relating to having the ability to spend the identified budget lines relating to the project. 3) To enable the Delivery Director to issue instructions in a timely manner around agreed risks that require financial mitigation.

- 4) To reduce the number of Record of Officer decisions required to enable spend which is having a negative impact on time and resources within the council.
- 5) The decision as listed above set out the total budgets for the individual elements of the HCCI project. The Delivery Director will only be authorised to spend within the element budgets.
- 6) Any changes to the agreed total budget for each element will remain delegated to the Director.

Description of project cost:	Total Cost including VAT if applicable £
High Existing Enhancements	£572,407.00
High Town Area Minor Works	£211,642.00
Market and event infrastructure	£30,500.00
CCTV	£60,500.00
Façade improvement grants/Business Grants	£500,000.00
Cathedral & River Wye Quarter Design	£340,000.00
St Owen St Cycle Contraflow	£700,000.00
Widemarsh St kerb Improvements	£715,000.00
Cathedral & River Wye Quarter Planters	£262,500.00
City Link Road Planters	£570,191.00
City Greening	£362,000.00
City Trees	£320,000.00
City Green Cycle Shelters	£30,000.00
Public Art/Installations	£243,000.00
Hostile Vehicle Movement	£500,000.00
HCCI Project Management Costs	£582,260.00

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:

- 1) If the council decides not to adopt this request then there is a medium chance of delay to the project's programme. Delay will be caused by waiting for sign off to spend the budgets for individual work packages and therefore a risk to the LEP timescales and ultimately the grant.
- 2) Council administrative resources required to complete the anticipated number of Record of Officer decisions will have a negative impact so this provides opportunity to reduce the impact on the council's resources internally.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:

- 1) To not adopt the recommendation and continue with producing record of officer decisions which have to be signed off by the Director for Economy and Place and taken through the council's administrative processes.

**Details of any
declarations
of interest made:**

None recorded.

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Signed:

Print Name: Ross Cook

Job Title: Corporate Director Economy and Environment