

Record of Officer Decision

Decision title:	Approval for the consultancy services for Tompkins Thomas Planning LTD for £5,120
Date of decision:	21 June 2022
Decision maker:	Interim Service Director Highways, Environment and Waste
Authority for delegated decision:	A cabinet member decision to commission the work and the delegated authority to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme was taken on 10 th August 2020. https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049
Ward:	All
Consultation:	Interim Service Director Highways, Environment and Waste Service Manager for Built & Natural Environment, Commercial Services Team. Finance Team. Legal Team.
Decision made:	To act as planning agent for our two wetland sites on the council's behalf
Reasons for decision:	<p>Since the European Court of Justice 'Dutch Case' ruling, planning consents in the River Wye are limited based on their phosphate (P) loading to the river.</p> <p>As a way to unlock development Herefordshire Council (HC) will be building Integrated Constructed Wetlands sites. These wetland sites are built adjacent to sewage treatment works to lower the P levels released into the river generating P credits that can be traded with developers. Currently, HC have purchased and begun building on the pilot wetland site. In addition to this HC now need to progress with other sites.</p> <p>As per HCs procurement procedures a number of planning agents with the required expertise were reached out to for services, from these Tompkins Thomas Planning LTD was chosen.</p> <p>Tompkins Thomas Planning LTD will provide HC with planning services and act as a planning agent in the submission for 2 further wetland sites.</p> <p>This decision is necessary as without a planning application and approval HC cannot continue to develop the wetlands. A delay in this process could mean the allocation of credits would be on hold and HC would not be able to meet LEP grant requirements. It could also lead to further substantial loss of expenditure and have a negative effect on economic growth.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Equality and legal considerations: Tompkins Thomas Planning LTD were selected through a low value procurement exercise to show CPR's were followed.</p> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised cost: This project is one of a kind, and is not found elsewhere in England. Because of this there is always the risk that projected costs might have to rise in the future due to unforeseen complications.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Other agents were considered but did not meet HCs requirements.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed



Date: 21 June 2022