

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Re-allocation of funds from Little Mountain Common to Castle Pool
Date of decision:	8 th June 2022
Decision maker:	Interim Service Director Environment, Highways and Waste, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	6th October 2021 Cabinet Member Report: Capital Investment in infrastructure and Assets: Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance, Bio Diversity Net Gain and Winter Fleet: Delegated authority to Director of Economy and Place (in consultation with the S151 officer) to take all operational decisions to spend the budget as set out in the recommendation (a). https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50037548
Wards:	Central & Golden Valley North
Consultation:	All consultation on this subject has been conducted with the Built and Natural Environment, Economy and Environment department taking specialist advice from the Senior Landscape Officer.
Decision made:	To reallocate £25k funding from Little Mountain Common to Castle Pool to allow for full analysis of the algae problem and fund remedial works to prevent the build-up occurring each spring/summer.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The CM report is provided in this document Report Template (herefordshire.gov.uk) and allocation of funds for each element is detailed herein, however, there is reference to other factors and under “key considerations” paragraph 8b is a reference to:</p> <p>b. Improved quality of ponds including the Castle Pool No specific allocation for funds was provided for this element but it is now a high priority due to the continual buildup of algae that forms on the surface.</p> <p>The RoOD indicating specific funding for each element within the Bio-Diversity section of this project can be found here: Decision - Capital Investment in Infrastructure and Assets: Highways Maintenance - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>The budget allocation for Little Mountain Common – regeneration of wild flowers is £25k. This work is now being managed as part of a separate project within the realm of environmental management and does not require this funding.</p> <p>Castle Pool is experiencing algal build up each spring/summer and is not only unsightly, it may have detrimental effect on wildlife using the water.</p> <p>An analysis is currently being commissioned to determine the best course of action to deal with this problem but remedial action will require funds and this request is to ensure sufficient funds are made available to prevent this annual blight.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	There is a risk that the agreed capital funds required to meet any proposals that fall out of this investigation will be insufficient. Any proposals that will be developed into costed schemes will need to meet criteria laid down by organisations including: National Trust; Natural England and the Environment Agency. The risk is small because there is general agreement on the way forward.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The only alternative is to not carry out the recommendations provided by the water treatment company and continue to see the annual build-up of algae that is causing untold detriment to the wildlife and creating an unsightly blight on this popular visitor destination.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: