

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Authorisation to spend designated funding for Public Transport infrastructure Improvements
Date of decision:	29 September 2022
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Economy & Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	To authorise the spend/investment in Public Transport infrastructure improvements in accordance with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport decision 17 August 2022: Decision - 2022/23 Public Realm Maintenance (Mitigation of Risk on the Network) - Herefordshire Council
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	A public survey was completed in August 2021 to inform the council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) , this attracted 753 respondents in total. In addition a number of stakeholder workshops were completed in August 2021. A report of that consultation was published with the BSIP report in October 2021 and can be viewed here . Consultation for this decision has taken place with the council's finance and legal services teams
Decision made:	To approve the spending of £150k additional funding for the delivery of public transport infrastructure improvement works during the 2022/23 financial year.
Reasons for decision:	Public Transport Infrastructure is in need of investment to improve the image of public transport in the County and to attract residents to make greater use of sustainable modes of transport. A condition survey carried out in 2019 indicated a significant number of bus shelters that require repair, upgrading, or replacement. Since the survey was completed the condition of the assets has declined further as there has not been an allocated budget for maintenance and renewal. The council's recently published bus service improvement plan (BSIP) has identified the importance of infrastructure in maintaining patronage levels, and attracting new passengers to public transport, in turn reducing reliance on unsustainable modes of transport. Progressing this program would help to deliver the council's identified County Plan success measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions • Improve the air quality within Herefordshire • Increase the number of short distance trips being undertaken by sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling, public transport Progressing this program would help to deliver the council's identified Local Transport Plan objectives:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a good quality transport network for all users – by being proactive in our asset management and by working closely with the public, Highways England and rail and bus • Make journeys easier and safer – by making bus and rail tickets compatible and easier to buy and use, by providing ‘real time’ information at well-equipped transport hubs, by improving signage to walking and cycling routes and by helping people feel safe during their journeys. <p>The council’s budget for 2022/23 was approved at a full council meeting held on 11th February 2022. This included a capital allocation of £300k over 2 years to upgrade bus shelters in the County.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The funding aims to support the council’s Local Transport Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan, mitigating the risk on the public transport network, as part of a long term strategy in providing sustained investment. The project addresses specific risks on the network as set out in the report. The project is a capital investment and as such will be allocated unique budget codes that will be used for monitoring and reporting by the corporate project management team alongside the Public Realm Contract annual plan management process.</p> <p>A supplier to deliver the program of works has been procured via OJEU complaint tender in accordance with council’s contract procedure rules. Further details on the process can be viewed here.</p> <p>Improving public transport infrastructure improves passenger experience, and safety, encouraging more people to travel by public transport, promoting equality for all.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to invest £150k in Public Transport infrastructure improvements, this is not recommended as this would be contrary to the Council resolution on 11 February 2022 and subsequent Cabinet Member decision of 17 August 2022.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Ross Cook

Job Title: Corporate Director Economy and Environment