

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Acceptance of funding from the Environment Agency and variation to Public Realm Annual Plan 2022/23
Date of decision:	1 December 2022
Decision maker:	Mark Averill, Interim Service Director Transport and Highways
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Acceptance of funding Directorate scheme of delegation: Paragraph 77, updated 23/12/2021 Directorate: Economy and Environment, section 77. This is an exercise of the delivery of a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p> <p>The authorisation limit is within the financial procedure rules and is sufficient for the decision.</p> <p>Variation to Public Realm Annual Plan 2022/23 The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision, in the key decision taken by cabinet member Infrastructure and transport in regards to Public Realm Services Annual Plan 2022/23 on 3 May 2022.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?!D=8781</p> <p>The decision included provision that: the Interim Service Director Transport and Highways be authorised to agree, through the BBLP contract governance arrangements, final adjustments to the programme (including any recommendations from the Strategic Partnering Board) and budget allocation to each of the Annexes and any in-year adjustments to the plan, within the overall budget.</p>
Wards:	Holmer, Bobblestock
Consultation:	Legal, Finance
Decision made:	To accept funding from the Environment Agency to carry out surface water modelling and mapping of the Ayles Brook, Hereford and to add £71,698.00 to Annex 7 of the public realm annual plan 2022/23 in order to carry out the modelling and mapping works.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The Ayles Brook is designated as an Ordinary Watercourse which therefore falls under the regulatory supervision of Herefordshire Council. Following flooding in February 2020, this location is a settlement within the county at which the council has been trying to mitigate flood risk.</p> <p>It is proposed that grant monies would be used to complete hydraulic modelling to improve the existing surface water mapping on the route of the Ayles Brook.</p> <p>The surface water modelling work may facilitate a future project to extend the current hydraulic modelling of the Widemarsh Brook to include the Ayles Brook. In turn the model may be used to demonstrate the impact of installing a flood defence structure, such as bunding on the Racecourse to attenuate flow during storms. This future project would benefit properties in the vicinity of the racecourse and also downstream. Such a scheme would seek to mitigate fluvial flood risk to 18 properties and a school from the Ayles Brook.</p>

<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Through Annex 7 of the public realm annual plan, BBLP support the council in its role as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The costs of the modelling and mapping works will be delivered within the grant allocation.</p> <p>The Environment Agency will make the following payments for the project against receipt of a valid claim form and satisfactory completion of milestones:</p> <p>Grant Award (Advance Payment) £21,509.40 Mid-Project (March 2023) £16,488.60 Project Completion (November 2023) £33,700.00</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>The council is a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and an opportunity has arisen to secure additional funding through a grant from the Environment Agency (EA). The EA maintains existing infrastructure relating to "main rivers" and tidal defences, invests in new and improved risk management infrastructure and administers a linked grant allocations procedure to local authorities.</p> <p>The council was successful in bidding for a grant to fund the commissioning of new surface water flood modelling and mapping. Accepting the funding would be consistent with the council's responsibilities to coordinate the management of local flood risk.</p> <p>The council has until 5 December 2022 to accept the funding. The funding period is from 21 November 2022 (grant commencement date) to 30 November 2023 (grant expiry date).</p> <p>The council must comply with the grant requirements and ensure that the money is spent for the work approved by the EA in the grant proposal. The council will ensure compliance through the Directorate Services Team Leader and the Contract Management Team regularly monitoring the work undertaken by BBLP.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended due to the existing flood risk to properties in these areas.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	

Signed: Mark Averill

Date: 1 December 2022