

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Commissioning works to progress Widemarsh St improvements as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI)
<b>Date of decision:</b>	15 February 2023
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy and Environment
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>On 7 October 2021 the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision to authorise the various HCCI elements to be progressed and authorised the Director for Economy and Place (now Director of Economy and Environment) 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 the report on a programme basis across the projects.</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link:  <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8255</a></p> <p>On 6 October 2022 the Director for Economy and Environment took a decision to To approve the re-profiling of the HCCI budgets</p> <p>This decision can be viewed using the following link:  <a href="#">Record of officer decision (herefordshire.gov.uk)</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Central
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation of this decision has taken place with the s151 Officer, council's finance, legal services and communications teams and with Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To authorise the construction of the improvement works to Widemarsh St, Hereford to lift the carriageway thus removing the upstand kerb.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The 7 October 2021 Cabinet Member decision identified this scheme as an important project in recognition that although the initial Widemarsh scheme was to recognised national standards, some members of the public continued to have difficulty navigating the street.</li> <li>2) <b>Value for Money</b> – This scheme will be delivered via the Public Realm Contract provider, BBLP, who often use local supply chain partners to deliver works. A number of different providers were approached by BBLP as a part of the estimating process for the scheme. The Project Team and Senior Responsible Officer for the HCCI project are satisfied that BBLP made all attempts to attract alternative tenders for the scheme and that, when viewed in the round that the scheme offers value for money in this instance.</li> <li>3) This scheme is funded as part of the Hereford City Centre Improvements and as such is part Herefordshire Council Capital and part Get Building Fund administered by Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.</li> <li>4) The HCCI decision of 07 October 2021 identified that the elements should be delivered within the overall programme budget.</li> <li>5) On 6 October 2022 a decision was taken to re-profile the HCCI budget.</li> <li>6) Table indicating budget for Widemarsh St budget allocation agreed in RoOD of 6 October 2022 detailed below including funding streams:</li> </ol>

	Council match	£877,669.77
	LEP grant	£156,917.06
	LTP contribution	£275,000
	<b>Total budget</b>	<b>£1,309,586.83</b>
	7) Table indicating total budget allocation on scheme:	
	Scoping, design and purchase of materials	£164,097.57
	Construction	£1,134,718.15
	Contingency	£10,771.11
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,309,586.83</b>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p><i>Financial</i> There is a risk that the project may exceed the allocated budget. Robust programme management of this project on Verto will ensure programme and cost control. This will ensure timely decisions can be taken to mitigate this risk.</p> <p><i>Risk</i> There is a risk that undertaking construction works may impact on businesses, particularly emerging from COVID-19 situation which may cause additional pressure on businesses. Liaison with businesses has been maintained throughout development and delivery of project.</p>	
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Not to progress with the project. This is not recommended as this will reduce investment in Hereford city centre which is not consistent with the council's corporate policy to support the local economy and growth. Cabinet have agreed to the provision and method of delivery of this scheme.</p> <p>To payback the Marches LEP grant funding and continue the scheme with Council capital only. This is not recommended as it will reduce the overall budget to £3m for investment within Hereford city centre reducing the programme scope and impact.</p>	
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None recorded.	

Signed Ross Cook – Corporate Director, Economy & Environment

Date: 15/02/2023