

## Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To approve expenditure of up to £210,531 for the construction of drainage apparatus at Titley and Tarrington waste water treatment works								
<b>Date of decision:</b>	22 March 2023								
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Interim Service Director Highways and Transport								
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>A cabinet member decision was taken on 10 August 2020 authorising land purchase and lease negotiations with landowners to progress acquisition, design, construction and management of suitable wetland sites:</p> <p>The Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment &amp; Waste is authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme including the required land acquisitions and leases.</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049</a></p> <p>(The Interim Service Director for Highways and Transport is the successor position to that referred to within the decision)</p>								
<b>Ward:</b>	Backbury; Pembridge and Lyonshall with Titley								
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation has been carried out with Delivery Director for Waste Transformation & Wetland Project, Head of Environment Climate Emergency and Waste Services and Strategic Capital Finance Manager.								
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To approve the expenditure of £210,531 for the construction of drainage apparatus within the Titley and Tarrington waste water treatment facilities as necessary to convey effluent to the Herefordshire Council wetland sites for treatment to remove phosphates.</p> <p>To enter into an agreement with Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water for delivery of said work.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to manage and spend the budget allocated.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Titley Wastewater Works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£66,558.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tarrington Wastewater Works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£103,973.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingency</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£210,531.00</b></td> </tr> </table>	Titley Wastewater Works	£66,558.00	Tarrington Wastewater Works	£103,973.00	Contingency	£40,000.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£210,531.00</b>
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Tarrington Wastewater Works	£103,973.00								
Contingency	£40,000.00								
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£210,531.00</b>								
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>As set out in the cabinet member decision, the creation of wetland areas will, in addition to improving the water quality of the River Lugg, positively contribute toward the delivery of the environmental and economic priorities within the County Plan 2020-2024; enhancing local biodiversity, enabling sustainable housing growth in the north of the county and reducing carbon emissions through carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The benefits of wetlands within the context of this project is that they will allow the release of prospective housing development currently unable to complete the planning process because of phosphate load to affected</p>								

	<p>watercourses. This will be of particular value in terms of the local construction economy and will support the delivery of established housing targets.</p> <p>The council is progressing with the creation of phosphate-reducing wetland schemes at both Titley and Tarrington, and has acquired land accordingly. The drainage infrastructure described is an essential part of the system necessary to convey effluent from the waste water treatment works to the wetland site for treatment.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>The detailed scope of work being commissioned from Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water will not become clear until the design element of it is sufficiently progressed to fully inform construction costs. There is a risk of final costs being higher than current projections if the design should lead to a more costly scheme than anticipated. An actual cost based on a previous comparable project has been referred to for comparison in assessing these estimates however, with a suitable risk contingency added. The projected costs will be closely monitored in partnership with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water as the design develops.</p> <p>The nature of the work and its location within the waste water treatment works is such that only the water authority are permitted to undertake the design and installation. Therefore a competitive tender process has not been possible.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to proceed with the appointment. This is not recommended as these wetland schemes would not be able to proceed without the means to convey effluent to them.</p> <p>This would result in the continuing shortfall of water quality in the River Lugg and the relevant tributaries in relation to conservation targets.</p> <p>It would also result in a continuing inability on the part of the council to grant planning permission for development proposals within the River Lugg catchment area where such developments have the potential to increase the phosphate load within the watercourse.</p> <p>As a further consequence, the council will be at risk of failure to deliver its required housing supply for the projected plan period and the local construction economy would continue to suffer a detrimental effect.</p> <p>This work forms part of targeted expenditure to meet commitments in connection with the LEP grant, which would be jeopardised if the work were not commissioned.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed:

Date: 22 March 2023