

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Authorisation to spend designated funding from the Winter Resilience budget
Date of decision:	26 April 2023
Decision maker:	Interim Service Director Transport and Highways
Authority for delegated decision:	To authorise the spend from the Winter Resilience budget to purchase four road gritters to support the Council's obligation to winter maintenance Decisions for issue 2022/23 Winter Resilience - Herefordshire Council
Ward:	All Wards
Consultation:	Consultation for this decision has taken place with the council's finance and procurement teams
Decision made:	To approve awarding the sum of £605,637 to ECON Engineering Ltd for the purchase of four road gritters to ensure the successful delivery of the winter service which is key to supporting the economic and social well-being of Herefordshire. Delivery of these vehicles has been delayed to September 2024 due to global supply issues.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Under Section 41 of the Highways Act, the Herefordshire Council has a duty to maintain the highway; this is delivered in collaboration with Balfour Beatty. Critical to meeting these obligations is the provision of a resilient, reliable and well maintained fleet of winter vehicles.</p> <p>Severe and prolonged adverse weather during winter months can have a significant impact on communities and tests the resilience of the winter maintenance services.</p> <p>Much of the current fleet have exceeded their expected life by some considerable amount but the maintenance cost of keeping them roadworthy is growing exponentially. Purchasing these four new vehicles will reduce the running costs and increase the reliability of the overall fleet.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The funding aims to support the council's Highways Asset Management Strategy, mitigating the risk on the 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.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>1. Not to invest £605,637 on new vehicles is not recommended as this will put additional pressure on an already stretched maintenance budget. There is also additional pressure in busy periods when vehicles are off the road and hire vehicles must be sourced to fill the gap.</p> <p>2. The use of lease vehicles would add considerably to the revenue budget which is already under pressure so this is not recommended.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	If any officers or members involved or consulted in the decision-making have declared an interest you should include the declaration here.

Signed..... Date:

