

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Authorisation to spend designated funding from the Winter Resilience budget
Date of decision:	12th October 2023
Decision maker:	Service Director Environment & Highways
Authority for delegated decision:	To authorise spend from the Winter Resilience budget to purchase seven Road Weather Stations. 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 £160,076 to Vaisala Ltd for the supply of seven Road Weather Stations
Reasons for decision:	<p>To ensure the delivery of a reliable Winter Strategy for road maintenance, Herefordshire Council relies on a series of Road Weather Stations (RWS) across the county that feed real time information to the traffic management team. This information helps develop a mobilisation plan for the winter fleet and provides accurate, reliable and timely information for programmers to ensure the road network remains open and safe around the clock at any time of year.</p> <p>Many of these stations are reaching the end of their expected life and need to be replaced. As technology improves, advances in data collection and monitoring help build a clearer picture of weather trends and conditions enabling teams to make more informed decisions to ensure that road users' safety is paramount.</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:	Not to invest £160,076 on Road Weather Stations is not recommended as this will place additional pressure on existing equipment that has long exceeded its expected life and place pressure on the traffic management team working with this aged equipment.
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: