

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Authorisation to spend designated funding from the Winter Resilience budget
<b>Date of decision:</b>	17 April 2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director Environment and Highway
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>a) £1,402k be invested in the asset to support county winter resilience as set out below over the next 4 years</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. £1,160k in 8 no Winter Gritters 2022/23 through to 2026/27</li> <li>b. £180k investment in Weather Monitoring and Forecasting Stations</li> <li>c. £40k in Flood Warning Sensors + bases: and</li> <li>d. £22k in installation and project management costs</li> </ol> <p>b) Delegated authority is given to the Director of Economy and Environment in consultation with S151 Officer to take all operational decisions to deliver the projects set out in recommendation (a)</p> <p><a href="#">Decisions for issue 2022/23 Winter Resilience - Herefordshire Council</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	All Wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation for this decision has taken place with the council's finance and procurement teams
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>Approve the expenditure of £599,849 to Econ Engineering Ltd for the purchase of four road gritters as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6m<sup>3</sup> capacity 4 x 4 chassis x 2off</li> <li>9m<sup>3</sup> capacity 6 x 6 chassis x 1off</li> <li>9m<sup>3</sup> capacity 6 x 4 chassis x 1 off</li> </ul> <p>Including four Five Point Camera Systems, delivery of vehicles to Herefordshire and first registration.</p> <p>The contract period is for 2 years with an option to purchase up to one more vehicles with similar specification during the contract term.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<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.</p> <p>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 three new vehicles will reduce the running costs and increase the reliability of the overall fleet.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	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.

<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>1. Not to invest £599,849 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 that is already under pressure so this is not recommended.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	<p>If any officers or members involved or consulted in the decision-making have declared an interest you should include the declaration here.</p>

Signed..... Date:.....