

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Public Realm Services Contract Lawyer Expert Resource								
Date of decision:	23 September 2024								
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Economy and Environment								
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The 27 June 2024 Cabinet approved the funding for the project budget including the following wording.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50118514/Public%20Realm%20Services.pdf</p> <p><i>“The 2024/25 approved revenue budget includes £0.9 million of one-off funding allocated to deliver the project and additional funding of £1.0 million from the council’s earmarked reserve balances has been identified”.</i></p> <p>This approved a project budget of £1.924M profiled as:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2024/25</th> <th>2025/26</th> <th>2026/27</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>507</td> <td>783</td> <td>634</td> <td>1924</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	507	783	634	1924
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Ward:	Countywide								
Consultation:	<p>Engagement with Cabinet Members and cross party Member Working groups took place leading up to the 25 April 2024 and 27 June 2024 Cabinet reports.</p> <p>Engagement remains ongoing with the Cabinet Members, and the project is reporting to the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee in the form of a Member Working Group and committee meeting report in October 2024.</p>								
Decision made:	<p>To award a contract to Bloom Procurement Services Limited under the Bloom Framework agreement, who will sub-contract Anthony Collins LLP to provide the Contract Lawyer resource for the new Public Realm contract.</p> <p>https://www.anthonycollins.com</p> <p>The contract term is from 1 October 2024 to 18 December 2026.</p> <p><u>Contract value</u> Estimate of £85,680 time charged for Milestones 1-8</p>								

	<p>Plus 30% Contingency at £25,704</p> <p>Total provision of £111,384</p>
Reasons for decision	Specialist legal advice is required to assist with the procurement and contract for the new public realm contract.
Equality Considerations	The procurement process ensures tenders comply with equality requirements.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Equality impact assessments were provided as appendices to the 27 June 2024 cabinet report, which will be developed along with the project.</p> <p>The Bloom framework is a complaint framework under the Public Contract Regulation 2015, set up by North East Procurement Organisation and awarded to Bloom Procurement Services Limited, who then sub-contracts with the provider that the council has selected through a mini competition under the framework.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>If the Council do not appoint the Contract Lawyer Expert to commence work in October 2024, this may compromise the project programme which requires legally compliant completed contract and tender documents, to allow procurement to commence early January 2025.</p> <p>And will lead to the council having inadequate legal expertise and capacity to support the procurement process in 2025, and mobilisation/demobilisation activities in 2026.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed Ross Cook – Corporate Director – Economy & Environment Date: 23/09/2024