

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To approve expenditure up to £1,396,208 for design and build of an integrated wetland scheme on land at Tarrington and to enter into a contract with JBA Bentley Ltd										
Date of decision:	23/10/2024										
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Economy and Environment										
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>A cabinet member decision was taken on 10 August 2020 authorising land purchasing and lease negotiations with landowners to progress acquisition, design, construction and management of up to 8 suitable sites: That the approved £2m allocation in the Council's 2020/21 capital programme from the New Homes Bonus is authorised for the land purchase, design, construction and management of the integrated wetlands The Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme including the required land acquisitions and leases.</p> <p>Decision - The construction and management of Integrated Wetlands as tertiary treatments for waste water treatment works to reduce phosphate levels within the River Lugg catchment area - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>A cabinet member decision was taken on the 29th February 2024 to authorise the acceptance of capital and revenue grants, and authorise Phases 2 and 3 of the Council's Nutrient Trading Phosphate Mitigation Scheme: The Corporate Director of Economy and Environment be authorized to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme. In accordance with the cabinet member decision dated 29th February 2024.</p> <p>Decision - Phosphate Mitigation Strategy - Herefordshire Council</p>										
Ward:	Backbury										
Consultation:	Consultation informing the related key decisions as noted in the associated decision reports.										
Decision made:	<p>To approve progression to the detailed design and construction phase of the Tarrington integrated wetland, forming part of phase 2 of the phosphate mitigation strategy referred to in the key decision of 29 February 2024.</p> <p>To approve the expenditure of up to £1,396,208 (including £200,000 contingency) for the design and construction of the Tarrington wetland scheme, and to enter into a contract with JBA Bentley Ltd for delivery of the same.</p> <p>The Delivery Director for Infrastructure be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary for the delivery of the scheme within the approved capital budget.</p> <p>The Senior Project Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Project Board and with specialist council officers as appropriate, to manage and spend the budget and contingency stated below.</p> <p>Financial Summary:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Wetland Design & Construction costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,121,958</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quantity Surveyor/Clerk of Works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Survey & Review fees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£49,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingency</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,396,208</td> </tr> </table>	Wetland Design & Construction costs	£1,121,958	Quantity Surveyor/Clerk of Works	£25,000	Other Survey & Review fees	£49,250	Contingency	£200,000	Total:	£1,396,208
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Reasons for decision:	<p>The construction of phosphate-reducing wetlands delivers a range of benefits, including the release of housing otherwise unable to complete the planning process, the economic effects of increased house-building activity, an improvement in the water quality of the county's rivers and the creation of bio-diverse wildlife and nature habitats. A previous pilot scheme delivered in Luston is now realising the targeted benefits and has provided both the confidence and knowledge necessary to proceed to this next scheme.</p> <p>Following the technical site investigations, the acquisition of the land and the preliminary design and planning process, detailed design and construction of the wetland is the next stage critical to delivery. Wetland construction of this type is a specialist area and it is essential that the appointed contractor have the necessary expertise, resources and experience to deliver a wetland scheme which meets the intentions of the design proposal.</p> <p>An open tender procurement process was conducted taking account of price and the capability of bidders. The contract award to JBA Bentley Ltd is the result of that process.</p>
Equality Considerations	<p>The construction of wetlands supports sustainable housing growth in the north of the county which will benefit all sections of the community. In addition to this the council will seek to provide education opportunities to local groups.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>There is a risk that costs may increase should there be any change to the design or to any of the assumptions within the tender package. To mitigate this a project management approach is in place whereby the design scope and contractor costs are closely monitored and changes approved only if they are critical to the successful delivery of the scheme.</p> <p>Any delay in proceeding to the construction stage would risk future cost increases through inflation and would risk failure of expenditure targets associated with grant funding.</p> <p>There is a risk of having to repay the grant from DLUHC, if we do not continue with the appointment and these works do not take place within relevant timeframes.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to proceed with the appointment at this time. This is not recommended as it would prevent or delay construction. The proposal to develop an integrated wetland site at this location would not be able to progress and the identified benefits would not be realised.</p> <p>This would result in the continuing shortfall of water quality in the River Lugg in relation to its conservation target.</p> <p>It would also result in a continuing restriction to the council's ability 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 detrimental effect.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None Declared</p>

Signed..... Date: