


## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Variation to Public Realm Annual Plan 2024/25 – addition of funding
<b>Date of decision:</b>	19 December 2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Ross Cook, Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport took a decision on 28 March 2024 to confirm the annual plan 2024/25 for the public realm services contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places. This decision authorised:</p> <p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Annual Plan for public realm services, as outlined at Appendix 1 of this report be approved as the basis for service delivery during 2024/25 with an overall budget of up to £18,669,041; made up of £5,802,041 revenue and £12,867,000 capital budgets as detailed in paragraph 36 and;</li> <li>(b) approval to spend the retained capital budget of £2,599,000 as detailed in paragraph 36;</li> <li>(c) the Service Director Environment and Highways be authorised to agree, through the Public Realm Contract governance arrangements, final adjustments to the programme (including any recommendations from the Strategic Partnering Board) and budget allocation to each of the Annexes and any in-year adjustments to the plan, within the overall budget; including the retained capital budget, and</li> <li>(d) the close out of the Major Contracts Improvement Board major contracts improvement plan be approved.</li> </ul> <p>This decision can be viewed at <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10038">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10038</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Finance
<b>Decision made:</b>	To add a further £150k to the Public Realm Annual Plan 2024/25 in order to identify potential flood management schemes.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Following a number of flood events in Herefordshire during 2024, it has been identified that additional flood risk expertise is needed so that Herefordshire Council can progress its Flood Response project in order to best support local communities.</p> <p>Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Herefordshire Council as the lead local flood authority (LLFA), has a duty to investigate incidents of flooding. A number of these investigations were completed following significant flooding in 2019/20 and these will need to</p>

	<p>be reviewed alongside further investigations that are being carried out following flooding in 2024 to identify potential flood management schemes. This work is key to this project and so it is imperative that it is completed as soon as is practicable.</p> <p>BBLP and their sub consultant WSP have provided Herefordshire Council with professional services since 2013 for public realm services. To ensure the identification of potential flood management schemes is completed in a timely manner, BBLP will be commissioned through the public realm contract. This will be a supplementary activity to the BBLP annual plan.</p>
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	None identified.
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p><b>Financial</b></p> <p>It is proposed that this contract award is funded from £643k of funds approved by the Director from the Severe Weather fund earmarked reserve for the Flood Response project</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Do nothing</p> <p>This option was rejected due to the number of instances of flooding across the county and the limited resource currently available within Herefordshire Council.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None.

Signed.....  ..... Date: 19 December 2024

**Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.**