

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Appointment of RSK Environment Limited to provide Lead Local Flood Authority consultancy services
Date of decision:	19 December 2024
Decision maker:	Ross Cook, Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate scheme of delegation: Paragraph 77, updated 18/07/2024 Directorate: Economy and Environment, section 77. This is an exercise of the delivery of a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p> <p>The authorisation limit is within the financial procedure rules and is sufficient for the decision and that the officer has authority under the contract procedure rules.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Finance, Commercial Services
Decision made:	Contract award to RSK Environment Limited for Lead Local Flood Authority services for a total value of up to £100,000 for up to 12 months.
Reasons for decision:	<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>A direct award has been undertaken through the ESPO framework (ESPO 664 Consultancy Services Framework). This framework is available to the council to make call offs and award contracts and is considered a compliant procurement route in line with the council's contract procedure rules. Pricing has been structured based on consultant seniority level, ensuring that customers have access to the best resource for the best value for money. Suppliers' skillsets and availability were compared and we have identified RSK Environment as being able to provide the requisite resource and skillset in an expedient manner, whilst permanent recruitment for internal resource is undertaken. It also ensures the specialist flood risk skillsets required which the council does not have internally, can be secured quickly.</p> <p>Engaging RSK Environment Limited for up to 12 months from January 2025 will enable Herefordshire Council to access their flood expertise on the following disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General enquiries and website update; • Governance and working with Elected Members; • Section 19 Investigations; • Statutory Consultee Service; • Local Flood Risk Management Strategy reviews and updates; and • Supporting LLFA internal recruitment.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Financial</p> <p>It is proposed that this contract award is funded from £643k of funds approved by the Director from the the Severe Weather fund earmarked reserve for the Flood Response project .</p>

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing 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> <p>Open tender Consideration was given to undertaking a competitive procurement exercise for these pieces of work. However, the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework provides an efficient (both in terms of time and resources) and procurement compliant route to a contract award.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	

Signed.....  Date: 19 December 2024