

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of highway works associated with Public Rights of Way structures – PRoW Works Order 1
Date of decision:	7 th January 2025
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>For spend relating to the 2023/24 financial year (carried over to 2024/25), a Cabinet Member decision was taken on 26th February 2024 relating to how the Highway Infrastructure Investment is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.</p> <p>a) Capital investment for 2023/24, in assets as set out below, is procured;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. PRoW Structures £100k g. Project Management £185k <p>b) Delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer to take all operational decisions to deliver the infrastructure projects set out in recommendation (a).</p> <p>Decision - 2023 to 2024 Capital Investment in Highways Infrastructure - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>For spend relating to the 2024/25 financial year, a Cabinet Member decision was taken on 13th June 2024 relating to how the Highway Infrastructure Investment is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.</p> <p>a) Capital investment for 2024/25, in assets as set out below, is procured;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. PRoW Structures £100k <p>b) Delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer to take all operational decisions to deliver the infrastructure projects set out in recommendation (a).</p> <p>Decision - 2024/25 Capital Investment in Existing Highway Infrastructure - Herefordshire Council</p>
Ward:	Countywide.
Consultation:	<p>As part of the revised consultation process for key decisions, Political Group Consultations were undertaken for both Cabinet Member decisions and further details can be found at</p> <p>Decision - 2023 to 2024 Capital Investment in Highways Infrastructure - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>Decision - 2024/25 Capital Investment in Existing Highway Infrastructure - Herefordshire Council</p>

	Ward Members and Parish Councils will be informed of works that are to take place in their area.															
Decision made:	To award a contract to MF Freeman Ltd using Lot 2 of the Council's NEC 4 Framework Agreement, to the initial value of £194,666.25 to remove 10 existing timber footbridge structures on the Public Rights of Way network and replace them with new steel beamed, timber footbridges and to carry out works at a further site on the Public Rights of Way network to install a new section of steps and handrails, as set out in Appendix 1. In addition, to authorise a contingency of £5,333.75.															
Reasons for decision:	<p>In order to deliver the investment set out in the decision reports above.</p> <p>The works associated with the contract are to remove 10 existing timber footbridge structures on the Public Rights of Way network and replace them with new steel beamed, timber footbridges and to carry out works at a further site on the Public Rights of Way network to install a new section of steps and handrails, as set out in Appendix 1.</p>															
Equality Considerations	The selection of assets for investment is considered to have a positive impact on the protected characteristics of Age and Disability. The investment set out in this report is considered to have a neutral impact on the other protected characteristics.															
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Finance:</p> <p>Under the selection process for the framework, Officers carried out a mini competition exercise using Lot 2 of the Council's Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework Agreement. Three tenders were received and an evaluation exercise based on price and quality was undertaken by Officers. Following evaluation, MF Freeman Ltd were identified as the preferred bidder and are recommended for award.</p> <p>A total works budget of £200k has been allocated to the project, funded through Herefordshire Council's Capital Programme as follows: £60k of the uncommitted 2023/24 PRow budget, £100k of the uncommitted 2024/25 PRow budget and £40k reallocated from the uncommitted 2023/24 Project Management budget.</p> <p>The budget allocation utilised is identified below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget Name</th> <th>Total Works Budget</th> <th>Contract Works Value</th> <th>Cost Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Highway Infrastructure Investment (PRow Structures) - Works</td> <td rowspan="2">£200k</td> <td>£194,666.25</td> <td>CM7338 CAP1751</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highway Infrastructure Investment (PRow Structures) - Contingency</td> <td>£5,333.75</td> <td>CM7338 CAP1751</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£200k</td> <td>£200k</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget Name	Total Works Budget	Contract Works Value	Cost Code	Highway Infrastructure Investment (PRow Structures) - Works	£200k	£194,666.25	CM7338 CAP1751	Highway Infrastructure Investment (PRow Structures) - Contingency	£5,333.75	CM7338 CAP1751	Total	£200k	£200k	
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	<p>Risk Management: The creation of a framework has contributed to minimising risks associated with procurement delay, supply chain resilience and demonstrating competition and value for money for the public purse. The identified works should reduce the risk to users on the network as a result of improved condition.</p> <p>Legal Implications: A procurement process to create a Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework was conducted during January and February 2024 in accordance with the Council’s Contracts Procedure Rules.</p> <p>The framework is operated under the NEC4 Framework Contract arrangements with NEC4 Engineering and Construction Short Contracts used for delivery of individual schemes.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to award. This is not recommended as this would put the Council’s capital programme at risk.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Appendix 1 – List of Public Rights of Way Asset Improvements

Path Number	Asset
EA11	Steps
CS8	9m span bridge
PT13	8m span bridge
KK7	10m span bridge
EH35B	9m span bridge
NW13	9m span bridge
PR49	8m span bridge
CL68	9m span bridge
AL1	8m span bridge
EL6	10m span bridge
LN18	7m span bridge