

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Highway Infrastructure Investment 2025/26
Date of decision:	31 st January 2025
Decision maker:	Corporate Director of Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>For spend relating to the 2025/26 financial year, a Cabinet Member decision was taken on 19th December 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 is made during 2025/26 in the asset groups as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Structures £1.0m iii. Safety Enhancement Schemes £250k iv. Drainage and Flood Risk £1.0m v. Street Lighting and Traffic Signals £250k <p>b) Delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment to take all operational decisions to deliver the infrastructure projects set out in recommendation (a).</p> <p>Decision - 2025/26 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 - 2025/26 Capital Investment in Existing Highway Infrastructure - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>Ward Members and Parish Councils will be informed of works that are to take place in their area.</p>
Decision made:	To invest £2,520k in existing structures, safety enhancement schemes, drainage and flood risk and street lighting and traffic signal assets as set out in the Cabinet Member report, approved on 19 th December 2024.
Reasons for decision:	<p>In order to deliver the investment set out in the decision reports above.</p> <p>The capital investment supports the county plan and ambitions for Herefordshire as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environment: protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live

b. Community: strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together

c. Economy: support our economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources.

Both safety inspections and network condition surveys have highlighted the continued deterioration of all of the referenced asset groups.

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 decision is considered to have a neutral impact on the other protected characteristics.

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:

Finance:

Delivery of these elements of the capital investment will be through the Public Realm contract and, where necessary and appropriate, subject to competitive procurement processes agreed with the Council's commercial team.

A total budget of £3.985 million has been allocated to the project for 2025/26, funded through Herefordshire Council's Capital Programme. The commission utilised for the delivery of the elements of the capital investment associated with this decision is identified below.

Budget Name	Commission	Cost Code
Highway Infrastructure Investment - Structures	£985k	CM7338 CAP1747
Highway Infrastructure Investment – Safety Enhancement Schemes	£250k	CM7338 CAP1749
Highway Infrastructure Investment – Drainage and Flood Risk	£1,050k	CM7338 CAP1748
Highway Infrastructure Investment – Street Lighting and Traffic Signals	£235k	CM7338 CAP1750
Total	£2,520k	

Risk Management:

The sustained investment will reduce the overall risk in highway safety, investing in key elements of the asset that address some of the challenges on the network.

The delivery of the works will be over a 12 month period and progress will be reported to the appropriate delivery and financial boards.

The Risks will be managed at service level and escalated where necessary in accordance with the Risk Management Plan.

	<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>Delivery of these elements of the capital investment will be through the Public Realm contract and, where necessary and appropriate, subject to competitive procurement processes agreed with the Council's commercial team.</p> <p>The delegation to the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment is permissible.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not to award. This is not recommended as this would put the Council's capital programme at risk.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None