

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To extend the Hereford Levelling Up Funding (LUF) Programme award for Professional Services Support.
Date of decision:	17 June 2025
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 12th January 2023 Cabinet approved the following:</p> <p>To delegate to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Highways, and the Section 151 Officer, all operational decisions in implementing the funding in accordance with the bids to government.</p> <p>Full details of the decision taken can be seen at the following link:</p> <p>Decision - To Accept and Spend Any Approved Levelling Up Fund Allocation to Herefordshire - Herefordshire Council</p>
Ward:	Aylestone Hill; Bobblestock; Central; College; Eign Hill; Greyfriars; Hinton and Hunderton; King Acre; Newton; Racecourse; Redhill; Saxon Gate; Tupsley; Victoria Park; Whitecross; Widemarsh.
Consultation:	Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member, S151 Officer, Finance, Legal, Commercial Services and Communications.
Decision made:	To allocate £476,075 of the approved Levelling Up Funding to the awarded contract to provide professional services support for the design and delivery of the LUF programme. This value includes an amount for contingency and risk.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council has been successful in securing £19,990,449 funding from the Department for Levelling Up. LUF funding has been matched against £4,478,000 Council, £700,000 Marches LEP and £120,000 Active Travel Funds (ATF), to deliver a package of transport and active travel measures, with a total value of £25,288,449. The LUF funding has been adopted into the Council's capital programme, as per above decision link.</p> <p>The LUF procurement strategy report agreed by the project board includes an options analysis for professional services procurement, alongside an additional benchmarking and rates comparison exercise. This strategy was agreed by the Director of E&E, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder and S151 officer.</p> <p>The LUF package includes budget lines for each of the proposed improvements, where budget will be drawn from to implement the decision. Spend to the end of 2024/25 for the combined LUF programme of transport schemes was £5,046,861.</p> <p>The programme of LUF projects continues to be managed holistically to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient way possible between projects, with scope either expanded or contracted appropriately following correct governance processes.</p> <p>The additional allocation for professional services is due to further development and refinement of each scheme. This has resulted in a greater knowledge of necessary costs required to deliver the work.</p>

Equality Considerations	There are no equality issues to consider in the decision.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The Council signed up to a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department For Transport which committed us to delivering and spending the Levelling Up funds prior to end of March 2025. Regular project monitoring led to a revised spend profile for the LUF programme showing spend beyond this date. A Project Adjustment Request (PAR) was submitted to DfT to revise the MoU as part of the funding agreement.</p> <p>Project delivery is overseen by the LUF Project Board which reports into the Infrastructure Delivery Board.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Additional support and expertise is required to ensure that each of the projects are designed and delivered within the agreed funding timescales. It would not be possible to deliver these schemes without this release of capital funds from the already allocated budget.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None.

Signed: Ross Cook

Date: 17/06/2025