

Record of operational decision

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| Decision title: | Flood Response Programme – scheme development |
| Date of decision: | 14 October 2025 |
| Decision maker: | Chief Operating Officer Resident Services |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <p>A Cabinet Member decision was taken on 24 September 2025 relating to how the £2,055,000 additional budget allocated in the Capital Programme for flood risk mitigation across 2025/26 and 2026/27 is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.</p> <p>Full details of the decision taken can be seen at the following link:</p> <p>Decision - Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>(a) approval is given to draw down the £2,055,000 additional budget allocated in the Capital Programme for flood risk mitigation across 2025/26 and 2026/27; and</p> <p>(b) delegated authority is given to the Chief Operating Officer Resident Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Local Engagement and Community.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Roads and Regulatory Services took a decision on 28 January 2025 to confirm the annual plan 2025/26 for the public realm services contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places. This decision authorised:</p> <p>(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 2025/26 subject to the confirmation of the revenue and capital budgets as detailed in paragraph 43 and;</p> <p>(b) approval to spend the retained capital budget of £2,599,000 as detailed in paragraph 43;</p> <p>(c) the Interim Chief Operating Officer 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;</p> <p>(d) the Interim Chief Operating Officer be authorised to implement and expend the Department for Transport (DFT) Local Highways Maintenance Funding Allocations for 2025/26 of £5,882m in accordance with the Highway Maintenance Plan.</p> |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | As part of the revised consultation process for key decisions, Political Group Consultations were undertaken for the Cabinet Member decision. Officers will provide timely updates to members as the Flood Response Programme progresses. |

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| Decision made: | To allocate an additional £55,110.09 to the Public Realm Annual Plan 2025/26 to advance a key location to concept design stage. |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>£300,000 of the £2,055,000 budget has been allocated to scheme development. Given the history of flooding at Holmer CoE Academy Primary School and Hereford Leisure Centre, most recently in autumn 2024, and the wider impacts reported in nearby residential areas along Grandstand Road, this location aligns with our prioritisation of areas experiencing significant flood risk.</p> <p>Use of this scheme development funding will support the development of an attenuation option to concept design stage, aimed at mitigating flood risk to both the school and leisure centre.</p> <p>BBLP and their sub-consultant WSP have been providing professional public realm services to Herefordshire Council since 2013. To ensure timely delivery, BBLP will be commissioned via the existing public realm contract, with the work delivered as a supplementary activity under the BBLP Annual Plan.</p> <p>We consider WSP to offer good value for money, given their long-standing involvement in addressing flooding issues across Herefordshire. Their extensive local knowledge and experience are further enhanced by recent detailed surface water modelling undertaken of the Ayles Brook, which strengthens their understanding of flood dynamics and makes them a cost-effective choice for this piece of work.</p> |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>Financial Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total budget of £300,000 has been allocated to scheme development. The proposal from WSP for this location is £55,110.09. |
| Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: | Not progressing this key location is not recommended, as it would be contrary to the council resolution passed on 7 February 2025 . |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

Signed..... Date: