

### Record of operational decision

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| <b>Decision title:</b>                   | Drainage Town and Parish Grant Funding  |
| <b>Date of decision:</b>                 | January 2026  |
| <b>Decision maker:</b>                   | Corporate Director for Economy and Environment  |
| <b>Authority for delegated decision:</b> | <p>On 7 February 2025, Full Council agreed the content of the 2025/26 Budget Setting report. As part of the report, Full Council agreed that £445k would be provided for improvements to the drainage network.</p> <p>Full details of the decision taken can be seen at the following link:</p> <p><a href="#">Decision – To approve the 2025/26 revenue budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy</a></p> <p>Delivery of the £445k of funding is proposed to be through Parish Lengthsman contract variation agreements or purchase orders, which are permissible under the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules</p>   |
| <b>Ward:</b>                             | Countywide  |
| <b>Consultation:</b>                     | Town and Parish Councils were invited to provide submissions for the Drainage Grant funding in June 2025.   |
| <b>Decision made:</b>                    | To vary the Parish Lengthsman contract with a further 84 Town and Parish Councils, to deliver £445,435 of drainage improvement works, as set out in this report   |
| <b>Reasons for decision:</b>             | <p>Working with parishes on locally important maintenance supports the Council’s Delivery Plan 2025/26 objective to: ‘Expand and maintain the transport infrastructure network in a sustainable way and improve connectivity across the county.’</p> <p>On 7 February 2025, Full Council approved the 2025/26 Budget Setting report, which included an allocation of £445,000 for drainage improvements.</p> <p>In June 2025, Town and Parish Councils were invited to submit proposals for this funding, which is intended to support ditch clearance and minor drainage schemes. Submissions were invited by 28 September 2025 and provided details of the location (what3words) of each asset including photographs, a brief description of the work required and a cost estimate.</p> <p>An additional £57,015.00 was carried over from the 2024/25 Drainage grant, as it was unspent. This brought the total budget to £502,015.00.</p> <p>The total number of applications for 2025/26 exceeded £1M. This meant the funds had to be prioritised as not all applications could be approved within the budget.</p> <p>Priority was given to minor drainage schemes, which were “capital” type work, i.e. creating new assets such as ditches, pipes or other infrastructure</p> |

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|   | <p>to improve drainage.</p> <p>Applications were reviewed with BBLP to determine whether there was a need for the scheme; whether the proposed scheme would be effective in solving the issue; and whether there was sufficient public benefit (i.e. internal flooding or significant highway flooding).</p> <p>Once the minor schemes had been assessed and money allocated for the approved schemes the remaining budget was distributed proportionately to all the “ditching” projects. These were more maintenance type projects, like clearing ditches, grips, etc...</p> <p>Please note that in September 2025, submissions from five Town and Parish Councils were approved for a total of £57,000.00. In line with the above methodology, submissions from a further 84 Town and Parish Councils totalling £445,435.00 have been received and identified at this stage as being acceptable and offering best value to the council.</p>                    |
| <p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p> | <p><b>Financial Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total budget of £502,015.00 has been allocated to this project (comprising £445,000 for this year and £57,015.00 carried over from last year).</li> <li>• The submissions from the further 84 Town and Parish Councils total £445,435.00 of works.</li> <li>• Project codes will be allocated so that the project manager assigned can monitor and review progress to enable reporting to the relevant programme boards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The identified works should reduce the risk to users on the network as a result of improved condition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Legal Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct award of a contract is permissible under the Contract Procedure Rules where the total value is below £25k and can demonstrate best value to the council.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>           | <p>That this additional investment is not made and the Council continues to maintain Herefordshire’s drainage in accordance with sound asset management practices but wholly within existing maintenance allocations and grant funding made available.</p>  |
| <p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>                         | <p>None</p>   |

Signed..... Date: