

Record of Officer Decision

Decision title:	Award of highway works associated with Public Rights of Way structures (relating to PRoW Works Order 5 - PRoW bridges).
Date of decision:	14 January 2026
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate Scheme of Delegation. Directorate: Economy and Environment, section 75. To act on behalf of the council in respect of the legislation specified in the foregoing: Traffic Management Act 2004, Road Traffic Act 1988, Cycle Tracks Act 1984, Highways Act 1980, National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1948, New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Traffic Calming Act 1992, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p> <p>For spending 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> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">vii. Project Management £235k</p> <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>
Decision made:	To award a contract to Velta Construction Ltd using Lot 2 of the Council's NEC 4 Framework Agreement, to the initial value of £158,390.00 to remove and replace eight existing footbridge structures on the Public Rights of Way network with new steel-beamed timber footbridges, as per locations set out in appendix 1 below. Further, this Record of Officer Decision approves a

	contingency amount of 10% of the overall award, which equates to £15,839.00.																
Reasons for decision:	To deliver the investment set out in the decision above. The works associated with the contract are to remove and replace eight existing footbridge structures on the Public Rights of Way network with new steel-beamed timber footbridges, as per locations, as set out in Appendix 1 below.																
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>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, Velta Construction Ltd were identified as the preferred bidder and are recommended for award.</p> <p>A total works budget of £158,390.00 plus a 10% contingency has been allocated to this project, funded through Herefordshire Council's Capital Programme.</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>Public Rights of Way Works</td> <td>£158,390.00</td> <td>£158,390.00</td> <td>CM7323 CAP1423</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Rights of Way Contingency</td> <td>Nil.</td> <td>£15,839.00</td> <td>CM7338 CAP1423</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>£158,390.00</td> <td>£174,229.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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 will reduce the risk to users on the network because of the improvements.</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>	Budget Name	Total Works Budget	Contract Works Value	Cost Code	Public Rights of Way Works	£158,390.00	£158,390.00	CM7323 CAP1423	Public Rights of Way Contingency	Nil.	£15,839.00	CM7338 CAP1423	Total:	£158,390.00	£174,229.00	
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Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not to award the contract. This is not recommended as this would put the Council's capital programme at risk and result in a deterioration of the existing bridges which could result in injury and/or closures on Herefordshire's Public Rights of Way network.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None.

Signed:

Date: 14 January 2026

***Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.**

Appendix 1

List of Public Rights of Way Asset Improvements – PRoW Bridges

m=metres

1. **ESG28** - 10m span
2. **EX23** - 9m span
3. **LT4** - 10m span
4. **M06** - 8m span
5. **PG4** - 7m span
6. **HER50** - 5m x 2.7m span free issue
7. **SL2** - 7m span
8. **KL4** - 7m span