

Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

B045 /23

If not a Key Decision write n/a above

OFFICER DECISION RECORD ⁱ

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: Proposed contract value increase for Grange Paddocks weir removal project

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): Yes

Executive Member/Committee Chairman:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Portfolio (Executive Functions only):

Environment

Officer Contact: Simon Aries

Tel: 01992 555255

1. Decision

To increase the value of the Grange Paddocks weir removal contract above £500,000.

2. Reasons for the decision

A competitive procurement process was carried out for Grange Paddocks weir removal, which completed in December 2022. The works were value engineered to remove some components allowing the contract to be awarded in February 2023 to the budget available at the time of £433,575.

The County Council have subsequently received additional funding from the Environment Agency to carry out the works previously removed at value engineering stage. The contract value will therefore be increasing to £660,639.

The Grange paddocks weir removal project will deliver significant habitat enhancements along the River Stort, a globally rare chalk river. The weir is the last barrier to fish passage along the Stort and will enable the restoration of the river to natural conditions above the weir.

The project is an operational activity which aligns with the Corporate Plan objective of a cleaner and greener environment, as well as contributing to the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy aspiration to enhance nature across Hertfordshire's land and water by 20% by 2050.

Financially, the work will be delivered within existing resources and from funding provided externally by the Environment Agency under agreement. It has been agreed with the Environment Agency that they will transfer legal powers to HCC to enable delivery of works within the river.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

Not awarding the additional works would enable successful removal of the weir but without realising all potential habitat benefits.

4. Consultation (see Summary of Requirements below)

Was any Councillor consulted? No

If yes:

(a) Comments of Executive Member/Committee Chairman (*delete as applicable*)

(b) Comments of other consultees

5. Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision

(If a Councillor declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from Democratic Services or Legal Services).

6. I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: Simon Aires

Title: Director Transport, Waste & Environmental Management

Date: 27/04/2023

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.ⁱⁱ

Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors

Significance of Proposed Action	Controversial	Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted
Technical/Professional/ Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors
Technical/Professional/ Routine	Yes	Executive Functions: Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor
Local	No	Executive Functions: Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Inform Local Councillor
Local	Yes	Executive Functions: Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Consult Local Councillor
General or County-wide	No	Executive Functions:

		<p>Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s)</p> <p>Non-Executive Functions: Consult relevant Committee Chairman</p>
General or County-wide	Yes	<p>Executive Functions: Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council</p> <p>Non-Executive Functions: Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups</p>