

Development of the 2018-19 SRA Enhanced Programme

During 2018-19, SRA partners put forward 34 proposals to deliver flood risk management measures. These proposals aim to address flood risks in Somerset, either known within the proposer's organisation or brought to their attention by others, including members of the community. However with a limited budget the SRA has a clear method of identifying which proposals fulfilled the objectives within the Flood Action Plan (FAP).

At the February 8th 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved the SRA Policies that had been prepared as a framework to guide investment decisions. The Board had also previously approved the approach that the Management Group had taken to develop the 2017-18 Enhanced Programme. However it was recognised that despite the improvements in the process as a result of the work done during the past year, there were areas for improvement.

As a result the SRA Team amended the 2017/18 Grant Proposal form to include more detailed information, including scoring against each Flood Action Plan (FAP) criteria. Each score was reviewed and endorsed by professional experts depending on the FAP objective, for example FAP 4 (Make the most of the natural characteristics of Somerset, including the special characteristics of the Somerset Levels and Moors) was reviewed by technical experts from Natural England.

The council has introduced Strategic Grant Agreements with each partner which is the overarching collaboration agreement to ensure deliverability and accountability. In addition each Grant proposal is signed by the Council and Delivery Partner to become the Grant Agreement for the agreed period with the agreed funding amount. If required special conditions are added, to ensure outcome measures and outputs are met.

The SRA Technical Group used the Policies and scoring criteria to develop a prioritised list of proposals for consideration by the Board. As in previous years the Technical Group adjusted the list using professional judgement to ensure workstream balance and geographical spread.

The process is no longer as resource hungry, however, the policies are being reviewed and a Flood Risk Management Strategy will be developed in time for the 2019-20 programme proposals.

Adjustments to the list

The first adjustments that were made were to ensure that all work streams featured in the programme; this meant actions for Building Local Resilience needed to be included and those that scored highest were chosen. It was felt that no adjustment for Geographical Spread was needed.

The next step was to review all the actions making the grade for deliverability, value for money and sustainability and at the same time review all the larger value actions (>£100k) within that list to see if their value could or should be reduced, to allow for inclusion of others whose importance was not reflected in the scoring criteria. It was agreed that this latter step would only be applied to actions that were scalable, and not whole schemes.

The final prioritised list of 21 actions was reviewed by the SRA Management Group and then by the SRA Board, who approved it as the 2018-19 Enhance Programme at their meeting of March 7th 2018.

Somerset Rivers Authority **Policies** governing development of the SRA Enhanced Programme

1. Geographic scope

- Fundable works can be in or outside the county as long as they deliver Flood Action Plan objectives of benefit to Somerset, although the majority of spend will be within the County.
- The important thing is where the benefit is gained i.e. there is no requirement for equal spend by district

- ℙ We will have a 4 Year rolling Programme that is balanced; geographically, and by type of activity, and will use judgement to assess this balance
- ℙ The SRA will not fund works for protection from coastal flooding, with the coast as defined by The Coastal Protection Action 1949.

2. Financial

- ℙ The SRA will fund those projects and schemes that deliver our objectives that cannot be funded from current funding streams
- ℙ SRA funding is additional to that already attracted by partners for projects and works
- ℙ The SRA via the 'Grant Proposal form' will look for evidence that partners and other applicants have tried to secure and apply for other sources of funding
- ℙ The SRA will encourage applications which will lever in additional funding from other sources (i.e. jointly funded projects/works)

3. The long view

- ℙ The SRA will test proposals for funding against the following:
 - a) Whole life costs
 - b) Community benefits/dis benefits
 - c) Economic benefits/dis benefits
 - d) Environmental benefits/dis benefits
 - e) Long term strategic plans

4. Flood Risk and evidence

- ℙ The SRA will seek to support proposals that meet one or more of the 6 Flood Action Plan flood risk management objectives
- ℙ Concurrent with taking action and delivering works on the ground the SRA will take the opportunity to gather evidence and monitor the impacts of its actions and activities
- ℙ The SRA will rely on technical professional judgement from SRA partners, combined with existing modelling to assess in-combination effects across the catchments

5. Responsibilities

- P The SRA only fund and undertake works/projects that benefit the wider community
- P The SRA expect property owners (land, buildings and infrastructure) to make themselves and their property more resilient and put plans in place to manage their flood risk
- P The SRA work to support riparian owners fulfilling their obligations/responsibilities

6. Relationships and weightings

- P The SRA use a scoring mechanism, based on the 6 Flood Action Plan objectives, to determine the relative importance of different types and scales of need, flood risk management work and different benefits/dis benefits

7. Cost shunting

- P The SRA funding is additional to partner's own funding for flood and water management and we do not expect that partners will shunt costs onto the SRA. Where partners reduce spending on flood and water management, the SRA will not pick up these costs

Note:

Somerset Flood Action Plan objectives are:

1. Reduce the frequency, depth and duration of flooding
2. Maintain access for communities and business
3. Increase resilience to flooding for families, agriculture, businesses, communities, and wildlife
4. Make the most of the natural characteristics of Somerset, including the special characteristics of the Somerset Levels and Moors (the internationally important biodiversity, environmental and cultural heritage).
5. Ensure strategic road and rail connectivity, both within Somerset and through the county to the South West peninsula
6. Promote business confidence and growth