

Somerset Rivers Authority Joint Scrutiny Panel Paper

SRA Enhanced Programme and budget 2021-22

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Review and comment on the draft 2021-22 Tranche 1 and 2 Enhanced Programme proposals and budget.
- Consider any recommendations they wish to make to the SRA Board in relation to the 2021-22 Enhanced Programme.

Purpose of the item

To review and comment on the draft 2021-22 Enhanced Programme and budget in advance of the SRA Board considering the proposals at their meeting on 5 March.

2021-22 Enhanced Programme – background and context

2021-22 will be the seventh year that the SRA will fund an 'Enhanced Programme' of projects to provide an extra level of flood protection and resilience for Somerset residents. This extra level of protection is funded by a shadow precept raised by the County and District Councils. The Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) also contribute £10,000 each per annum. The final figure will be confirmed in February 2021 following council budget setting, but it is estimated that the shadow precept and IDB contribution for the financial year 2021-22 will total £2.923m.

2021-22 Enhanced Programme – latest status

An initial 10 proposals with a total value of £1.88m were submitted by SRA Delivery Partners in August 2020. All proposals were scored against criteria reflecting the aims and objectives of Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan (FAP), which is overseen by the SRA. They were then reviewed by SRA Technical Group members at a meeting on November 13, and by SRA Management Group on 20 November. The SRA Board provisionally approved funding of these proposals at their meeting on December 11, 2020.

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic have had an impact on the creation of the SRA's Enhanced Programme 2021-22. The process of building a programme has had to be extended, because various restrictions and changes have slowed some matters down. A 2nd

Tranche of proposals was received during December 2020. These proposals are still being reviewed with a final decision on which projects can be funded due to be taken at the March 5, 2021 SRA Board meeting.

The first half of this paper covers the Tranche 1 proposals which have been provisionally approved and the second half summarises the Tranche 2 proposals which have yet to be considered by the SRA Board.

Tranche 1 2021-22 Proposals

SRA projects are sorted into five workstreams as set out in the FAP, though in practice different elements sometimes overlap.

Table A shows the total value of bids received under each workstream heading. Workstream balance is taken into account by the SRA Board when agreeing the Enhanced Programme.

Table A: Workstream Summary

Workstream	Title	Value (£000s)	% of total
W1	Dredging & River Management	£550	29%
W2	Land Management	£470	25%
W3	Urban Water Management	£60	3%
W4	Resilient Infrastructure	£675	36%
W5	Building Local Resilience	£125	7%
	Total	£1,880	

A short description of the Tranche 1 schemes, which have been provisionally approved, is set out below with additional detail provided in Appendix 1.

There are currently two proposals in **Workstream 1** (Dredging & River Management).

The first is for a contribution to the Environment Agency’s major scheme to repair and refurbish **Dunball Sluice**, where King’s Sedgemoor Drain flows into the River Parrett north of Bridgwater. Dunball Sluice is crucial to the effective management of flood risks in the River Parrett catchment – which covers 1050 square miles – and a thorough overhaul will help to keep it working well for another 35 years.

The second proposal is for a study of how flood risks in **Dulverton** could be reduced by restoring the town's medieval weir and the Leat that loops off it. Both the weir and the Leat are eroded and damaged.

There is currently one proposal in **Workstream 2** (Land Management including Natural Flood Management - NFM). This single proposal contains many separate elements. It includes specific proposals in the Mendip District Council area, following on from earlier SRA-funded sub-catchment analyses across Mendip. Altogether there are seven main elements, including the design and implementation of 20 small-scale NFM schemes countywide, and four nature-based schemes in Mendip. Other W2 elements include match-funding for five major NFM projects led by other bodies, land management initiatives to help stop roads flooding, a range of activities to promote better soil management, an online NFM auction encouraging farmers and landowners to bid for funding, and modelling and monitoring of works done.

There is currently one proposal in **Workstream 3 (Urban Water Management)**. This is a Sedgemoor District Council bid for an investigation into flooding problems in the large area that feeds into the lakes at Apex Leisure & Wildlife Park and Haven Holiday Park in **Burnham On Sea**. The aim is to identify improvements that will provide better protection against flooding and more effective long-term management of local drainage systems. Around 100 properties in the Maple Drive area of Burnham could particularly benefit.

There are currently five proposals in **Workstream 4 (Resilient Infrastructure)**. The first is for a Mendip District Council project that follows on from a major SRA-funded investigation into almost every aspect of flooding and foul sewer problems in **Beckington** near Frome. This project will reduce the risks of future widespread flooding in the village by designing and delivering drainage system improvements.

Also, under W4 four programmes of enhanced maintenance are being planned for the SRA by Somerset County Council's Highways Department. The aim is to help keep roads open in places highly susceptible to flooding, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding. There are three countywide programmes covering enhanced gully emptying, enhanced drain jetting and enhanced silt trap jetting and an enhanced trash-screen clearing programme within the Somerset West and Taunton area.

Workstream 5 (Building Local Resilience) is focused on getting Somerset better prepared for flooding. The main element is funding for the continued employment until March 2023 of the SRA's Community Engagement Officer and Community Engagement Support Officer.

The officers will undertake an extensive programme of activities across Somerset. The programme will include working with small businesses, schools and flood groups.

Tranche 1 proposals were provisionally approved for funding from the 2021-22 SRA shadow precept by the SRA Board on 11 December 2020

Provisional SRA staff and overheads budget

Spend Category	£000s
Staffing (4 fte)	£178
Overheads, legal, finance, governance, audit etc.	£40
Natural England support	£12
Small projects and studies	£20
Total	£250

Tranche 1 Summary

- The total value of the provisionally approved Tranche 1 proposals and the SRA staff and overheads budget is £2.130m.
- The estimated value of the shadow precept and IDB contributions for 2021-22 is £2.923m.
- The difference between the available shadow precept and the value of Tranche 1 bids plus the SRA staff and overheads budget is £0.793m.
- Under Item 8 'Finance Report' the panel was made aware that the SRA currently has £1.068m of contingency funds.
- The remaining precept and contingency funds create opportunity for a further £1.861m to be allocated to SRA projects.

Tranche 2

At the SRA Board meeting on 11 December, members approved seeking a second tranche of SRA grant proposals to make full use of the opportunity presented by the contingency funds and remaining precept funding.

A further 18 proposals have now been received with a total value of £4.329m. The call on SRA funds exceeds the available funds by £2.468m. Tranche 2 of proposals is in the process of being reviewed and scored by the SRA Team in consultation with Technical Group

officers. Once assessed, a proposed programme of schemes will be presented to SRA Board members for their consideration on March 5. As well as the scores for each proposal, geographic spread and workstream balance are taken into account when preparing the final prioritised list of schemes for the Enhanced Programme

Table B Tranche 2 workstream summary

Workstream	Value of proposals £000s	% of total value	No. of Proposals
W1	£3,345	77%	4
W2	£287	7%	6
W3	£82	2%	1
W4	£615	14%	8
Grand Total	£4,329	100%	19

A summary of each of the 18 Tranche 2 proposals received is provided in Appendix 2.

Confidential Appendix 3, provided separately to the Joint Scrutiny Panel, provides further detail on all proposals and their estimated costs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Review and comment on the draft 2021-22 Tranche 1 Enhanced Programme proposals and budget.
- Review and comment on the draft 2021-22 Tranche 2 Enhanced Programme proposals

Date: February 2021

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: 2021-22 Tranche 1 scheme summaries – no costs

Appendix 2: 2021-22 Tranche 1 scheme summaries – no costs

Appendix 3: **Confidential** 2021-22 Enhanced Programme List – with costs – provided separately

Appendix 1 Tranche 1 Scheme Summaries

SRA Reference	TITLE	SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY/WORKS	Workstream
FWMDCLM01-22	Hills to Levels – Land Management and NFM to Slow the Flow	<p>Somerset Rivers Authority funds the biggest range of natural flood management (NFM) activities in the UK, as part of Hills to Levels. This work has so far won two national awards.</p> <p>There are six main elements to be delivered for the SRA by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW) and a further element to be delivered in partnership with Mendip District Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implementation of 20 small-scale and natural flood management capital works to detain water in the upper catchment and reduce peak flows • Provide funding towards a larger capital scheme at Merriott, de-culverting a 300m stretch of the Merriott Stream just upstream from Merriott village. • Encourage better soil management techniques and cropping changes which will improve the infiltration of water and reduce run-off. • Respond to at least 40 highway flooding and Lead Local Flood Authority referrals where land management can help provide a solution. • Operate another reverse auction in the summer/autumn 2021 to deliver enhanced land management changes and engage more land managers with SRA messages. • Carry out modelling or monitoring at sub-catchment scale to demonstrate the effectiveness of the NFM measures that have already been installed or constructed. • In partnership with Mendip District Council deliver at least 4 holistic nature-based solution projects in prioritised sub-catchments in Mendip with known flooding issues. These projects will employ a range of NFM techniques including ‘Stage Zero’ where appropriate. 	W2
EA1 7	Dunball Sluice Refurbishment	<p>A contribution to the Environment Agency’s major scheme to repair and refurbish Dunball Sluice to help to keep it working well for several more years. The works will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The repair of potential defects in the vertical gates and sheet piled walls. Review and refurbish the deterioration of the concrete elements of the sluice. • Investigate and repair the leakages of the side flow culvert on the north side. • Investigate and repair the failure of seals on 	W1

		<p>penstocks within the structure and defects to the steel top frame structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade elements of the penstock lifting gear and investigate issues with counterweights/counterweight baskets • Review the operational issues with silt management around the structure and issues with wind-blown sand reaching mechanical components and the functionality of control panel • Review the lack of eel passage 	
LASWT01	<p>Dulverton Leat/Weir Flood Prevention & Elevation Project</p>	<p>To provide funding towards a feasibility study (Phase One) of the Dulverton Leat and Weir restoration and upgrade project being delivered by Somerset West and Taunton Council. The study will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the cost plan and draft drawings that were carried out in Spring 2020 and undertake 'before and after' flood alleviation modelling based on these designs. • Undertake the required ecological surveys prior to Phase Two. • Seek planning and any other necessary approvals required for the works to be identified for Phase Two. <p>The suggested flood alleviation works (Phase Two) below are dependent upon the findings from Phase One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out extensive work to the upper and lower weirs to reinforce the structure with more robust natural materials. • Undertake extensive repairs to the Leat floor/ bed and reinforce the structure • Clear all debris, vegetation, tree trunks and any foreign material from the Leat, walls and the immediate bankside and to consider the most practical and pragmatic way to reduce the volume of debris reaching the village. • Realign the banks where trees will be removed. 	W1

LAMDC07	Beckington Drainage Works	<p>To deliver the identified high priority works that came out of the Beckington Drainage Assessment previously funded by the SRA. The works will provide improved resilience to surface water flooding and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert repair, enhancement and remediation works at Warminster Road • New trash screens with access for maintenance upstream of Goose Street. • Improvements in management and maintenance • Additional inspection manholes along Goose Street, Warminster Road, Frome Road and Castle Street • Improved access to upstream watercourses for routine maintenance • Carry out further CCTV surveys to assess condition of uninspected sections • Install natural flood management attenuation features upstream 	W4
LHA03-22	Across Somerset Enhanced Gully Emptying.	<p>Gullies in places most at risk of flooding across Somerset are cleansed once a year by Somerset County Council. Extra SRA funding means that approximately 20,000 gullies can be emptied twice a year. The aim is to help keep roads open in places highly susceptible to flooding, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding, all in line with the objectives of Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan. This year gully-emptying is part of a five-pronged attack on highway flooding problems across Somerset, along with drain jetting, silt-trap emptying and trash screen clearance and the Hills to Levels system of highway referrals to reduce run-off from land onto roads. Together these works benefit residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	W4
LHA04-22	Across Somerset Enhanced Drain Jetting.	<p>Extra SRA-funded drain jetting targets places across Somerset at high risk of flooding. Drains are usually only jetted by Somerset County Council on a reactive basis: that is, once they have become blocked. Pro-active jetting is designed to stop drains from getting blocked in the first place, by removing silt and debris. The aim is to keep roads open during times of flood. Across Somerset Enhanced Drain Jetting is part of a five-pronged SRA attack on highway flooding problems, along with gully-emptying, silt-trap emptying, trash screen clearance and the Hills to Levels system of highway referrals to reduce run-off from land onto roads. Together these works help to keep roads open, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding. They reduce annoyance and inconvenience for residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	W4

LHA130	Enhanced Trash Screen Clearance in Somerset West and Taunton	<p>Trash screens are cleansed reactively by Somerset County Council. The SRA funding will support an enhanced cleansing regime by mechanically cleansing 36 trash screens as part of a proactive annual programme in the Somerset West and Taunton Area.</p> <p>This SRA funded programme of trash screen clearance is designed to mitigate high risk areas and to alleviate localised highway flooding, with associated safety benefits to highway users. It will keep roads open, communities accessible and safeguard properties from flooding.</p> <p>Enhanced Trash screen clearance is part of a five-pronged SRA attack on highway flooding problems, along with gully-emptying, silt-trap emptying, drain jetting and the Hills to Levels system of highway referrals to reduce run-off from land onto roads.</p> <p>Together these works help to keep roads open, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding. They reduce annoyance and inconvenience for residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	W4
LHA122-22	Across Somerset Enhanced Silt-trap Emptying.	<p>Silt-traps are designed to reduce flood risks by collecting silt washed out from land near roads and preventing it from clogging up highway drainage systems. Somerset has around 80 silt-traps (not including cattle grids) at places known to be susceptible to flooding.</p> <p>Extra SRA funding enables Somerset County Council's Highways Department to carry out a programme of proactive cleansing, so that traps themselves do not get blocked up, but work as they should. Across Somerset Enhanced Silt-trap Emptying is part of a five-pronged SRA attack on highway flooding problems, along with drain jetting, gully-emptying, trash screen clearance and the Hills to Levels system of highway referrals to reduce run-off from land onto roads.</p> <p>Together these works help to keep roads open, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding. They reduce annoyance and inconvenience for residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	W4

LASWT01	Apex/ Haven/ Maple Drive BOS Surface Water Management Study	<p>SRA funding will enable Sedgemoor District Council to carry out a Surface Water Management study of the lakes at Apex & Haven Holiday Park, Maple Drive and the local sewer network.</p> <p>The study will determine the current level of flood protection and outline what improvements can be carried out to achieve a better flood protection and longer-term management solutions to future proof the system.</p>	W3
FAPW501-22	Building Local Resilience	<p>This is a continuation of previously funded Building Local Resilience actions. This funding would enable the SRA Community Engagement Team to continue to build local resilience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of what can be done by residents and communities through engagement activities and events, and by providing advice, information and support as and when needed • Working in partnership with other organisations seeking to build social capital and encourage preparedness in communities at risk, including participating in and jointly chairing the Somerset Prepared multi-agency partnership. • Supporting existing and emerging community groups such as local flood groups and flood networks including facilitating the delivery of training and assisting with the management of the small grants scheme for community resilience. • Investigating a mapping exercise to develop links between existing flood groups to encourage them to work together on a District / Catchment basis • Deliver a community film project with Somerset Film which will engage communities with water use and flood risk management using audio-visual material. • Building on previous engagement with small businesses. • Engaging with schools in at-risk areas. This activity will look at the unique nature and local challenges of the landscape in Somerset and provide a more locally specific approach than other school engagement programmes being delivered nationally or regionally. • Contributing time and expertise to other SRA projects within the Enhanced programme including Adapting the Levels and the Community Flood Information projects. 	W5

Appendix 2 Tranche 2 Scheme Summaries

Ref	TITLE	SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY/WORKS	
EA17	Bridgwater Tidal Barrier	<p>Bridgwater Tidal Barrier is a major project led by the Environment Agency and Sedgemoor District Council. Designed to help protect more than 11,300 homes and 1,500 businesses, it has three main elements: a tidal barrier on the River Parrett at Chilton Trinity, 4.3km of new flood defence banks and 2.8km of raised banks downstream at Chilton Trinity, Comwich and Pawlett, and fish and eel passage improvements at 12 sites upstream of the barrier site.</p> <p>Most funding for this major project will come from central government major project funding. However, a local contribution towards the project is also required to secure the national funding. Sedgemoor District Council is responsible for assembling a local match-funding package. The council is seeking a contribution from the SRA in recognition of the important role the Barrier will play in protecting Somerset residents, homes and businesses.</p>	W1
EA18	Dunball Smoothing	<p>A project to complement other River Sowy-King's Sedgemoor Drain works already funded by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and the SRA. The plan is to remove obsolescent obstructions which reduce the capacity of the river channel – and cause problems with turbulence – near Dunball Sluice. This work would help to increase the maximum flow of water that can be discharged from King's Sedgemoor Drain to the Parrett estuary, and so reduce flood risks to homes, land and roads.</p>	W1
LP-SA	Strategic Mitigation Plan Implementation	<p>A Strategic Approach to Mitigation project is being led for the SRA by Natural England. Its three main aims are to reduce costs and risks, to enable flood risk management schemes in the county to go ahead, and to secure a wide range of environmental benefits. Specifically on the Somerset Levels, and in relation to major projects such as dredging and ongoing River Sowy-King's Sedgemoor Drain enhancements, Natural England has identified a series of actions that need to be implemented. SRA funding is therefore being sought for 1) the development of a protocol for monitoring the condition of the Somerset wetlands, 2) the development of a methodology for mapping wider wetland areas</p>	W1

		of critical importance to winter waterfowl, 3) initiating the updating of Water Level Management Plans and establishing operational protocols including a set of Environmental Trigger points across Somerset, and 4) developing alternative solutions to the current suite of Raised Water Level Areas.	
FWLM04	Tivington Farm floodplain reconnection	The National Trust's Riverlands project in Porlock Vale is developing innovative approaches to working with natural processes. At Tivington Farm in the upper catchment of the River Aller it is proposed to undertake restoration work that will reduce flood risks for nearly 100 properties down through to Allerford and Bossington and for the A39 and several B roads, and substantially benefit wildlife and the local landscape and environment. This project is part-funded by the EU's Interreg2Seas programme and by the Environment Agency. Match-funding is being sought from the SRA for works including modelling and design	W2
FWLM06	Somerset Beaver Strategy	<p>This proposal involves Somerset Wildlife Trust, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest, the National Trust, the Beaver Trust, and Exeter University. These partners would liaise with bodies including the Environment Agency, Natural England, the NFU and Country Land & Business Association, the fisheries sector, Internal Drainage Boards and local flood groups.</p> <p>As beaver populations are already becoming established in Somerset catchments, notably in the Somerset Frome, West Somerset Streams, and in catchments bordering Somerset, the partners judge that a Somerset Beaver Strategy is now urgently needed, to guide and co-ordinate the future management of beavers across the county. SRA funding is being sought to ensure that all interests and impacts are properly considered, both to optimise the benefits that beaver activity can offer – such as reduced flood risks, better water quality, and habitat and biodiversity improvements – and to mitigate conflicts and potential damage, for example to water infrastructure</p>	W2
FWLM	Across Somerset Natural Flood Management:	There is a growing interest in – and demand for – natural flood management (NFM) measures across Somerset. This	W2

	Mapping and Targeting	<p>proposal is designed to review what has been achieved by the SRA and others over the last six years, to strengthen coordination between different organisations and individuals, and to better target future activities in key areas. The Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW) is seeking SRA funding to enable work with Westcountry Rivers Trust on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping ALL existing Somerset Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes by type of intervention. 2. Producing NFM targeting maps to identify sites and sub-catchments offering the greatest potential for NFM and future flood-friendly Land Management delivery (based on slopes, types of soil and catchment, hydrology, etc). 3. Zoning the most suitable and effective NFM measures in different areas 4. Ground-truthing potential larger sites to determine the feasibility of NFM, checking in-field and making initial contact with landowners. 	
WWT01	Doniford Catchment Parish NFM Project	<p>A bid from the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW) to enhance a Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) project in West Somerset. The GRCF is funded by Defra and administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The GRCF West Somerset project will help communities in Bicknoller, Elworthy, Sampford Brett and Stogumber to create parish-level NFM opportunity maps, establish parish NFM action groups and deliver NFM measures.</p> <p>Extra SRA funding is being sought by the WWT and FWAG SW to enable complementary work with farmers and landowners, in particular to develop whole farm NFM plans and to deliver a series of NFM measures. The local aim is to help tackle the long history of flooding problems suffered by Doniford catchment communities. The wider ambition is to create a parish-based model for action that could be reproduced across Somerset.</p>	W2

FWLM03-22	Trees For Water Action Fund	<p>The SRA first funded Trees for Water in the Enhanced Programme for 2020-21. It is a tree and hedge planting action fund designed to help local communities reduce flood risks resulting from surface water run-off issues. The project is run by Reimagining the Levels in collaboration with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW). Despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, the project has had a successful year with many useful sites being volunteered.</p> <p>Further SRA funding is now being sought to enable the project to continue. In 2020-21 Trees for Water targeted Mendip and South Somerset. It is now proposed in 2021-22 to include Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor.</p> <p>The Fund is particularly designed to suit strategically important sites not large enough for Countryside Stewardship grants and not special enough in conservation terms to concern Natural England. Trees for Water is meant to be flexible, bespoke and un-bureaucratic.</p>	W2
SWT01	Westhay Moor water management network re-connection	<p>A project to upgrade pipe networks and balance the hydrology of the Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve (NNR) in the Avalon Marshes. Its aim is to soak up more water on the site, thereby reducing local flooding problems and water flows downstream and increasing local resilience for farmers and wildlife. In line with the Somerset Flood Action Plan objective of 'making the most of the special characteristics of Somerset', this project would also improve biodiversity at the National Nature Reserve, as part of a longer-term plan to establish a Super NNR in the area.</p>	W2
W RT	Watertight – School to Home	<p>A project designed by Westcountry Rivers Trust as a follow-up to the EU-funded SPONGE2020 work done in Taunton since 2016 by Westcountry Rivers Trust and Somerset County Council. Its focus would be on developing a deeper engagement with water management issues within a school in the Taunton area and its associated community. A particular aim would be to create a better understanding of all aspects of the water cycle, including water use and disposal within school grounds, and the potential impacts of different courses of action on flooding and pollution. In</p>	W3

		<p>practice this would involve pupils and staff in workshops, and in carrying out whole-school water audits to understand current management and opportunities, including the design and construction of blue/green Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to remove rainwater from the sewer network and use the water to create new rich and diverse habitats.</p>	
<p>LLFA26</p>	<p>Minehead Integrated Catchment Study & Flood Alleviation and Resilience Strategy</p>	<p>Minehead suffers from a complex interaction of fluvial, tidal, surface water and foul drainage systems. No single authority is responsible for addressing flooding in Minehead.</p> <p>The West Somerset Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) identified 1000 properties as being at risk from a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) fluvial flood event. The Minehead Surface Water Management Plan (2012) identified 576 households susceptible to the 0.5% AEP shallow surface water flooding scenario. The likelihood of these events occurring will increase with the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Somerset County Council (SCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority has identified a need – and an opportunity – to bring together the work of several flood risk management authorities to develop a 25-year strategy for flooding in and around Minehead. SCC and Wessex Water are proposing to put £60k of match funding towards the total cost of an integrated study, and a further contribution is being sought from the SRA.</p> <p>The aim is to establish a long-term action plan for managing flood risk from all sources. Investment now would increase the likelihood of attracting future capital investment through public funds. The study would form a robust evidence base to secure funding for future projects and inform negotiations during the granting of new planning permissions: this will maximise public gain through private developments.</p>	<p>W4</p>

LHA133	<p>Improving flood resilience of the A358, Williton Road – Combe Florey.</p>	<p>Part of the A358 near Combe Florey is experiencing more frequent full-width carriageway flooding caused by run-off from adjacent agricultural land. Large quantities of fine soil are migrating on to the carriageway and blocking existing highway drainage systems, which cannot cope with the volumes coming down.</p> <p>This repeated flooding of the A358, which forms part of Somerset County Council's Precautionary Salt Network, not only has an impact on travelling motorists, it also affects the council's winter operations.</p> <p>The A358 is one of only two main routes into – and out of – West Somerset. The A358 is also a county freight route.</p> <p>The proposal being made to the SRA is for the installation of a new filter drain system. In addition, structural repairs would be undertaken where necessary, and sections of the carriageway re-profiled to make more effective use of existing assets. Roadside ditches and grips would also be cleared or re-constructed to enable surface water to discharge more effectively from the highway.</p> <p>Efforts will be made to encourage better land management practices by local landowners so as to reduce run-off from adjacent fields. Options for natural flood management interventions on adjacent land will also be investigated.</p>	W4
LHA134	<p>Realignment of existing culvert, Charlton Road - Creech St Michael.</p>	<p>Charlton Road is a no-through road prone to surface water flooding. Somerset County Council's Highways Department would like to relieve this problem for around 30 local properties by installing a new culvert. The existing system cannot cope with the volume of water that flows down a ditch and has to make two 90-degree turns</p>	W4
LH A1	<p>Marston Magna Valve Replacement Scheme</p>	<p>In the SRA's Enhanced Programme 2020-21, Somerset County Council's Highways Department was awarded funding for a Rimpleton and Marston Magna catchment survey. The survey's purpose is to identify improvements and strategies that will reduce flood risks to people's homes and local roads. Records show that 18 properties and several roads in Rimpleton have been affected by flooding, while roads hit in Marston Magna include the A359.</p> <p>Recent initial investigations found a problem with some non-return valves along the Mill Stream in Marston Magna next to the A359. SRA funding is now being sought to</p>	W4

IDB29		replace those flap valves so as to reduce flood risks for this section of the A359	
	Robins Lane, Burtle; culvert replacement and ditch restoration	Robin's Lane in Burtle on the Somerset Levels has a history of flooding. The problem is that an undersized culvert overtops and floods the road on a bend which is particularly hazardous in freezing conditions. Excess flows run across the road to a dilapidated roadside ditch and on towards a second undersized culvert before they finally discharge into an adequately sized and maintained network. Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium is bidding for SRA funding to replace the inadequate culverts with ones of higher capacity, and to restore around 300 metres of the roadside ditch. The beneficiaries would include local residents and businesses.	W4
LHA130	The Mead – Ilchester Pipe Work	A proposal from Somerset County Council's Highways Department to address a localised road flooding problem near a small number of properties at The Mead, Ilchester. SRA funding would be used to pay for slip-lining or pipe-bursting an existing length of pipe which runs from a highway gully and under a private garden into a ditch. This improvement would particularly help to reduce the need for repeated and expensive reactive interventions (such as jetting and root-cutting) by the Highways Department	W4
	Community Flood Resilience Scheme, Whitestaunton & Northay	<p>The small South Somerset settlements of Whitestaunton and Northay have experienced surface water and land flood events at various times. Both communities are situated at the bottom of a 'bowl' and so rely for flood alleviation upon the effectiveness of existing drainage systems and individual assets.</p> <p>Somerset County Council's Highways Department is seeking SRA funding for a suite of actions to improve the collection of surface water from the carriageway upstream of Whitestaunton and Northay.</p> <p>Works would include jetting/CCTV surveys of existing drainage assets, structural repairs undertaken where necessary, re-profiling of sections of the carriageway to make more effective use of existing drainage assets, road edge ploughing to improve the functioning of existing highway drainage assets, clearing of roadside ditches and/or creation of permanent 'grips' to enable surface water</p>	W4
LH A1			

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">MDCLLFA01</p>		<p>to discharge from the highway, and the installation of a number of cut-off drains (silt traps) at critical locations.</p>	
	<p>Flood Resilience Options Appraisal for the River Sheppey Communities</p>	<p>The sub-catchments of Croscombe and Shepton Mallet are historically prone to flooding. The most recent event occurred in October 2020 when 19 properties flooded internally with many roads impacted and made impassable for a period of time. The fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flood risk within these two sub-catchments is not currently fully understood, nor is the interplay between different mechanisms. An integrated whole catchment study is therefore required to better understand the issues involved and to identify solutions. No single organisation is in a position to fund such a study.</p> <p>Through this bid to the SRA, Mendip District Council is proposing to review ALL parts of the catchment along the Sheppey (including the main river) in partnership with the Environment Agency, Somerset County Council and Wessex Water to determine the most cost-effective solutions for a complicated drainage network.</p> <p>Key outputs of the study will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the need for additional measures for reducing blockages and maintenance in the future; • Consultation with landowners on land management practices and any potential implementation of NFM measures; • Identification of ways in which community engagement can be used to improve resilience; • Costed Action Plans for the delivery of identified mitigation options to inform future funding bids. <p>Completing this study will increase the likelihood of securing future investment to deliver the costed action plans.</p>	<p>W4</p>