

Somerset Rivers Authority Joint Scrutiny Panel

Update on the business of the SRA Board

Paper for Information

This information is provided to update the Joint Scrutiny Panel on key actions of the SRA Board since it last met.

Purpose of the item

To update the Joint Scrutiny Panel Members on key items of business of the SRA Board since the Panel last met on February 12, 2021. The SRA Board met once, on 5 March, since the last Scrutiny Panel meeting.

The main items of business at the March Board meeting were to formally approve the SRA's 2021-22 Enhanced Programme and budget. On 17 February 2021 the Panel was presented with the long list of potential Enhanced Programme schemes for review and comment. The detail what was ultimately approved by the SRA Board is set out below for the Panel's information.

2021-22 Enhanced Programme

SRA projects are categorised into 5 workstreams, as per Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan. In total there are 21 proposals in the 2021-22 Enhanced Programme. Table A summarises how proposals and SRA funding are spread across the workstreams.

Table A

Workstream	No. of Proposals	% of proposals	Value £000s	% of value
W1 Dredging & River Management	4	19%	£1,445	42%
W2 Land Management	6	29%	£705	20%
W3 Urban Water Management	3	14%	£300	9%
W4 Resilient Infrastructure	7	33%	£865	25%
W5 Building Local Resilience	1	5%	£125	4%
Total	21		£3,440	

The proposed 2021-22 Enhanced Programme has a range of projects which combine to support delivery across all of the Somerset Flood Action Plan objectives. 33% of proposals will deliver countywide activities such as building local resilience to flooding, enhanced highway maintenance at flood susceptible sites and natural flood management and land

management to slow the flow of water from the upper catchments. Further details on each proposal can be viewed on the SRA website - [SRA Enhanced Programme 2021-22 - Somerset Rivers Authority](#) . A separate confidential appendix with the cost of each proposal has been provided separately to the Panel.

Workstream	Proposal Title
W1	River Sowey-King's Sedgemoor Drain Enhancements Scheme
W2	River Aller Upper Catchment Floodplain Restoration
W1	Somerset Levels Strategic Mitigation
W2	Hills to Levels: Somerset Land Management and Natural Flood Management
W3	River Sheppey Catchment Action Plans for Croscombe and Shepton Mallet
W3	Minehead 25-Year Action Plan
W1	Dulverton Weir and Leat Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phase 1)
W1	Bridgwater Tidal Barrier
W2	Somerset Beaver Strategy
W2	Somerset Natural Flood Management Mapping and Targeting
W4	Beckington Drainage Improvements
W4	Somerset Enhanced Maintenance: Drain Jetting
W4	Somerset Enhanced Maintenance: Gully Emptying
W4	Somerset Enhanced Maintenance: Silt-trap Emptying
W4	Somerset West and Taunton Enhanced Maintenance: Trash Screen Clearing
W4	A358 Combe Florey Drainage Improvements
W2	Natural Flood Management for Doniford Catchment Farms
W2	Somerset Trees For Water Action Fund
W3	Burnham On Sea Water Management Investigation
W4	Creech St Michael Culvert Upgrade
W5	Building Local Resilience across Somerset

SRA Budget

On 5 March the SRA Board also approved the 2021-22 SRA Budget. The budget is set out below for the information of the Panel.

2021-22 Income	£
2021-22 'Shadow' precept, including IDB contribution	£2,941,586
Contingency funds carried forward from 2020-21	£1,362,000
Total Income	£4,303,586
2021-22 Costs	
Enhanced Programme 2021-22	£3,440,000

SRA staffing and overheads (4 FTE)	£178,000
Professional Support Services - legal, finance, audit, governance	£40,000
Staff Training	£2,000
Small projects and studies	£20,000
SRA Technical Advisor (fixed term 12 months - 0.6 FTE)	£30,000
Natural England Advice	£12,000
Total Costs	£3,722,000
Balance to be held as 2021-22 Contingency	£581,586

Ongoing projects - funding brought forward from previous years*

'Shadow' precept and Enhanced Programme - works	£5,484,000
Growth Deal Project – River Sowey / KSD Enhancement Scheme	£1,143,939
Total Brought forward and Growth Deal	£6,627,939
Total Budget approval	£10,936,525

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Appendices:

Appendix: Confidential – 2020-21 Enhanced Programme List – with costs