

Somerset Rivers Authority Funding

For its first full year of work in 2015-16, the SRA had **Interim Funding** from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Somerset's local authorities (at that time the county council, and five district councils) and Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium. Defra gave £1.9million, Somerset County Council gave £600,000, and the district councils and Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium together gave £200,000, making £2.7million in total.

In December 2015, the Department for Communities & Local Government (as it was then called) gave Somerset County Council and the five district councils the power to raise a '**shadow precept**' of up to 1.25% of 2016-17 council tax, to fund the SRA in 2016-17.

The reason why the figure of 1.25% of 2016-17 council tax was chosen for the SRA's shadow precepting for 2016-17 was because it came tidily close to reproducing the SRA's initial annual Interim Funding budget of £2.7million.

The power to raise a shadow precept for the SRA has since passed to the new Somerset Council, which replaced the county council and the district councils in April 2023. Somerset Council had to consolidate contributions from 5 councils into 1. The SRA charge on council tax is now set at £14.65.

In the 2024-25 financial year it is estimated that £3.059million will be raised through council tax for the SRA. The total amount raised for the SRA gradually increases each year as the number of households in Somerset increases. The amount charged per household remains at £14.65.

The Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards also choose to contribute a total of £20,000 a year.

David Mitchell

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