

Item 6a ii

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

Title: Additional Funding Request for Cripps River and Hixham Rhyne Desilting works.

RECOMMENDATION

The SRA Board is asked to: approve a bid to the 2016/17 **contingency fund** of £19,187.28; £10,345.92 of which to cover extension of works linked to the de silting of the Cripps River in Spring 2016 and £8,841.36 to cover additional cost on de silting of the Hixham Rhyne in Summer 2016.

Purpose of the item:

To allow full and final payment of outstanding items linked to works on the Cripps River and Hixham Rhyne.

Background and context

Cripps River

Under Flood Action Plan (FAP) Workstream 1 (W1), an allocation of £150k was made in 2015/16 to the Environment Agency. This initial approved funding bid, to carry out de silting works on the Cripps River from Gold Corner Pumping Station to the confluence of the River Brue in Bason Bridge, was reduced to £70k following an initial estimate from EA field teams. Further works were identified which would be covered within the £70k budget including:

- modelling work to identify local benefits or dis benefits in removing a redundant water control structure with a view to bidding for future funding for its removal if found necessary.
- Wider river channel surveying to provide an understanding of the impacts over a larger geographical area which in turn informs future frequency of maintenance on the Somerset rivers including the Cripps River.

Hixham Rhyne

Under FAP W1, an allocation of £38k was made in 2015/16, initially to the IDB but due to lack of resource, handed to the Environment Agency. The initial approved funding bid to carry out de silting works on the Hixham Rhyne was reduced to £23k following an initial estimate from EA field teams. The work was delivered using hired in machines and due to erroneous suppliers invoicing system, a very late invoice for £5,198.53 from our plant suppliers resulted in an overspend. Additional costs of £3,642.83 for preliminary investigative works were incurred by the IDB prior to handover.

Latest status

Cripps River

- All works were completed on the 5km stretch of the watercourse in spring 2016.
- Extension of work was delivered over the autumn winter of 2016/2017, but costs exceeded the agreed reduced budget.
- Removal of structure was not justified in terms of reduction in flood risk locally.
- Surveying data was added to the Brue model which is being used as part of the dredging strategy by the IDB

Hixham Rhyne

- All works completed
- We have made the hire company aware that invoices must be timely and accurate so that this situation is not replicated in the future

The work delivered by EA field teams still provides good value for money based on original quotes received from EA framework contractors.

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