

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

Title: The Approach to developing the SRA 2017-18 Enhanced Programme

RECOMMENDATION

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Comment on the draft SRA policies for fundable works
2. Endorse the approach taken to develop the 2017-18 Enhanced Programme

Purpose of the item:

To provide the SRA Board with an update on progress, gain their input to the development of policies and seek their endorsement of the SRA Management Group's approach to developing next year's SRA Enhanced Programme.

Background and context

At the July 2016 SRA Board meeting, a verbal briefing was given, followed up by Summary paper sent out in October (attached as Appendix A), that outlined the work to be done and why to develop the SRA 5 Year Enhanced Programme. This report covers the work done by the Management Group since then to develop a framework (policies and methodology) to guide the Technical Group in developing a prioritised list of works and activities for the SRA 2017-18 Enhanced Programme.

At the February 8th Board meeting, it will be necessary for the Board to agree the 2017-18 Enhanced Programme, subject to funding being confirmed later that month. As a result, this report covers the approach taken to develop the Programme so that in the event that approach does not align with the Board's thinking, there is time to make adjustments. There is also a need to ensure the SRA's method of developing its Programme is understandable and transparent, particularly in the event of a challenge.

Work done to date

The SRA Management Group has developed a number of draft policies to guide the development of the Enhanced Programme (Draft Policies attached as Appendix B). These cover 7 policy areas, Geographic scope, Financial, The long view, Flood Risk and evidence, Responsibilities, Relationships and weightings and Cost shunting. The Board are asked for their comments on these.

In addition the SRA Management Group has developed a methodology for determining the relative priority of each proposal put forward. This is based on the Flood Action Plan objectives*; namely how far each proposal delivers against each objective. Proposals have been scored from 1-5, by the Technical Group as a whole, using criteria developed by the Management Group. This is a key difference from last year, when the scoring was done by the individual proposer and therefore the criteria varied between proposers and was subjective.

There have been a number of iterations of this work completed by both the Technical Group and Management Group and there are difficulties remain with both scoring and relative weightings between FAP Objectives. Furthermore the scoring methodology adopted does not, without adjustment, result in a Programme that is consistent with the draft policies, particularly in the areas of geographic and work stream balance.

As a result the Technical Group have been asked to look at two different options on weighting between FAP objectives, first giving each objective equal weighting and the other a weighting designed by the Management Group. In addition they have been asked for their recommendations as to which schemes should be promoted and which dropped from the resultant prioritised lists to ensure geographic and work stream balance, value for money, deliverability etc.

Next steps

Technical Group will be putting forward the results of their work for the Management Group to sense check and adjust on 25th January. It is proposed that the Board are then presented with the following information:

- a) The prioritised list based on the scoring methodology and with equal weighting given to each FAP priority
- b) The recommendations of the Management Group as to which actions from the list should be promoted and which dropped after sense checking to ensure compliance with draft policies
- c) The same information, but using the Management Group weightings for each FAP priority

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Note:

***Flood Action Plan Objectives:**

- FAP Objective 1: Reduce the frequency, depth and duration of flooding
- FAP Objective 2: Maintain access for communities and business
- FAP Objective 3: Increase resilience to flooding for families, agriculture, business communities and wildlife
- FAP Objective 4: Make the most of the special natural characteristics of Somerset
- FAP Objective 5: Ensure strategic transport connectivity in Somerset and to the SW peninsular
- FAP Objective 6: Promote business confidence and growth

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