

ITEM 7a

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

Title: 2017-18 Enhanced Programme and Funding policies

RECOMMENDATION

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Approve the proposed SRA 2017-18 Enhanced Programme, subject to funding being confirmed
2. Approve the proposed SRA Policies in relation to fundable actions.

Purpose of the item:

To enable the SRA Board to review the proposed 2017-18 Enhanced Programme and draft policies.

Background and context

At the January 16th Board meeting, the SRA Board approved the approach taken to the development of the 2017-18 Enhanced Programme and reviewed the draft SRA policies. No changes were suggested to the draft policies although comments were made on how the policies should be implemented, namely that geographic spread of spend is less important than doing the right thing for Somerset as a whole, and that consideration needs to be given to the option of big ticket items of wide benefit, as opposed to spreading the money too thinly on smaller schemes. This report outlines the results of the work done by both the Technical Group and the Management Group since then and the options for next year's Enhanced Programme.

All proposals put forward (54 in total) had previously been scored against each of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) objectives; however to obtain a prioritised list, a combined score for each needed to be calculated, by weighting each FAP objective. Three alternative weightings were looked at:

1. Equal weighting for each of the 6 FAP objectives
2. Different weightings for each FAP objective based on work done by the Management Group sub-group looking at the scoring Methodology. These weightings gave greatest precedence to FAP 1 (Reducing the frequency, depth and duration of flooding) with its weighting being between 1.5 and 19 times the other objectives.
3. FAP 1 having a weighting of double that of each of the other objectives.

The budget for the 2017-18 Enhanced Programme, is likely to be £2.4m (£2.8m less overheads and provision for the Sowby/KSD overrun).

Results

There was considerable overlap between the results of the three weightings, with 13 actions in common. The option of equal weightings for each FAP objective resulted in 18 actions making the cut, with the other two weightings options resulting in slightly fewer (15 and 16 – the former

resulting from weightings option 2 above). However none of the weightings resulted in any actions from either Urban Water Management or Building Local Resilience being included. Furthermore a number of actions had not made the cut but were felt needed to be relooked at for possible inclusion, given their importance was not reflected in the scoring mechanism.

There was only one action that did not appear in the equal weightings option, but did appear in one of the others, and that was 'IDB projects funded through GIA'. However bids for GIA funded IDB projects have not yet been made, so there were no details available as to what projects might be unfunded.

Adjustments made

Given the similarity between the results of each weightings option, with option 1 including more actions than the others, it was agreed that option 1, FAP equal weightings, should be used as the start point for making adjustments. The first adjustments that were made were to ensure that all work streams featured in the programme; this meant actions for Urban Water Management and Building local resilience needed to be included and those that scored highest were chosen.

The next step was to review all the actions making the grade for deliverability, value for money and sustainability and at the same time review all the larger value actions (>£100k) within that list to see if their value could or should be reduced, to allow for inclusion of others. It was agreed that this latter step would only be applied to actions that were scalable, and not whole schemes.

Having generated notional savings, the actions identified as warranting further discussion, were reviewed and re-evaluated and either included or not.

The complete set of adjustments made is shown in the table below:

Ref	Action Title	Adjustment	Reason
W501	Building Local Resilience (3 project areas)	Included	Unadjusted did not include Building Local Resilience actions.
LLFA11	Sponge EU Project	Included	Unadjusted did not include any Urban water management actions. Contribution to Sponge EU project had highest score. Other Urban water Management actions funded in 2016-17 will continue delivery during 2017-18
LASDC02	Enhanced maintenance of SDC flood relief and drainage assets	Included	Value for money – large number of small structures can be maintained at small cost
LHA110	Lower Bilbrook Lane	Included	Geographic balance, greater community benefit than schemes elsewhere

Ref	Action Title	Adjustment	Reason
LLFA16	East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon, flood alleviation scheme	Included	Value for money, deliverability, work stream balance
LLFA01	CCTV Surveys of privately owned drains	Included	Current scoring does not reflect importance of this enabling action
EA05	Main river asset improvements	Reduced now focussed on Mendip assets	Reduced in scope to Mendip assets only to free up funds for other activities and obtain geographic balance.
IDB09	Inspections and remedial works to culverts under roads in IDB areas	Reduced	Reduced in scope to free up funds for other activities.
LHA01	Countywide de-silting of highway structures	Reduced	To free up funds for other activities
IDB22	Maintaining resilience to flooding of wet grassland	Reduced	Original estimate assumed that all associated structures costs would be incurred in 2017-18. It is more likely that some of these costs will not be needed until 2018-19
EA06	Pumping station repairs and improvements	Reduced	To free up funds for other activities
FWRS03	Land Management – Slow the Flow	Reduced	To free up funds for other activities. Impact minimal as LEP funded work has taken longer to deliver than anticipated and will continue into 2017-18
LHA116	A358 Marl pits Cottages	Removed	Relative value for money

The following are attached with this report

1. The SRA Policies for fundable actions (ITEM 7P)
2. The prioritised list having been adjusted as above, showing all schemes now included in the provisional 2017-18 Enhanced Programme (ITEM 7L)
3. A summary of this adjusted list, showing split by work stream and areas benefitting (ITEM 7S)
4. A map showing the location of all actions in the proposed 2017-18 Enhanced Programme (ITEM 7map)
5. Summaries of the unadjusted lists, under the three different weightings options (Summaries ITEM 7 – 1, ITEM 7 – 2, and ITEM 7 – 3)

Recommendation:

The SRA Board is asked to:

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Date: 29th January, 2017

Author: Sarah Diacono, Senior Manager Somerset Rivers Authority