

## ITEM 6c.i

### Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

#### Dredging Strategy – Oath to Burrowbridge Pioneer Dredging Update

##### RECOMMENDATION

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Note that due to the complex and sensitive nature of this project more time is required to manage risks and ensure the project can be legally compliant and affordable. This means that work on the ground will not be possible this Autumn.
2. Note that a detailed technical briefing will be arranged for members to attend as soon as possible after the Board meeting.

##### Purpose of the item:

To advise the Board of delay to the intended programme and the need for a technical briefing for members, to be arranged as soon as possible after the Board meeting.

##### Background and context

Oath to Burrowbridge project work began in late 2017. Since then, the design, bathymetric and topographic surveys, numerical modelling and the production of environmental surveys and reports have all been undertaken. The project was approved by the Board to be undertaken as soon as an affordable and legally compliant scheme could be developed. The project team have been working to a programme that would commenced work on site in Autumn 2018. However, although preparations have progressed, there remain a number of aspects which require further work to meet the brief given by the Board. It is now not possible to commence work on site this Autumn.

##### Latest status

Design cross-sections have been produced that sensibly maximise the additional flow that can be achieved in the river. The hydraulic model results show that the conveyance achieves similar hydraulic benefits to the earlier Environment Agency 'theoretical' model, and it maximises the flow than can be achieved within the identified constraints and existing budget.

However, there are a number of complexities and sensitivities which have not yet been concluded. This means that the project team are unable to meet the proposed

programme to commence work this Autumn. The team will arrange a technical briefing with members as soon as possible after the Board meeting.

### **Recommendation**

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2. Note that a detailed technical briefing will be arranged for members to attend as soon as possible after the Board meeting.

**Date: 24 August 2018**

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