

# Funding Options for the Somerset Rivers Authority Qs and As

The full report is available on [www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk](http://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk)

## **If one of these funding options is chosen, would the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) then be responsible for all flood risk work?**

No, it would not diminish the roles, funding and responsibilities of the individual Flood Risk Management partners (nor landowners). The funding would support sustainable, additional flood risk protection.

## **How has the SRA been funded up to now?**

The SRA was set up in January 2015 with interim funding. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) provided £1.9m towards £2.7m interim funding needed for the SRA for 2015/16.

Somerset County Council contributed £600k towards the £800k costs remaining, and District Councils and Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium contributed £200k.

The Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium will continue to set budgets for their own work programmes. Existing funding for flood risk management (mostly central government funding through the Environment Agency) will continue.

## **What levy could householders and agricultural landowners be expected to pay?**

Figures have not yet been finalised. Work will carry on to consider the options and how funding could be levied.

(Interim funding of £2.7m for this financial year, for example, equals a 1% increase on household council tax bills - i.e. the total bill, including County, District, Parish and Police and Fire and Rescue charges.)

## **Why will the required funding be spread throughout Somerset?**

Although flooding in 2013/14 directly affected homes and businesses on the Levels and Moors, other parts of the county have also suffered. Flooding affects everything in Somerset and across the South West peninsula, from business to tourism to travel (*see details in the Economic Impact Assessment report also on the SRA website*).

## **Will everyone pay the same amount across the county?**

No, but we can't give any definite figures yet as work into developing this is still ongoing.

## **What sort of consultation will there be?**

We don't yet know. At this stage we have just finalised the options and they are being considered by SRA Board members, the organisations they represent, and wider stakeholder groups such as Flooding on the Levels Action Group, the National Farmers Union and others.

## **When would new funding be introduced?**

We don't know yet. The SRA Board will meet in September 2015 to finalise its recommendation to Ministers for a preferred option. Ministers will then consider the options and discuss next steps with the SRA

## **Who wrote the Funding Options report?**

It was compiled by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the SRA.

**Will the SRA be able to stop flooding, with the extra funding?**

No-one can stop flooding, but the SRA's actions will reduce the frequency, duration and severity of a flood of the nature experienced in 2013/14.

**What are the Funding Options detailed in the report?**

Whatever option is chosen, all will involve local funding in some form. The mechanisms by which this is done vary, including:

- A new precepting body
- A new levying body
- Council tax
- Internal Drainage Boards extending boundaries or increasing levy
- A county drainage district

(Details of the differences are in the full Funding Options report on this website).