

ITEM 10a

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

Title: SRA Budget for 2019-20

RECOMMENDATION

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the 2019-20 'shadow precept' plus IDB contribution budget.
2. Approve the use of £60,000 of contingency funds towards the 2019-20 budget.

Purpose of the item:

To update the Board on, and seek endorsement of, the SRA's Budget for 2019-20 set out below and detailed in appendices 10a.i and 10a.ii.

Background and context

Appendix 10a.i provides further financial information about the 2019-20 'shadow precept' plus IDB contribution budget, and indicative carry forward budget from previously approved funding streams.

Latest status

At the time of writing not all SRA partners had held their budget setting meetings. All councils have confirmed their intention to raise the shadow precept for 2019-20. The Axe Brue and Parrett Internal Drainage Boards confirmed their contributions at Board meetings on 7 February, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council confirmed their contributions on 20 February.

By the time of the Board meeting on Friday, 1 March all contributions will be confirmed.

A finalised version of this paper will be presented at the meeting for approval.

Local Partners' funding for 2019-20 ('shadow precept' plus IDB contribution) when confirmed will total £2,926,310. Funding will be spent on delivering the 2019-20 Enhanced Programme and other activities, including:

- 28 different projects totalling £1,702,670
- budget allocations of £226,000 for 4 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) staff, overhead costs, software licenses and project advice from Natural England

- £1,057,000 put towards match-funding commitments as part of the funding package to deliver the Sowy/King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) enhancement project over the coming years

The total of the actions set out above is £2,985,670 leaving a funding gap of £59,360. It is proposed to use available contingency funds to meet the full funding requirements of the actions set out above.

In addition for 2019-20, it is estimated that £3,028,946 of SRA Local Partners' funds will be carried forward. These funds were allocated to projects in previous years which are still in the process of being delivered. Note that this figure has been prepared ahead of the closure of the 2018-19 accounts so while it is based on the latest information available from delivery partners, it can only be an estimate.

It is also estimated that during 2019-20, £4,395,000 will be carried forward from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal funding allocation. These funds are for scheme delivery on pioneer dredging and the Sowy/KSD enhancement scheme.

The total SRA budget available and allocated to schemes and running costs for 2019-20 is £10,768,000. £2,000,000 of these funds is being put towards the Sowy/KSD project. The working budget for 2019-20 SRA activities (including activities carried forward from previous years) is currently estimated to be £8,768,000.

Recommendation:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the 2019-20 'shadow precept' plus IDB contribution budget.
2. Approve the use of £60,000 of contingency funds towards the 2019-20 budget

Date: 20 February, 2019

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Appendix 10a.i Budget Public Summary
Appendix 10a.ii CONFIDENTIAL Budget Full