

## **ITEM 8b**

### **Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper**

#### **Quarterly Key Project Update – River Brue Dredging**

##### **Purpose of the item**

This paper summarises the current status of proposals for dredging work on the River Brue.

##### **Background and context**

As previously reported, in 2015 the SRA allocated £500,000 of its Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal funding towards delivering dredging on the River Brue. LEP funding must be spent by March 2021. The project was being led by the Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board. Progress was difficult, in part due to the environmentally sensitive nature of the area of works. In March 2019 it was proposed that local partner funding should be used to progress this project to remove the risk associated with not spending LEP funding; this approach was confirmed at the June 2019 Board meeting. £225k of SRA funding is now allocated for project development.

##### **Current Status**

This change in funding enabled the Axe Brue Drainage Board to continue to manage the project supported by a Senior Officer Group from SRA partners to develop a proposal for dredging in the River Brue. A project scope has been developed but this needs to be updated to reflect the current Brue Catchment Plan 2020 to 2025 being developed by the Environment Agency. This will enable a dredging proposal to be developed which, if supported by all partners, will be presented for consideration by the Board later in 2020.

##### **Next Steps**

- Officers to attend Brue Catchment Plan meeting on 4 March and respond to the current consultation.
- Senior Officer Group to finalise the project scope and promote incorporation into the Brue Catchment Plan.
- Appoint a project manager to develop the detail and deliver the work.

The SRA Board will be kept informed of progress through quarterly updates and by consultation with key stakeholders as the project progresses.

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